A close up of a logo

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**Newsletter for the week commencing 18th October 2020**

**Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary time (A)**

**Entrance antiphon: To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.**

**First Reading: Isaiah 45: 1. 4-6**

**Psalm 95 Response: Give the Lord glory and power.**

**Second Reading: St Paul to the Thessalonians 1: 1-5**

**Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!**

**Gospel: Matthew 22: 15-21**

**Communion antiphon: Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.**

**Father Behr writes:**

Dear Parishioners,

The minutes for our most recent parish council meeting are now available.  I am grateful to Pat Sargent who has offered to be the secretary of our parish council and to Roger Styles who was the secretary for many years.

An item to which I would like to draw your attention concerns the sculpture of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Child which used to be in our church.  In consultation with the parish council and following the wonderful refurbishment of our parish church I have decided to place the said sculpture in the entrance to the parish centre.  This means that we can begin to look for a replacement which will inspire devotion and will be more in keeping with the noble simplicity of the overall look. In the Catholic tradition, images of Our Lady are prayer and theology in stone or paint.

It goes without saying that devotion to the Blessed Virgin is an integral part of being a Catholic Christian.  Mary is not a distant or remote historical figure but our Blessed Mother who loves us and prays for us.  I want to encourage us all to deepen our devotion to Our Lady and I would like this process of looking for a beautiful image for our church to bring us together as a parish and to deepen our devotion to Mary the Mother of Jesus.

 The *Sub Tuum Praesidium*is an ancient prayer to the Virgin, probably circa AD250

Sub tuum praesidium confugimus, Sancta Dei Genetrix. Nostras deprecationes ne despicias in necessitatibus, sed a periculis cunctis libera nos semper, Virgo gloriosa et benedicta. Amen.

We fly to thy protection, O holy Mother of God. Despise not our petitions in our necessities, but free us always from all danger. Glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen

Best Wishes, Father Behr

**Would you consider converting your weekly giving to a Standing Order?**

During the pandemic & current emergency we all still have bills to pay.

We would like to thank those of you who have been contributing to the weekly collection with cash or using the gift aid envelopes when attending mass or using the standing order scheme, to ensure that we continue to receive monies at this difficult time.

Capacity restrictions at Mass are likely to continue for some time and it is not impossible that the government may add access to faith spaces as one of the criteria in lockdown. We are also limited in terms of generating income from the parish centre due to socialising regimes.

We appreciate that some of you will be struggling with your own finances at this time, but there may be some of you may be able to help us more, doing one or more of the following:

·       Making your regular giving by standing order (form on website) [forms also available this Sunday]

·       Considering an increase in your regular giving

·       If you are a taxpayer, signing up to the gift aid scheme (form on website)

Obviously, the less physical cash our counters have to handle at this time will also be beneficial

We really do appreciate all that you do to support the parish financially at this time.

Deacon Jolyon and Liz Walker (gift aid organiser)

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased**.

**Those ill or infirm:** Charlotte Elliot (daughter of Maureen Davidson), Jennifer Jorden, Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant, Eric Booth, Patricia Hook, Elena Peck (senior), Marjorie Dumbleton, Josie Payne, Joe Venables. Pat Holland and all those self-isolating or suffering from COVID-19.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:** Joan Chudzikowska, John H.M. Mitchell, Joe Cerullo, Norah Culley, Gladys & Frederick Hodges, John Williams, Ian D’Arts, Kathleen Collison and Geoffrey Porter.

**This week’s services (18th – 24th October) until social distancing is relaxed:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mass will be held daily at 10am except on Wednesday when there will be**  **a Service of the Word and Holy Communion at 10am** | | | |
| **Feasts during the week** | | | |
| Sunday 18th October | 29th Sunday  10 am Mass &  **Latin Mass 12 midday** | Thursday 22nd October | St John Paul II, Pope |
| Monday 19th October | Sts. John de Brebeuf & Isaac Jogues, Priests | Friday 23rd October | St john of Capistrano, Priest |
| Tuesday 20th October | Feria | Saturday 24th October | St Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop |
| Wednesday 21st October | Feria | Sunday 25th October | 30th Sunday |
| **Flowers for Sunday 25th October** | | **Frances Lawrence** | |

There is a **second collection this week** for Missio. If you are a member of the Gift Aid Scheme please use one of the spare green envelopes at the back of your pack and label and date it.

If you are a patient at Ivy Court surgery and have signed up for the **flu vaccination**, Dr Dodds will be in the Parish Room after Mass (Sunday 18th October) to inoculate you.

As the days get colder, please wrap up warm when you come to Mass as the doors and windows will be open to allow a good air flow. Stay in your cars until 5 or 10 minutes before Mass (Mass starts at 10 am) and wrap up warm!

Please keep Chloe in your prayers as she prepares for her First Holy Communion next Saturday, October 24th.

The **Minutes of the recent Parish Council meeting** (28th September) can be found on the **parish website** and **on the noticeboard** in the porch for you to peruse.

**Retrouvaille**

A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages

Retrouvaille is for couples with marriages that are struggling, who may not be communicating well, and for those who are considering marriage separation or divorce. It is also for those who have already separated or divorced who want marriage help.

The programme organisers are aware that many couples are in serious difficulties because of Covid-19 and the additional pressures it has brought. Consequently, they will be holding a**Virtual Weekend**between12 -15 November 2020

Couples that wish to find out more about Retrouvaille or register for the Virtual Weekend are welcome to call or text [0788 7296983](about:blank) or [0797 3380443](about:blank), or email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](about:blank)   All enquiries will be treated as confidential. Retrouvaille also welcomes priests to experience the programme as part of their ministry.

Visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](about:blank) for more details