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12th Week of the Year

Psalter Week 4

Mass Intentions for the Coming Week.

SUNDAY 21st For the People

MONDAY 22nd NO MASS

SS John Fisher B & Thomas More MM.

TUESDAY 23rd Mc Elligott family Intention

S Etheldreda AbV.

WEDNESDAY 24th Holy Souls

The Nativity Of S John the Baptist.

THURSDAY 25th Colette Loughnane † (*Foundation*)

FRIDAY 26th Patricia Avieson †

Dedication of the Cathedral

SATURDAY 27th Kathleen Smith † (*E. & A. Smitheram*)

SUNDAY 28th For the People

***All of these Masses will be said privately by
Fr. Christopher at 8.00am in the Church.***

If you have a request for a Mass you would like said please get in touch by either emailing:

Thought for the week.

From Deacon John

Lockdown has been a mixed blessing. I so want a hug from a daughter or a grandchild; I would so love to get some sea breeze in my lungs; and much more. But I have spent much more time (on whatsapp) watching the children grow and I have been able (virtually) to attend Mass in some of the most beautiful churches in the world and be close to the mind and wisdom of the Holy Father. Please, I have been tempted to pray, don't let me get toothache and don't let my wi-fi fail.

I have been able to be 'virtually' at Mass somewhere every day, sitting at my desk and pondering the readings of the day. It has been a good thing to do – not what I most wanted, to be in our lovely church with our lovely people – but to pray the scriptures and to ponder them. In the second reading at the Mass this Sunday morning, St Paul tells us that the world got into a terrible mess because of the sin of Adam – selfishness, a belief he knew better than God – and he unleashed the fatal flaw in humanity that -having been given the freedom to do the right thing or the wrong thing, we will too often choose the wrong thing. Just as the corona virus spreads from person to person, so does sin and the more infected we are by other people's sin, the harder it becomes for us to stick to the good and the loving, the harder it becomes to stay with what we know perfectly well God wants us to be. But then, St Paul tells us, God sent Jesus 'as an abundant gift' to bring us back to him – to tell us to try our best for he is with us and for us. In Christ we gain the antibodies we need to fight the virus of sin. Jesus, in his word and in his presence with us in prayer and on the altar – yes, even on an altar on-screen – is there to remind us, in the words of St Matthew's gospel that 'if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men [and women] I will declare myself for him [and her] in the presence of my father in Heaven.' *Nil Desperandum* as my dad used to say. No need to give up hope. Christ is with us. Alleluia!

CHURCH OPENING TIMES

Following the government's welcome decision to allow Churches to open for private prayer, the Church in Newmarket will be open for a limited period most days. Hopefully as times goes on these periods will be extended.

Please find below the times when the Church will be open as from 15th June 2020.

MONDAY 9.30 AM-11.00AM

TUESDAY 9.30 AM-11.00AM

WEDNESDAY 9.30AM-11.00AM

THURSDAY Closed

FRIDAY Closed

SATURDAY 9.30AM-11.00AM

SUNDAY 9.30AM-11.00AM

Volunteers please.

The Church in Newmarket is now open five days a week for a limited period to facilitate the opportunity for private prayer. Hopefully this will be the prelude to the public celebration of Mass. Before this happens we need to find people who would be prepared to act as stewards while the Church is open for private prayer and later on once we are able to have Mass. If you are fit and able bodied and do not have underlying health problems and would like to volunteer please contact the office either by email or by phone, (01638 662492) Full training would be given, masks will be provided. Being a steward would involve you being in Church for an hour and a half on the day you were on duty, an ideal time for you to catch up with prayer and reading. Thank you in anticipation for your response.

Fr. Christopher

Calling All Men – Catholic Life! – A journey of personal conversion

What has your journey of belief looked like? Have you looked deeply at the question of your beliefs? Do you even know what you believe? Have you tackled the tough questions of God, the creation of the Universe, the afterlife, the moral life, worship and the like?

If you've pondered these questions and come to some sort of conclusion, then have you also looked deeply at that second question of "Why?" Why do I believe this or that? Do I have a good reason for my beliefs? Or am I embarrassed or fearful to take a stand and make my convictions known?

During this time of social distancing, men of the parish are invited and encouraged to participate in a **weekly small group study exploring the Catholic faith (lasting 1hr)**. The course material is free online but is also available through eBook (free) or paperback. It is available in a variety of **different languages**.

One of the best ways to learn our glorious Catholic faith is through faith-based small group discussion and study. Talking about our faith brings clarity. Hearing what others have to say brings insight.

For further details about the study please Email: mosj@olise.co.uk
Support can be given to help people get started with any IT issues.

Help Required

Our parish St Vincent de Paul group are continuing to source, assemble, pack and deliver food parcels (at least enough for two main meals plus some extras) for families of children who would have free school meals if they were at school. The SVP are doing a wonderful job, but as the volume is growing we need more volunteers to help with filling boxes. If you are able to, and can spare 1-2 hours on a Wednesday or Thursday lunchtime, please get in touch with Deacon James on jamesghurst@outlook.com.

We already have a great team, but would love to have a few more parishioners to call on when we need extra hands to help.

Weekly Offertory



If you are wondering about the best way to continue with your weekly offering to the Church during the current situation there are various ways which you can do this.

- 1) You can send a cheque weekly/monthly to the parish office, payable to :**‘CATHOLIC PARISH ACCOUNT’**.
- 2) If you have access to internet banking you can set up a Standing Order or Direct Debit from your bank. Church bank details are **sort code 20.60.38. account no. 30244759**,
- 3) if you are more comfortable to continue using your weekly envelopes, then please do, put them to one side each week, until have an opportunity to drop them into the letter box outside the parish centre entrance, (Fr. Christopher empties this box each day) or keep them together until our church reopens.
- 4) Now that the Church is open for one and a half hours, five mornings a week, you can place your weekly offering in the basket provided on the table as you leave Church.

