

ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

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

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Feast of All Saints

1ST November 2020

THEME: The sanctified brethren.

Today we celebrate the feast of the sanctified brethren. Not a small sect in an imaginary town, but a great many men and women and children, the faithful of Jesus Christ.

MASS TIMES: St Mary's Sunday 9-30am, 11-00am; Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 9am Sat 10am;

St Paul's: Thurs 10-00am. Requiem Mass or Pasqualina Cioff. Saturday vigil 6-00pm

BAPTISM: Leo Jackson France, was welcomed into the family of God last Sunday.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: MATTHEW Ch5: 1-12 In today's Gospel we have Jesus' charter for his kingdom, the beatitudes, a list of qualities which characterise the sanctified brethren. When we listen to them we can all put faces to the virtues. We remember these people and we know them. The people whose simplicity and littleness shine like a light in a world of darkness. The gentle folk whose energetic non-violence will never win medals. Those who cry and mourn their loss because they tasted the presence of love. The ones who hunger for what is right and who stay hungry until what is right becomes a reality. Those who scandalise us with their mercy because they exclude no one from its embrace. The people who have an undivided heart, whose loyalty to God is never in question. Those who not only look for peace but do everything in their power to make peace and build a kingdom among the ruins. The faithful who are not fair weather Christians but who suffer persecution for the sake of the kingdom, and who still manage to smile at their persecutors. Those who are snarled at for their beliefs and who meet abuse with a blessing, who sing a song of the Lord for their captors.

These people are among us. They are the same as the saints that Paul addressed, the faithful of Jesus Christ. They are the real people whose stories may never be told and whose goodness may never be celebrated. We celebrate them today and we bless them in the name of the Lord.

POPE FRANCIS ENCYCLICAL: FRATELLI TUTTI: Why 'I' must become 'WE' is the first encyclical to offer a detailed critique of digital culture. The Pope warns social aggression has found unparalleled room for expansion through computers and mobile devices and that ideologies have been given free reign. Social media, he says, has seen some political figures say things in the crudest of terms, which in the past would have risked the loss of universal respect. In chapter six, Francis warns of the parallel monologues taking place on social media, the discrediting and insulting of opponents and divisive political campaigns. The heroes of the future will be those who can break with this unhealthy mind set and determine respectfully to promote truthfulness, he writes. The Pope's remedy is an authentic social dialogue, which respects others point of view and uses digital media in a way that seeks a genuine encounter.

The third striking point in the encyclical is that it shows the Pope's willingness to be critical of the church. He pitches the document to all people of goodwill. He draws inspiration from non-Catholic sources such as Martin Luther King Jr, Mahatma Gandhi and Archbishop Tutu. Why did it take it so long for the church to condemn slavery and violence, he asks, we have no excuses not to stand against contemporary injustices. Yet there are still those, Francis writes, who appear to feel encouraged or at least permitted by their faith to support varieties of narrow and violent nationalism, xenophobia and contempt, and even mistreatment of those who are different. *Extracts from Christopher Lamb*

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 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.

THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS: The feast began in Ireland as a pagan feast. So, this day is Ireland's contribution to the liturgical life of the Universal Church. What our pre Christian ancestors were celebrating on this day was the fact that, as they understood it, there was a very thin veil between this world that we can see and an invisible world which we cannot see. They saw this other world as inhabited by the souls of their ancestors, and, also by an assembly of spiritual beings, some benign, others malevolent, that could have their influence on human beings.

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 you 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.

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

NEXT WEEKEND: The annual Collection for the Clergy Education and Training Fund will be held. The future of our Diocese depends so much on the training and formation of Priests, please give what you can.

If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, please make your donation on line. To donate on line please go to <http://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.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH BOILER: Fr Oliver has received a quotation of £14.000. for replacing the boiler. Before work can proceed an asbestos survey will have to be carried out. The new boiler will be located in the working sacristy.

BIDDING PRAYERS for the Feast of All Saints

Priest: Jesus in glory intercedes for us at the right of the Father. With confidence we now bring our prayers to the Father

We pray for the church: that she may shine out as a beacon of hope in the world

Lord, hear us

We pray for those in government: that they may always seek to build a society founded on justice in order to respect each person and help those who are poorest.

Lord, hear us

We pray for all who all who serve the sick: that they may be strengthened in their care and expertise to bring about healing.

Lord, hear us

We pray for those who are lonely: that this community may show them friendship.

Lord, hear us

We pray for those who are suffering, grieving and anxious: help us to strive together as one family of many nations to help those in greatest need

Lord, hear us

We pray for those who have died: may they rise in glory with hearts purified and sins forgiven.

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: Compassionate Father, we offer our prayers, through your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

The readings for Sunday 1st November

Entrance Antiphon Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.

A Reading from the Book of the Apocalypse 7:2-4,9-14

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel. After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

Psalm 23 Response: **Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;

on the waters he made it firm. **Response**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?

Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,

who desires not worthless things. **Response**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord

and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,

seek the face of the God of Jacob. **Response**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John 3:1-3

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. Surely everyone who entertains this hope must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia! Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord. **Alleluia!**

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

Communion Antiphon Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Gloria:

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

Credo:

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