

ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

The R.C. Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity

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Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8th November 2020

Remembrance Sunday

THEME: Be prepared for Christ's second coming

The highest form of wisdom is to acknowledge God as the supreme power in our universe and in our lives and even the yearning to do so is the beginning of an understanding which will eventually be made clear when Christ comes again in glory. No one else's goodness or perseverance will help us to be ready: we must each take personal responsibility for being prepared. At the last day both the living and those who have already died will rise from the dead with Christ- we must keep ourselves ready.

MASS TIMES: St Mary's Sunday 9-00am Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 9am. Sat 10am; **with out God's holy people.**

The church will be open half hour after mass during the week and on Sunday from 9-30 - 11-00am **for private prayer.** Fr Oliver will be available to parishioners who need to speak to him.

St Paul's: Saturday 6-00 - 6-30pm **for private prayer. Fr Oliver will be present.**

St Paul's: Requiem mass Thursday 10-30am Marcello Aliceto.

BAPTISM: Bonnie Joe Harford was welcomed into the family of God last Sunday.

RECENTH DEATHS: James Patrick Travis, Marcello Aliceto, Crescenzo Iuliano, Jennifer Cahill. We offer our sincere sympathy to all their relatives and friends

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: MATTHEW 25:1-13. As we have seen, the early Christians expected Jesus to come in a matter of weeks or months. He did not, and here we are 2,000 years later, still waiting. So the story of long waiting, yet still being prepared, is very useful. There is no doubt in the bridesmaids' minds about whether the bridegroom would come or not, and they had brought their burning lamps with them. The only difference is that the five sensible ones had an extra oil supply with them so that their lamps would not go out after the initial burst of enthusiastic preparations.

We do need to refuel regularly if we are to stay 'alight', alert and ready to welcome Jesus. But we must do it ourselves- it is no good resting, on other people's prayers, good works or depth of commitment to worship and to care. Just because we are all members of the church does not mean that we can jog along, not getting too involved while others dedicate their lives in serving Christ. If we do this, we shall find our lamps are out when we need them most, and no borrowing of beautiful lives is possible.

In other words, how we live every second of every day determines how bright our lamps will be. Seconds may not seem important, but life in Christ is built painstakingly, piece by piece, and a few gestures followed by months or years of complacency will not help us to be made new in Christ. If we treasure each moment as an opportunity to refuel, offering whatever we are doing quite consciously to be used for God's praise and glory, then, when we meet him face to face, he will recognise us as loyal friends, and welcome us with joy.

CARDINAL SARAH PREFECT OF THE CONGREGATION FOR DIVINE WORSHIP: Cardinal Sarah has written to the Bishops of the world, with the approval of Pope Francis, praising them for the manner in which they have handled the spring shut down while urging the faithful to return to Communal

Eucharistic celebration with joy that provides the essential spiritual food for all the faithful. "Even the hardest trials can bear fruits of grace" the Cardinal says "we have accepted our distance from the Lord's table as a time of Eucharistic fasting, useful for us to rediscover its vital importance, beauty and immeasurable preciousness". But with the lessons learned "as soon as is possible we must return to the Eucharist -with an increased desire to meet the Lord"

While virtual Masses have performed a valuable service , Cardinal Sarah says such liturgies "risk distancing us from a personal and intimate encounter with the incarnate God. This physical contact with the Lord is vital , indispensable, irreplaceable"

The Cardinal says that it is up to the bishops to be prudent but firm action by the bishops to ensure that the participation of the faithful in the celebration of the Eucharist is not reduced by public authorities to a 'gathering' and is not considered comparable or even subordinate to forms of recreational activities" The Cardinal makes it very clear that civil authorities cannot legislate on liturgical norms. Moreover, liturgical celebrations should not include "impoverished ritual experiments the faithful have a right to receive the Body of Christ and to worship the Lord present in the Eucharist in the manner provided for, without limitations that even go beyond what is provided by the norms of hygiene issued by public authorities or bishops. Finally Cardinal Sarah places concern for public health in its correct context: "The church unites proclamation and accompaniment towards eternal salvation of souls with the necessary concern for public health"

ARRANGEMENTS for MASS

- If you are intending to come to mass please provide advance notification, preferably by email john.storey6@btopenworld.com or tel: 0161 330 2424.
- A face mask must be worn whilst you are in Church. The only exception is for children 3 and under. Please do not come to mass if you are feeling ill or if you are unable to wear a face covering.
- On arrival you will be asked to sanitise your hands and check your name against the booked list. If you haven't pre-booked, please give the steward your details.
- You will be guided to a pew. To avoid passing those already seated, pews are filled from the front.
- Mass will take approximately 30 minutes, there are no mass sheets and there will be no singing
- **Holy Communion will be distributed after the final blessing.** Please remain seated whilst Father prepares for communion. Stewards will then guide the congregation for communion starting with the front pews of the centre aisle. After receiving communion **do not return to your seat** and leave church by the exit doors on the left (front of church at St Mary's, back of church at St Paul's).
- **Parishioners who are finding it difficult due to the steps to enter or leave church please speak to John Storey.**
- **The toilets will not be open.**

Stewards are needed to assist at the 11-00am Mass to assist with ensuring the safety of those who will be participating. If you are able to help, please contact John Storey or Fr Oliver.

NOVEMBER MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS: Monday is the feast of the Holy Souls. Holy Souls envelopes are on the church table for your personal use. Please put the names of those who wish to be remembered in the Holy Souls masses through November in the envelope and place it in the Holy Souls box on the church table. It is a Catholic tradition to include a stipend.

RED & CARITAS BOXES: These boxes are due to emptied, if you have one or both please bring them to church over the next two Sunday and leave at the back on your way in. The stewards will take them to the sacristy after Mass. Thank you.

If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, please make your donation on line. To donate on line please go to www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/clergy-education-and-training-fund.

OFFERTORY: Thank you to everyone for your offerings to St Mary's or St Paul's. There will be no collection at Mass on Sunday, but there will be a basket for your offertory as you leave Church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS: Postponed until spring next year. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

BIDDING PRAYERS for Thirty Second Sunday in ordinary time

Priest:

As members of Christ's body, called to be the salt of the earth and light of the world, we bring before our loving creator the needs of the Church and of God's suffering people.

We pray for the pastors of the Church. May they minister to God's holy people in a spirit of wisdom, humility and loving service.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for our brothers and sisters suffering throughout the world. May they know the closeness of God's loving presence.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for all world leaders, and those who bear responsibility for decisions that impact on society. May they work with minds and hearts open to God's spirit of wisdom for the common good.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for those facing death. May their lives end in peace and reconciliation without fear or regret.

Lord, hear us

We pray that all the baptised people may experience the graces they have received in lives of love and compassion, filled with the joy of Christ.

Lord, hear us

We pray for those who lost their lives through warfare and violence. That God has granted them a place in the kingdom of heaven.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for our own special needs.

We ask Mary the Mother of God to join us in our prayers as we pray Hail Mary.

Priest: Loving Father, you sent your Son into the world as the human face of your love. Receive the prayers of those who call on his holy name. Amen.