

# ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

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

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**Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary time**

**5th July 2020**

**THEME: Find rest in God, who is gentle and humble of heart.**

**SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:** Matthew 11:25-30 I may be wrong, but it always seems to me that it came as a delightful surprise to Jesus that God had chosen straight forward, unlearned men in revealing his wisdom. When he was twelve years old, it was to the company of the learned scribes that he went to do his Father's business and throughout his life he worked within the context of the law, so perhaps he had expected his teaching to be taken up and spread by the clever, learned professionals. In an examination of praise Jesus sees God's character of beautiful humility extending to those he chooses to understand him. The result of this fresh insight of his relationship with his Father floods out as welcoming love for all who need him in their weakness and vulnerability. As we may long to help a young child who is heavy-eyed, lost and frightened, through life. He calls to us because he can help and comfort us. If we run to him, he will enfold us gently in everlasting love and we shall know real rest at last.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE METROPOLITAN ARCHBISHOPS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH:** The following is a resume of their message. The reopening of our churches for individual prayer was an important step on our journey towards resuming communal worship. We want to thank everyone within the catholic community for sustaining the life of faith in such creative ways, not least in the family home. We thank our priests for celebrating mass faithfully for their people, and for the innovative ways in which they have enabled participation through live-streaming and other means. We are grateful for the pastoral care shown by our clergy to those for whom lockdown has been especially difficult, particularly to the bereaved. We recognise too the chaplaincy services that have played a vital role to those in most need. Our lives have been changed by the experience of the pandemic and it is clear we cannot simply return to how things were before lockdown. We remain centred on Jesus and His command at the last Supper "Do this in memory of me" We must now rebuild what it means to be Eucharistic communities, hold fast to all we hold dear, while at the same time exploring creative ways to meet changed circumstances.

It is important to reaffirm that, at present, the obligation to attend mass on Sunday remains suspended and a significant number of churches may remain closed for some time for a variety of reasons. Please be aware that there will be a limit to the number of people who can attend mass in our churches due to social distancing. We need to reflect carefully on how and when we might be able to attend mass. We cannot return immediately to our customary practices. This next step is not, in any sense, a moment when we are going 'back to normal'. We ask everyone to think carefully about how and when they will return to mass. When we return there will be no singing and mass will be shorter. We ask everybody to respect the guidance and instructions they will receive from their parish priest.

"As I have loved you" said the Lord Jesus "so you must love one another" (John 13:14) The lockdown has brought forth remarkable acts of charity of loving kindness from Catholics across our communities as they have cared for the needy and the vulnerable. Now we can return to the source of that charity, Christ himself, present sacramentally, body and blood, soul and divinity, Holy Communion. As we prepare to gather again to worship, let us be respectful of each other and come together in thanksgiving to God for the immense gift of the Eucharist. Cardinal Nichols Archbishop of Westminster, Malcolm McMahon OP Archbishop of Liverpool. Bernard Longley Archbishop of Birmingham, John Wilson Archbishop of Southwark

**RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC CEREMONIES AT ST MARY'S:** St Mary's will resume a weekly public celebration of **Holy Mass on Sunday 12th July**. Mass will be at **9:30am** with the church doors open from **9am**. We will adopt the '1 metre plus' approach to social distancing, which will allow more people in the church and there will be procedures in place to help keep everyone safe. There will be a maximum capacity of 30 to 50 people. 30 people assumes that there are mostly couples who can sit together and this can extend to 50 if there are groups of 3 or 4 people who are able to sit together. Please note the following points:

- If you are intending to come to Mass on Sunday 12th July, please let Father Oliver know, by phone or email by Friday at the latest, including the number of people planning to attend. This is to allow us to assess the likely numbers and consider alternative arrangements if demand is high.
- Church will be open at 9am to allow staggered arrival times and avoid a queue of people arriving immediately before Mass. Everyone will need to sanitise their hands and will be escorted to a pew by a steward. This will take time and will be better handled if people arrive at different times.
- As we are operating a '1 metre plus' social distancing policy, please wear a face mask or covering. Children are still welcome. They will also need to wear a face covering and stay in the pew throughout Mass.
- **The toilets will not be open.**
- Mass will be shorter than usual, around 30 minutes and everyone will leave through the front door into Zetland Street. There will be no singing.
- Please be prepared to follow the direction of the stewards who will be on duty and if more people arrive than there is capacity for, the stewards will have to refuse entry.

Remember that the Sunday obligation to attend mass remains suspended and if you are anxious or concerned about coming to Mass, you can stay at home with a clear conscience. Do not come if you are exhibiting any symptoms or have been in contact with anyone who is suspected of having the virus.

**PRIVATE PRAYER AT ST MARY'S CHURCH:** St Mary's will be open on **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July from 9:30am to 10:30am** with **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**. There will be stewards on duty to explain the procedures in place to keep everyone safe. Entry will be by the main church door and there is a one-way system, with exit by front door onto Zetland Street; **please do not come to church if you are "high risk"**, have come into contact with someone who is suspected of having the virus or are exhibiting cold or flu like symptoms. The maximum occupancy to maintain 2 metre social distancing is 8 persons and you may have to wait for a space, which the stewards will manage. **Please note that the toilets will be closed.** This worked well last Sunday, so please do consider coming in for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Father will also be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, in preparation for the resumption of the public celebration of Holy Mass on Sunday 12th.

**RECENT DEATH:** Eileen Fielding. We offer our sincere sympathy to her family, relatives and friends.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please keep our sick and housebound parishioners in your daily prayers. If you know of anyone who is in special need of prayers or comfort, please let Fr. Oliver know.

**ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION:** My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen

**SHARE THE NEWS:** Please share the news of the resumption of the public celebration of Holy Mass at St Mary's by passing on the information contained in this Newsletter.

## **BIDDING PRAYERS for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **Priest:**

In our prayers today let us remember those who carry heavy burdens and huge responsibilities, both in the church and in the world, as well as in their personal lives

We pray for the Pope as leader and shepherd of the church: may the Lord bless him in his words of encouraging people to come to the Lord, to be relieved of unnecessary burdens and to find rest for their souls.

**Lord, hear us**

We pray for millions of children, including children from our own country who are trapped in forced and unpaid work, sexual exploitation, bonded labour, and various forms of slavery and human trafficking today

**Lord, hear us**

We pray for all who have heavily burdened lives, for those with great responsibilities and the demanding care of others and all who are worried and stressed.

**Lord, hear us**

We pray for our own community of faith who are sick, lonely and bereaved: may they find among their brothers and sisters the prayerful help and support which will help them carry their burdens.

**Lord, hear us**

We pray for the faithful departed, that they may find rest for their souls and be led rejoicing through the gates of heaven.

**Lord, hear us**

We ask Mary help of Christians, St Winefride and all the saints of the diocese of Shrewsbury to intercede for us as we place all our intentions before the Lord.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst all women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

### **Priest:**

Father in your loving kindness you remind us to come to Jesus your Son; to shoulder his gentle yoke, and to learn from him. Grant these prayers through Christ our Lord Amen