

ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

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

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Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

18th July 2021

THEME: Christ shepherds his people.

Seeing us through the eyes of love. Christ is always ready to feed us words of life, steer us through crises, protect and sort us out. His personality draws in all our hurt and hardness and softens it to healing, so that the barriers that divide us are broken down and we all can become one in love.

MASS TIMES: St Paul's: Vigil Mass Sat 6-00pm, Wednesday 10-30 am requiem mass for Elise Maguire. Thurs 9-00 am

St Mary's: Sun 9-30am, 11-00am. Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri 9-00am. Sat 10-00am

RECENT DEATH: Scott Murphy. We offer our sympathy to his family and friends.

ATTENDING MASS: If you are intending to attend mass please book with John Storey. email john.storey6@btopenworld.com. (We never turn anybody away but we have to follow the guide lines)

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Before the Saturday morning mass at St Mary's and before the vigil mass on Saturday evening, St Paul's and Sunday morning masses St Mary's.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: Mark 6:30-34 It is vital for all of us to have times for retreat in our heavy schedules. Jesus wisely shepherds his apostles to a lonely place where they can relax, rest and have 'space'. We need to do the same, setting aside some time each week, if possible; it is not laziness, but a valuable recharging of the batteries.

Not that the plans always work out. Jesus arrived with his apostles at an isolated spot to wind down ready for a time of quietness, only to find crowds of people eager to see him. They had struggled round with all their sick and crippled, hoping for more cures and help.

As a human, Jesus' heart must have sunk at the sight of so much need when he was tired; but as God, he lays the tiredness aside in a rush of sympathy, understanding and compassion. They need their good shepherd, and he responds to their need.

CARDINAL ARCHBISHOP NICHOLS: Recently issued this message to the clergy. Cardinal Nichols recognised the tremendous work of the priests during the current pandemic as they ministered to the faithful "I thank you for your steadfastness, and for your creativity, for your desire to keep in touch with your people in new ways and old". Looking forward to 19th July, when it is anticipated that most of the Covid restrictions will be lifted, he acknowledged that this "will not be an easy moment for us as we try to find a way forward that respects both the energy and enthusiasm of those who want to press ahead and the anxiety and fear of those still deeply troubled"

He encouraged the clergy "to take this period gently. Let us move gradually, especially during the summer months, so as to respect the anxieties of the weakest while taking steps towards a fuller celebration and participation in our shared faith".

ST MARY & ST PAUL PARISH ACCOUNT: The parish accounts have been amalgamated, and the account

name is now St Mary & St Paul. You don't have to do anything if you have a standing order in place, these have been updated automatically. If you write a cheque, please remember to make it out to St Mary & St Paul. If you make an online donation, you will need to use the following Sort Code and Account Number, to make sure it goes through: SRCDT-No 234025 St Mary & St Paul, 30-15-52 54596168

The diocese have requested that parishioners be advised not to write out cheques to St Mary's parish account or St Paul's Parish account as they are closed.

ST PAUL'S FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The present year 4 children will celebrate their first Holy Communion on Saturday September 4th at 9-30am.

ST MARY'S FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The present year 3 children will make their first Holy Communion on Saturday October 9th.

SHREWSBURY YOUTH MISSION TEAM: Introducing holiday club online: We are excited to announce this week of fun, activities, games and prayer happening in August. It is for young people in years 5-7. All are welcome to join. For further information email youth@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL: The school are looking to recruit a midday assistant to join their wonderful school family! If you would like to become part of their team, Please contact the school on 368 4824 or visit the school website for an application form.

COVID-19 ROUTEMAP: STEP 4 GUIDANCE: The general guidance issued to the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales this week following discussions with officials from Public Health England and HM Government Places of Worship Task Force. Key to implementation of this guidance is the Government's understanding of moving away from centralised detailed regulation to prudent local judgments adopting a continuing cautious approach to easements. The key watch words for the future steps are discernment of local prevailing conditions and careful consideration in the light of these. All places of worship should always consider the prevailing local conditions for the virus. Special consideration should be given to rates at which people are being vaccinated in the locality, the prevalence of new variants of the virus, the local rates of hospital admissions and any local public health advice. Covid -19 cases continue to rise rapidly in Tameside, two weeks ago, our rate was 350 cases per 100,000 people. It is now over 470 cases per 100,000 of the population, the highest we have seen for months. We have seen an increase in infections in older people and an increase in cases of COVID-19 patients in hospital and in intensive care in Tameside.

