

ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

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

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Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary time

11th October 2020

THEME: We are invited to God's banquet: The climax to God's creative act of making, sustaining and redeeming the world, is that all created order will join in a celebration to end all celebrating; a joyful taste or banquet where there is no more sorrow or distress. But a common praising. Of course, we are free to turn down the invitation, and if we choose to accept, we must do things God's way - otherwise we shall not be included.

MASS TIMES: St Mary's: Sunday 9-30am; Monday, Tuesday, Friday 9am; Saturday 10am;

Wednesday 12-00 noon Requiem mass for Elizabeth Smith

St Paul's: Thursday 10-00am Requiem mass for Jenni Lancashire. Saturday vigil 6-00pm

Please note all children over 3 need to wear a face mask in Church.

SUNDAY MASS: There will be a second morning mass at St Mary's beginning on November 1st at 11.00am. This is a trial arrangement to see if it allows more parishioners to return to Sunday Mass

BAPTISM: Rory Theadore Gorton was welcomed into the family of God last Sunday.

RECENT DEATHS: Jane Jennie Lancashire We offer our sincere sympathy to all her relatives and friends.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: MATTHEW Ch 22:1-14. There is no question of people not being invited to God's celebrations – no one is left out or ignored. But invitations demand a response, and many of those invited have chosen not to come. The hollow, terrible words: 'but they are not interested in coming to share in the celebration that would make them happier and more fulfilled than anything else, they prefer to concentrate with heads down, on the immediate gratification, the temporary accumulation of comforts and self-centred ambitions, and throw away the chance of a lifetime.' Others agree to come, but do not take seriously enough the honour of being invited by the Author of all life and creation. If we are casual and half-hearted, disrespectful and arrogant in God's presence, we cannot expect him to welcome us to his celebrations: it is, after all, a tremendous privilege to have been invited.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Bishop Mark has sent out the guidelines for the celebration of First Confession and Holy Communion. Fr Oliver has given a copy to both schools, to Michelle Bailey, catechists for children who attend community schools and to John Storey Health and Safety representative.

BAPTISMS: Father Oliver has resumed the celebration of the Sacrament and invites parents who want to make arrangements for a baptism, to attend a 9:30am Mass at St Mary's on Sunday and speak to him afterwards. **The celebration will take place within the context of the new guidelines and the rule of six now applies, therefore only 6 people, including the priest may attend.**

FATHER PAUL HUGHES: Father received good news on his recent visit to The Christi. The medication he has been prescribed is proving to be very successful. (yet to be licenced)

ST PAUL'S CHURCH BOILER: The heating engineer condemned the boiler and the flue following his annual visit on Thursday. There will be no church heating until a new boiler is installed. Fr Oliver has informed the diocesan property officer.

POPE FRANCIS ENCYCLICAL: Eight years after his election, Pope Francis has written a new encyclical that brings together much of his previous teachings. (Fratelli Tutti, no5) When he began his pontificate, the first idea Francis referred to was "fraternity" He bowed his head in front of the people gathered in St Peter's Square and defined the bishop-people relationship as a "path of fraternity", stating this desire: "Let us always pray for the whole world, that there may be great fraternity."

The encyclical's title is a direct quotation from the admonitions of St Francis. It indicates a fraternity that extends not only to human beings, but also to the earth, in full harmony with his other papal encyclical, Laudato. Fratelli Tutti addresses both fraternity and social friendship; together they are the central message of his text. The realism that runs through the pages dissolves any romantic emptiness that always lurks about whenever we speak of fraternity. For Francis, fraternity is not just an emotion, a feeling or an idea - no matter how noble - but a fact that also implies an outcome, an action (and the freedom to act): "Whose brother can I be?"

Anna Rowlands was among the panel that presented Fratelli Tutti, seated next to Cardinal Parolin, the secretary of state. Dr Rowlands, Professor of Catholic Social Thought and Practice at Durham University, has collaborated with the Holy See's dicastery for integral human development, and was asked some weeks ago if she would help to present the text to the world. In a nod to the debate over the encyclical's title she opened her remarks by greeting her fellow "sisters and brothers". The panellists met the Pope in the Casa Santa Marta, and during her conversation with him, Dr Rowlands told Francis that she was a Manchester United fan. The Pope replied: "you must be a woman with a sense of humour".

Pope Francis signed the encyclical last Saturday in Assisi. Francis arrived in his blue Volkswagen car without pomp or ceremony. He celebrated mass at the tomb of his patron, without a homily.

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. He is presently visiting the housebound with Holy Communion.

ARRANGEMENTS for MASS

- If you are intending to come to mass please provide advance notification, preferably by email 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.
- 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).
- **The toilets will not be open.**

SECOND COLLECTION: Next Sunday will be for World Mission Sunday. A basket for your donation will be on the church table as you enter church.

FAMILY FAST DAY: Last Friday was family fast day. There is a basket on the church table on entry to church for your donation.

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.

BIDDING PRAYERS for Twenty-Eighth Sunday in ordinary time

Priest:

Let us turn to God our Father in prayer, asking him to keep us close to him and filled with the loving presence of his Son.

We pray for the church: may we be always a haven to welcome those in need, offering warmth and friendship. Understanding and care.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for our World: may governments recognise the need to work at creating true communities, showing sensitivity and awareness to those who struggle with life's choices through poverty, ill health, failure or addiction.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for all who work in the world of hospitality: may they be cared for themselves with reasonable working hours and just rewards.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for the sick and the needy members of our community: may we be constant in our care for them and to see in them the presence of Christ among us.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for all those who have died, especially those who have no one to remember them: may they all be received kindly into the kingdom of God.

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, full of grace the Lord is with you. Blessed are you amongst all women and blessed is the fruit of your 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, accept our prayers as we celebrate the great gift of your presence among us. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen