

ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

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

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Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary time

6th September 2020

THEME: Loving our neighbour is the essence of the law, and loving may sometimes mean caring enough to correct wrong behaviour. This can be done gently and discreetly, only being brought to attention in the last resort. Often a quiet word in friendship is all that will be needed.

MASS TIMES: St Mary's: Sunday 9-30am; Monday - Friday 9am; Saturday 10am
St Paul's: Saturday vigil 6-00pm

RECENT DEATHS: Jennie Burke, Marie O'Neil, Lorraine Berry, Josephine Maddox. We offer our sincere sympathy to all their families, relatives and friends.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: MATTHEW 18: 15-20. Sometimes when our feelings are hurt, or when someone has wronged us, our instinct is to talk about it with other people; partly to gain their support in justifying our grievance and partly to gather a bit of sympathy. (Perhaps too, if we are really honest, to get some of our own back on the one who has wronged us?) Jesus does not advise this escalation of involvement. We know from personal and international experience that the more people who are involved in a dispute the more complex and unwieldy it becomes as feelings run high and other issues become grafted on to the original complaint. So, it is very practical, providing we do genuinely want a peaceful reconciliation, to keep the matter private and provide an escape route or an opportunity to step down without losing too much dignity. Obviously, if we are waiting, ready to point the finger and smugly crow over our offenders, they are not going to stand down or alter their behaviour gladly. It is vital that we practise the art of correcting in a non-judgmental way, and that art is a natural offshoot of Christ-like love. It may be using humour is the way to defuse an explosive situation; or cheerfully acknowledging our own fault; or giving praise so that criticism isn't the only time there is contact. Whatever our character, God's love will polish it 'til it reflects his own nature and works his will in all our relationships.

THANKS: Fr Oliver thanks John Storey parish Health and Safety officer, helpers and cleaners who have ensured the health and safety of all those who have returned to the celebration of Holy Mass by understanding and following the Diocesan and Public Health guidelines. Thanks to Mary McDonough for producing the newsletter and responding to phone calls, pastoral and administrative responsibilities. To Father Tom Ryan SMA for celebrating the weekend masses and funerals.

RETURNING TO CHURCH: The number of people returning to church to celebrate Holy Mass and receive Holy Communion has increased gradually week on week as parishioners spread the good news that church is a safe place. We are all very conscious that it is a strange experience to have to book in advance, a requirement set out in the guidelines. It is called the "new normal". We hope that many more will consider returning over the next few weeks as confidence in our safety regulations grows. A number of people said they felt very disconnected during shutdown, after being active members of the Eucharistic community (parish community) all their lives. A parishioner who returned to church on Sunday, speaking to Fr Oliver during the week said that they "Felt like a new person spiritually after attending mass and receiving Holy Communion." Parishioners wish to thank all those who are involved with their safety while at church, for their care and attention.

HEADTEACHER: On Tuesday we welcomed Mrs Claire McManus new head teacher of St Mary's primary school into our community. Mrs McManus is a member of St Herbert's parish Chadderton.

BAPTISMS: Father Oliver is resuming the celebration of the Sacrament and invites parents who, prior to shutdown, had made arrangements for a member of their family to be baptised to contact him to make a new appointment for the Sacrament to be celebrated. The celebration will take place within the context of the new guidelines.

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 for all eternity with thy saints may praise thee. Amen. (St John Henry Newman)

SEASON OF CREATION: Is an annual celebration uniting Christians in prayer and action for the protection of our common home. The season runs from September to October ending on the feast of St Francis. The idea of celebrating as a day of prayer for creation began at the wish of the Emmanuel Patriarch Dimitrios in 1989 and was endorsed by Pope Francis in 2015. During the season we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events in order to deepen our relationship with God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Writing about the season in 2019 Pope Francis said "this is the season for letting our prayer be inspired anew" a season to reflect on our life styles and a season for undertaking prophetic actions ... calling for courageous decisions in directing the planet towards life , not deceit. The celebration takes place in the context of the fifth anniversary of the publication the encyclical 'Laudato Si' which Pope Francis gave on Sunday May 24th 2015.

HEADTEACHER VACANCY: All Saints Catholic College. Required for January 2021 or Easter2021. Salary L23-29 (£70,556-£81,723) Closing date: Monday 28th September 10-00am. Shortlisting: Tuesday 29th September 6-00pm. Interviews: Wednesday 7th October and Thursday 8th October 2020. Further details on the School website or phone 338-2120.

ARRANGEMENTS for MASS

- If you are intending to come to Mass then please provide advance notification, preferably by email to john.storey6@btopenworld.com or by phone on 0161 330 2424. Due to limited places available pre-booking allows us to check if we are reaching capacity and advise you not to travel if that is the case. Pre-booking allows us to manage a track and trace operation.
- A face mask must be worn whilst you are in Church. The only exception is for young children. 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 greeted by a steward who will ask you to sanitise your hands and check your name against the booked list. If you haven't pre-booked, please give the steward your details.
- Stewards will guide you to the available pews. Please inform the steward if you are in a family group or "bubble". To avoid passing those already seated it is important to fill pews 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).
- **The toilets will not be open**

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.

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-Third Sunday in ordinary time

Priest: My brothers and sisters, let us bring to the Lord our prayers for all who are in need and especially for those who suffer for their beliefs.

We pray for the church: that we may recognise in ourselves our constant need of God and that we may open ourselves to the gifts that God has given us for good and that of our brothers and sisters.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for greater compassion: that we may be particularly aware of those who suffer for who they are or what they believe.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who are suffering or being oppressed for their Christian faith.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who are need within our community: for those who are homeless that God will open our eyes and hearts to recognise and respond to their needs

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.