

# ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

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

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**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary time**

**23rd August 2020**

**THEME:** Peter can declare with certainty that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, because God himself has chosen Peter and prepared him for a new and unique vocation. Only God, his motives "impossible to penetrate", could bestow on Peter such clarity about the identity of Christ. Christ begins to use Peter as an instrument – a Vicar – by which the Lord will open heaven to the world, so that "whatever [he] bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven". All that Peter is and does is rooted in Christ: "All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him."

*Come, let us worship the Lord, our rock, our fortress, our deliverer. Alleluia!*

**MASS TIMES:** St Mary's: Sunday 9-30am St Paul's: Saturday vigil 6-00pm

We welcome Fr Tom Ryan SMA and thank him for celebrating Holy Mass for us while Fr Oliver is away. Fr Oliver will be back next weekend.

**If you are intending to come to Mass on Sunday, please let John Storey or Mary McDonough know, by phone (0161 330 2424, which is transferred to Mary's mobile) or email [john.storey6@btopenworld.com](mailto:john.storey6@btopenworld.com) including the number of people planning to attend. This is to allow us to assess the likely numbers and maintain a register of attendees, which is **imperative to fulfil the track and trace requirements.****

**MASS AT ST MARY'S:** Mass will be at **9:30am** with the church doors open from **9am**. There is a maximum capacity of 50 people and procedures are in place to help keep everyone safe.

- Face masks must be worn.
- Please do not come to Mass if you are exhibiting any symptoms such as a high temperature or are feeling unwell
- Church will be open at 9am for staggered arrivals and to avoid a queue immediately before Mass.
- Holy Communion will be distributed after the final blessing and, after receiving communion or a blessing, you will be asked to leave church directly, via the front door into Zetland Street. Please follow the instructions of the stewards who will direct you when to come for communion.
- **The toilets will not be open.**
- Mass will be shorter than usual, around 30 minutes and there will be no singing.

**Please be aware that if we reach our maximum capacity then you may not be allowed entry.**

**MASS AT ST PAUL'S:** Mass will be at **6pm** on Saturday with the church doors open from **5.30pm**. There is a maximum capacity of 48 people and procedures are in place to keep everyone safe:

- Face masks must be worn.
- Please do not come to Mass if you are exhibiting any symptoms such as a high temperature or are feeling unwell
- Church will be open at 5:30pm for staggered arrivals and avoid a queue immediately before Mass.

- Holy Communion will be distributed after the final blessing and, after receiving communion or a blessing, you will be asked to leave church directly, via the left hand aisle and out the side door to the rear of the church. Please follow the instructions of the stewards who will direct you when to come for communion.
- **The toilets will not be open.**
- Mass will be shorter than usual, around 30 minutes and there will be no singing.

**Please be aware that if we reach our maximum capacity then you may not be allowed 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.

**FEAST OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW:** Tomorrow, Monday 24th August, is the Feast day of St Bartholomew, one of the Twelve, who is traditionally identified with Nathanael. He was born at Cana and brought by the Apostle Philip to meet Jesus. In tomorrow's gospel, Philip issues the invitation "Come and see." Coming to Jesus, Nathanael not only sees, but "is seen". Jesus tells him, "Before Philip came to call you, I saw you under the fig tree." This revelation moves Nathanael to confess: "Rabbi, you are the Son of God, you are the King of Israel." Pope Benedict XVI said of this apostle "He stands before us to tell us that attachment to Jesus can also be lived and witnessed to without performing sensational deeds. Jesus himself, to whom each of us is called to dedicate his or her own life and death, is and remains extraordinary." Nothing further is known for certain about Bartholomew. Eusebius speaks of him in India, but the Roman Martyrology has him martyred in Armenia, skinned alive according to the Persian custom. Because his relics were enshrined on the island in the Tiber that is principally used as a hospital, he has become a patron saint of the sick.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please keep our sick and housebound parishioners in your daily prayers. (*Please St Bartholomew, pray for them.*) 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

**THE PARISH PRAYER:** Father, pour out your Spirit upon our community and grant us a new vision of your glory; a new experience of your power; a new faithfulness to your word; a new consecration to your service. That your love may grow among us and your kingdom come. Through Christ our Lord Amen.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:** Soul of Christ, be my sanctification. Body of Christ, be my salvation. Blood of Christ, fill all my veins. Water from the side of Christ, wash out my stains. May Christ's passion, strengthen me, O good Jesus, hear me. In thy wounds, I fain would hide, never to be parted from your side. Guard me when my foes assail me. Call me when my life shall fail me. Command me, then to come to Thee that I through all eternity with Thy saints will praise Thee.

**OFFERTORY:** Thank you to everyone who has made an offering to St Mary's or St Paul's during this ongoing period of pandemic. There will be no collection at Mass on Sunday, but there will be a basket for your offertory as you leave Church.

**Receipts:** 1st Aug to 16th Aug, St Mary's £477.34; St Paul's £758.48

**TOTE:** The 100 Club remains suspended for the moment. Any payments received have been recorded and will be used for future draws. When the draws resume, individual balances will be available.

## **BIDDING PRAYERS for Twenty-First Sunday in ordinary time**

### **Priest:**

Let us pray that God's name will be great throughout the earth.

We pray for the faithful of the Lord that he has redeemed: that we may be filled with the assurance that in his mercy he comes to our help.

**Lord, hear us.**

We pray for those who exercise authority: that they may always consider their first responsibility to towards those who are poor and in need of food and housing.

**Lord, hear us.**

We pray for those who are poor, sick and dying, all those who are excluded from the good things that the world has to offer.

**Lord, hear us.**

We pray for young people: that all of us will nurture them to be good stewards of God's creation with sensitivity to "the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor"

**Lord, hear us.**

We pray for all who are sick, distressed and struggling; for all those living mental health problems; and all who are seeking new ways and direction in life.

**Lord, hear us.**

We pray for our own special needs.

**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:** God our loving Father, creator of all things, we ask you to hear our prayers that we offer in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The readings for Sunday 23rd August

### Entrance Antiphon

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

### A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the Lord of Hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,  
I remove you from your post,  
and the same day I call on my servant  
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.  
I invest him with your robe,  
gird him with your sash,  
entrust him with your authority;  
and he shall be a father  
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and to the House of Judah.  
I place the key of the House of David  
on his shoulder;  
should he open, no one shall close,  
should he close, no one shall open.  
I drive him like a peg  
into a firm place;  
he will become a throne of glory  
for his father's house.

### Psalm 137

Response: **Your love, O Lord, is eternal: discard not the work of your hands.**

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart:  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.  
I will adore before your holy temple. **Response**

I thank you for your faithfulness and love,  
which excel all we ever knew of you.  
On the day I called, you answered;  
you increased the strength of my soul. **Response**

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly  
and the haughty he knows from afar.  
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,  
discard not the work of your hands. **Response**

### A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 11:33-36

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods!

Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever! Amen.

**Alleluia, alleluia!** God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. **Alleluia!**

### A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 16:13-20

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.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

### Communion Antiphon

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise You,  
We bless You  
We adore you  
We glorify You  
We give You thanks for Your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father almighty.  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only-begotten Son.  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.  
For you alone are the Holy One.  
You alone are the Lord.  
You alone are the most high,  
Jesus Christ  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
Of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate  
of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and  
glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen