

Parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Margaret Mary, Aston Parish of St. Joseph's Nechells

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25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Home Mission Day

20th September 2020

Dear Parishioners,

It was lovely that we were able to have a little party in the Presbytery garden after Mass for Julie's birthday. The weather was perfect and we were able to abide by all the regulations. It was just in time before these new restrictions. Please pray for Julie. She is in a lot of pain and on morphine, but always keeps a brave and cheerful face.

This little bit of late summer gives us a little cheer, but the new lockdown rules for us in Birmingham are very restrictive to normal life. However they do not effect our Masses which can continue (with the same restrictions we are becoming used to). The outlook is all very depressing with signs that things are going to get much worse and no light at the end of the tunnel.

I think it is time that I should reflect on how we should cope especially if this is going to continue for some time yet. To live and not fall into deep depression, we have to have hope. Hope is seeing into the future and knowing that all will be well. We can divide it into short, medium and long term hope. Short term hope means that we can make short term plans about what we shall be doing over the next few days. Long term hope is seeing our final goal, which is the beatific vision, to see God and share his glory in heaven. Usually we have medium term vision knowing with reasonable accuracy what will be happening to us over the next few years. Normally that is very important for us, but at the moment for many people it is obscured and possibly very frightening and we are not able to do anything about it. Many people, who don't have faith, live their lives with just short term and medium term vision and if one of those goes they are lost. However as Catholics the long term vision is a central part of what it means to be a Catholic. Every Sunday as we gather at the altar, we look forward to the time "when Christ will come again". So it is possible for us to still live life filled with hope and joy with just the short and long term visions. Holding onto the long term vision more clearly, we need to live carefully in the present.

Our spiritual discipline becomes even more important as we live our lives in the present. The routine of prayer and Bible and spiritual reading is essential and physically coming to Mass while we can needs to be adhered to "religiously". We are so fortunate to have so many resources on line to help us, but the heart is an open and living relationship with our Heavenly Father who loves us with a Father's love.

In our Monday on line Bible study (why not join us?) we read David's last instructions to Solomon. "Be strong and show yourself a man. Observe the injunctions of the Lord your God, following his ways and keeping his laws, his commandments, his ordinances and his decrees..... so that you may be successful in everything you do and undertake, and the Lord will fulfil the promise he has made..." It may not sound very romantic, but in dark days it is it is even more important to listen to the commandments of Jesus and live by them, to love our Heavenly Father and our neighbours as ourselves.

In the Sunday Gospels over the last couple of weeks we saw what to do when someone offends us and the need to forgive. This week is about the corrosive effect of envy – thinking other people are getting a better deal than we are. The fact of super rich people in the world today often feeds

our envy, but in fact we should pity them and thank God that we don't have those obstacles to faithful discipleship. We have something so much better, the love of our Heavenly Father!

May God bless you all

Fr. Stephen Pimlott

This weekend there will be a second collection for **Catholic Evangelisation** Next weekend there will be a second collection for the **Fr. Hudson's Society**

Masses now on Saturdays

11 am at Sacred Heart 6.00 pm at St. Joseph's

On Sundays 10.00 am at Sacred Heart

I am able to hear some confessions before the Mass on Saturdays in the Sacristy maintaining social distancing. Otherwise you can make a special appointment.

MASS INTENTIONS this weekend. Saturday 11 am Breedge Kennedy Saturday 6 pm (St. Joseph's) Patrick Houston Sunday 10 am Peter McKernan

Bible Study Group now meets on Skype on Mondays **at 7.00 p.m.** If you would like to join it, please contact Shirleyni on 07562754382. **It is a good time to join because we are just starting 1 Kings**. All are welcome.

Aston and Nechells Foodbank Please help local people in crisis by buying items from the list below and giving them to Aston and Nechells Foodbank. Thank you! * Deodorants * Shampoos * Razors * Milk (long life) * Tinned rice pudding or custard * Tinned fish * Tinned fruit * Pasta sauce (jar) * Tinned meat * Tinned tomatoes * Fruit juice / squash * Chocolate / snacks * Coffee * Toothpaste/toothbrushes * Toilet rolls * Tin openers

In the last twelve months we gave out 34,400 kilograms of emergency food, feeding 2,704 adults and 1,566 children. For more information about the work of our Foodbank, please talk to one of our volunteers or look at our website: www.astonnechells.foodbank.org.uk

40 DAYS FOR LIFE begins on Wednesday 23rd September. **The Kick-off event** will be this **Saturday 19th September** in the Upper Cloister Room at the Oratory in the Hagley Road starting at 3 pm prompt. Dr. Eileen Reilly, a gynaecologist/obstetrician, will be talking on 'The Abortion Pill Reversal – A Second Chance to Choose'.