You can also make your donation gift aided, we can get a further 25% from the government. It doesn't cost you any more money. Please contact our Gift-Aid coordinator Joe Millyard 07920837319 or email JMillyard1@hotmail.co.uk for information on this.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in these difficult times for everyone.

Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 28th June 2020— The Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul.

1) Relax & Remember

Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present.** Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.

2) Read

Taken from the Gospel for 28th June 2020 - Peter the Rock (Matthew 16:13-19)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But you,” he said, “who do you say I am?” Then Simon Peter spoke up, “You are the Christ,” he said, “the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven”

3) Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

This is one of the very rare saints' days to displace the Sunday celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord, which shows its importance. In a way it is still a Feast of the Lord, for it is the feast of the Church. Peter is to be the Rock foundation of Jesus' own people, for that is what we are. Christ has called us together as his own people, and he has promised that he will always be present in this Church, 'when two or three are gathered together in my name'. So Christ is present even in an ordinary household trying to live together with Christ at their centre. Here Jesus makes the promise to Peter that what he binds on earth will be bound in heaven; his decisions will hold firm in the eyes of God. Later Jesus makes the same promise to the community itself. So Peter is the spokesman for the Christian community, voicing the decisions of the Church. At his last meeting with his disciples the risen Christ promises to be with them 'till the end of the ages'; the bishops, as the successors of the apostles, are the channels of Christ's presence among us now. So today is the celebration of Christ among us, his people.

How do you celebrate day by day this wonderful presence of Christ in our midst?

4) Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph

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WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 28th June.

First Reading: Peter's Narrow Escape

Acts 12:1-11

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittingly. On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. "Get up!" he said "Hurry!" - and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, "Put on your belt and sandals." After he had done this, the angel next said, "Wrap your cloak round you and follow me." Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. "Now I know it is all true," he said. "The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me."

This story is delightfully told: Peter is like a sleepy child, woken in the middle of the night. There are perhaps too many escapes from prison in the Book of Acts; Luke obviously enjoys this kind of story, and so would his audience. However, such narratives demonstrate the special protection which God exercises over the infant Church. Once James, the leader of the Jerusalem Church, had been executed, if Peter had gone too, the community would have been dangerously bereft. The presence of the angel signifies this special protection and divine intervention to ensure the continuance of the Church. Peter has already been leading the Church (he has introduced the centurion Cornelius, the first gentile convert) and he still has to take a leading part at the Council of Jerusalem, thereby ensuring the liberty of gentile Christians from observance of the full Jewish Law. After that Peter disappears from the scene. The tradition is strong that he was martyred in Rome, but we do not know where his apostolic role took him. Paul tells us that, while he himself was entrusted with the mission to the gentiles, Peter was entrusted with the mission to the Jews. The Jewish Christians were an important group among the first generations of Christians.

What do stories like this in the Acts of the Apostles tell us about the special place Peter occupied in the early Church?

Second Reading:

Second Reading: Paul in the Evening of his Life

2 Timothy 4:6-8. 17-18

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing. The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

“We will be welcomed into the Lord’s embrace. “

The Second Letter to Timothy was probably written in Paul’s name, rather than being directly authored by him. As Paul frequently does, this passage uses the images of sport, so popular in the ancient world: the arena, the racetrack and the winner’s crown. Paul gives full expression to his consciousness of the Lord’s power to save, and also to his longing for the completion of his own life in the Lord, balanced (as always) by his eagerness to do the Lord’s work in his mission here and now. This longing is at the heart of every Christian. Despite a human fear of death, we know that in the end we will be welcomed into the Lord’s embrace. The early Christians saw this ‘Appearing’ of the Lord in terms of a royal procession in the clouds, signalling the end of the world, but what we look forward to is not so much the dissolution of the universe but to a personal meeting with the Lord. This meeting will be awesome and daunting because we will be brought face to face with ourselves and see ourselves as we truly are – including all those faults and failures which we refuse to admit even to ourselves, yet conscious of the overwhelming comfort of forgiveness in the divine love.

What will it be like at the Lord’s ‘Appearing’? Is it something for which you too long?

Your prayers are asked

For the sick: Deacon Clive Brooks, Peter Giblin, Joan Heflin, Pat Ward, John Taylor, Dan Stannard, Pat O Malley, Peggy Upton, David McCoy, J. P. McCoy, Kathleen Sheridan, Keith Mc Greavy, Milo Stallman, David Mc Elderry, Susan Stallman. Hazel Wood. Paul Canning, Anii. Sylvia Hick, Chris Donleavy.

Those who have died recently, especially and for those whose anniversaries occurs at this time: Niall Conway, Raymond Rowley, Irene Tuite, David Massuard, Noreen Hilton, Colin King, Kathleen Smith, Phyllis Fitzgibbons, Hedwig Robertson, Daniel Crane, Annette Watson, Ethel Harrison, Joan Pearce, Tony Brown, Leslie Sleven, John Barry, John Walsh, June Graham, John Russell, Edward Hardy, Thomas O' Callaghan.

*May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.
Amen*

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

“Lord Jesus Christ, I believe you to be truly present in the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist. I unite myself with the celebration of Mass throughout the World. As I cannot receive you sacramentally, come to me spiritually. Bless me and all those for whom I have a duty to pray. Make me grateful for your many blessings. Amen”