Following a number of discussions with John Storey and having considered the relatively high infection rate in our local area together with the fact that the majority of parishioners have had at least one vaccination, and many have had two, some of our controls will be relaxed and the arrangements from the weekend of Saturday/Sunday 31st July/1st August will be as follows:

1. Face masks must be worn.
2. Booking a place will be required.
3. Sanitising hands on entry will continue.
4. Social distancing will remain in place with every other pew inaccessible.
5. For the time being there will be no singing.
6. At St Paul's the left hand pews (as you face the altar) will be opened for use.
7. Holy Communion will be distributed after Fr Oliver has received Holy Communion, as at week day mass. Parishioners will approach the altar by the centre aisle in single file, returning to their seats by the side aisles.
8. The one way system will be suspended until further notice and everyone will arrive and leave by the main doors.
9. Multiple baptisms are not permitted.
10. Numbers for funerals and weddings will no longer have restrictions other than the capacity of the Churches.

Fr Oliver and John will review these arrangements in the light of changing circumstances and will react to the local data on the infection rates, the safety of all will be our top priority. If you have any concerns about the above please contact John Storey in the first instance. John.storey6@btopenworld.com

SECOND COLLECTION: Next Sunday for the building fund .

BIDDING PRAYERS for the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Priest:

We turn to God our Father for guidance in our hope of becoming more like his Son

We pray for the Church: may she always be a beacon of hope and care for those who are searching for truth and recognition.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for our world: may we continue to develop the bonds that strengthen us as we strive for justice and peace for all.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who are enslaved in so many different ways throughout our world: may we work ceaselessly for their freedom and well-being .

Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who are sick and suffering in any way: may they experience the care of Christ in the support and love they receive from those who care for them.

Lord, hear us

We pray for those who have died: may they be received into the loving kindness of their Lord.

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 say Hail Mary.

Priest: God our Father, receive our prayers, and be with us as we search to make your presence felt throughout the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

The Readings: Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Reading from the Book of the Prophet Amos 7:12-15

'Doom for the shepherds who allow the flock of my pasture to be destroyed and scattered – it is the Lord who speaks! This, therefore, is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says about the shepherds in charge of my people: You have let my flock be scattered and go wandering and have not taken care of them. Right, I will take care of you for your misdeeds – it is the Lord who speaks! But the remnant of my flock I myself will gather from all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their pastures: they shall be fruitful and increase in numbers. I will raise up shepherds to look after them and pasture them; no fear, no terror for them anymore; not one shall be lost – it is the Lord who speaks! 'See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will raise a virtuous Branch for David, who will reign as true king and be wise, practising honesty and integrity in the land.

In his days Judah will be saved and Israel dwell in confidence. And this is the name he will be called: The-Lord-our-integrity.'

Psalm 122

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd;

there is nothing I shall want.

Fresh and green are the pastures

where he gives me repose.

Near restful waters he leads me,

to revive my drooping spirit. **Response**

He guides me along the right path;

he is true to his name.

If I should walk in the valley of darkness

no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;

with these you give me comfort. **Response**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **Response**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **Response**

Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 2:13-18

In Christ Jesus, you that used to be so far apart from us have been brought very close, by the blood of Christ. For he is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart, actually destroying in his own person the hostility caused by the rules and decrees of the Law. This was to create one single New Man in himself out of the two of them and by restoring peace through the cross, to unite them both in a single Body and reconcile them with God: in his own person he killed the hostility. Later he came to bring the good news of peace, peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand. Through him, both of us have in the one Spirit our way to come to the Father.

Alleluia, alleluia! The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord, I know them and they follow me. **Alleluia!**

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 6:30-34

The apostles rejoined Jesus and told him all they had done and taught. Then he said to them, 'You must come away to some lonely place all by yourselves and rest for a while'; for there were so many coming and going that the apostles had no time even to eat. So they went off in a boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But people saw them going, and many could guess where; and from every town they all hurried to the place on foot and reached it before them. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he set himself to teach them at some length.

Communion Antiphon

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest
for her young; by your altars, O The Lord, gracious,
the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him.

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