POPE BENEDICT'S VISIT TO ENGLAND It is 10 years since the Pope came here. To celebrate this anniversary go to https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/benedict-xvi-in-the-uk-the-speeches and listen to some of his speeches.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Reverend Clive Dytor and Reverend Alex Taylor who were ordained to the priesthood last weekend, and for Reverend Sean Gough and Reverend Benedict Skipper being ordained at 3pm this Sunday. To watch a live-stream go to the Diocesan website. On Friday 9th October, the feast of St. John Henry Newman, Canon David Evans and Canon Stephen Wright will be ordained to the episcopate to become our auxiliary Bishops.

St. PAUL'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS invites you to an on-line Open Evening on Thursday 1st October. Go to www.onlineopenevening.co.uk/stpauls

FREE GUIDE TO TEACHING CATHOLIC CHILDREN THROUGH SCRIPTURE Go to

http://image.email.ascensionpress.com/lib/fe40157175640479731473/m/1/f80cd1f7-38ea-4348-a55a-46d421ba5678.pdf?utm source=sfmc&utm medium=email&utm campaign=Ascension+Kids+Lead+Gen+-+Sept+8&utm_term=http%3a%2f%2fimage.email.ascensionpress.com%2flib%2ffe40157175640479731473%2fm%2f1%2ff80cd1f7-38ea-4348-a55a-46d421ba5678.pdf&utm_id=192243&sfmc_id=61330886

LIFE is celebrating 50 years. Go to their Anniversary Tribute page to see what they have done over these last 50 years. https://lifecharity.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=7163ab72f7f4ce55d87072c05&id=bb691e52f4&e=ef563ac41c

BIRMINGHAM JUSTICE & PEACE ASSEMBLY 2020: THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY: LISTENING TO THE 'CRY OF THE EARTH AND THE CRY OF THE POOR'. This year the Assembly will take place ONLINE, with one-hour sessions over three evenings at 7.30pm: Monday 28 September, Wednesday 30 September, Friday 2 October and culminating with an Evening Prayer with the participation of Archbishop Bernard on Sunday 4 October at 7pm. Sessions include: Ecological Conversion – an 'examination of conscience' on our care for our common home; Prepare the Future – building back better to address the climate emergency; and Local Government Responsibilities – planning for the West Midlands. For more information and to book go to https://bit.ly/JPassembly2020 or email bham.jandp@gmail.com

EWTN is broadcasting what it calls EWTN essentials which is a continuous devotional broadcast with the Mass every 2 hours. Get it on the free EWTN app.

Please Pray for the sick; Mary Levell, William Parish, Julie Gallagher, Anne Robinson, Maura Greene, Jimmy Armstrong, Pat Davis, Bernadette Harnett, Lisa Brean, Michael Brennan, Alex McClure, Phil Robinson.

CORONAVIRUS For the Church's guidelines see the Conference of Bishops website https://www.cbcew.org.uk or go to gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public

USEFUL WEBSITES https://www.mcnmedia.tv

https://www.wordonfire.org

https://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk/

https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/

https://www.ewtn.com/radio/shows/called-to-communion

https://www.catholic.com/

https://www.walsingham.org.uk/

https://magiscenter.com/

BECOMING A CATHOLIC If you wish to become a Catholic, or know someone who wishes to become a Catholic, or perhaps are a Catholic but have little perception of what that means, please contact Fr. Stephen by phone, email or in person.

DAILY EXPOSITION and the English Prayer Time are suspended during the Corona virus pandemic. To check on any further details phone Sr. Meena on 0795 7342742.

MARRIAGE MATTERS www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk

(Isaiah 55:6-9 Phil 1:20-24, 27 Matt 20:1-16) 'My thoughts are not your thoughts'

God can put thoughts into our minds, but how can we ensure these make a difference to our lives? St Paul says, "Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the Gospel of Christ": for example, the need to measure what we contribute within the relationship. Our Sacrament isn't a 50/50 arrangement but a 100%/100% unconditional commitment.

Feasts and Memorials this week

Monday St. Matthew, Apostle

Tuesday Feria

Wednesday St. Pio of Pietrelcina
Thursday Our Lady of Walsingham

Friday Feria

Saturday Ss. Cosmos & Damian