

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

TWELFTH SUNDAY (a)

June 21st 2020



Grant me oh Lord, good digestion,
and also something to digest.
Grant me a healthy body, and
the necessary good humour to maintain it.
Grant me a simple soul that knows
to treasure all that is good
and that doesn't frighten easily at the sight
of evil,
but rather finds the means to put things
back in their place.
Give me a soul that knows not boredom,
grumbles, sighs, and laments,
nor excess of stress, because of that
obstructing thing called "I."
Grant me O Lord, a good sense of humour,
Allow me the grace to be able to take a joke
to discover in life a bit of joy,
and to be able to share it with others.
St Thomas More

There is no need to be afraid!

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TWELFTH SUNDAY (A)

Psalter Week 4

Introduction: Once again the Lord in his Word encourages us not to fear.

First Reading : Jer 20 : He has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.

RESP.

IN YOUR GREAT LOVE ANSWER ME O LORD

Second Reading : Rom 5 : The gift considerably outweighed the fall.

Gospel : Mt 10 : Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body.

MASS INTENTIONS

The following Mass intentions have recently been received.
It is my intention to honour these requests in due course,
respecting where possible any wish for a particular date:
Janice Killeen's welfare (fam); F & E Finnerty RIP (AU),
Bernadette Peck RIP (fam); P Urquhart RIP (fam).

My thanks for your kindness in requesting Mass Intentions

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND and ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Please remember to support and pray for those listed as sick and housebound in our parish:

Mary Perry, Peter James, Adrian McHugh, Fr John Cairns, Cn Michael Moore, Pauline Anderson, Eileen Berry, Phillippa Phillips, Monica Krommendijk, Una Wilkinson, Nella Lewykyj, Evelyn Matthewman, Neil Appleton, Alice Canning, Dorothy Yarwood.

Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time : Frs Ron Hudson, John Dowd, Bishop Robert Brindle; Edward Brady, Derek Garlick, Annie Williamson, Nellie Britton, Bernard Booth;

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, may they rest in peace. Amen

HAPPY FATHERS' DAY

to all our parishioners privileged by God the Father
to share his pro-creative love in the enrichment of family life.

PARISH NOTES

THIS WEEKEND we return to Ordinary time, and the wearing of the green. The refreshing rain of the last week has enriched our greenery and given us plenty of weeding to do. Thursday was a difficult day with the persistent rain all day. 'Dear God: thanks for the refreshment of the rain; lift our hearts again with some sunshine!'

Saturday 20th is the longest day this year—a bittersweet thought, as Springtime recedes into memory and summer gets under way. And our trees and plants begin to swell their autumn harvest.

THE SUNDAY READINGS offer much enlightenment as ever:

The first reading (Jeremiah) : the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero. The prophet needed to hear that; so do we!

The second reading Romans 5 : Jesus is our Lord, our God, our Good Shepherd - and so on. But above all, he is our Saviour. Saving from what? The deadly effects of our sinfulness.

The gospel (St Matthew) tells us again : do not be afraid. At a time of much fear, these are valuable words.

SAINTS ALIVE honoured this coming week : on Monday we honour two valiant Reformation martyrs Ss Thomas More and John Fisher—English heroes both. On Wednesday St John the Baptist's birth is recalled as we honour the great pre-cursor of Christ.

NEXT SUNDAY we return to white for the Solemnity of Ss Peter & Paul.

KINDLY PARISHIONERS occasionally bring church-collection to the rectory letterbox. Thank You! From time to time such offering may contain cheques. The bank is quite precise these days about payee-names. "St Charles church" or St Margaret's church" is perfectly and simply acceptable. And if you are setting up a BACS standing order or transfer, in the message box put HAD or BB or GAM.

RESPONDING TO PASTORAL EMERGENCIES Fr Martin and Fr Daniel are taking turns at being the priest on call for 24 hours at a time. To ring the duty priest, at any hour of day or night, please phone the special number: 01457 620272. You will hear some information, then you can press a button on your phone to be connected automatically to whichever priest is on call.

ODDMENTS

- ♦ Another casualty of present circumstance: this weekend we should have had the company of some missionary Sisters informing, inviting and appealing for support. When the cloud lifts . . .
- ♦ This weekend's home-bake at BB/GAM is sadly postponed - but thanks to the kindly hands that left me some peanut brittle (?) on the elephant table. Very tasty!
- ♦ A note from the hierarchy advising that simple funeral-services may now be held in church, rather than as up till now, a few words, prayers & blessings at graveside or crematorium. Mind you the constraints attending the service have all the hallmarks of last week's announcements on church-opening for private devotion.
- ♦ My last week's note about the "stolen hydrangea" had a happy ending. Greener fingers than mine carefully uplifted it, and transplanted it to another and more appropriate corner of the garden. I chanced upon its hidden loveliness during an evening litter-sweep. Apologies from Fr Don to the parish's Monty Don.
- ♦ Wren's Nest comes to the back shed, and the nestlings happily fledged and fled - only to be replaced by new brooders coming to build a nest in the kitchen-window nesting box.
- ♦ Birthday greetings to Anne and Mollie and those biblical heroes Noah (thanks for the recent rain) and Isaac (glad you weren't barbequed). Can't do the maths for these good folk!

- ◆ *Plenty of conversations in the parish Whatsapp connections about opening our churches for private devotion. Delighted that St Anne's in Buxton journeyed through the complex regulations and won a diocesan Gold Star for being the best-prepared in the diocese, thereby setting a standard for Chapel en le Frith and St Mary's Glossop, who also have opening plans. I sniff a hint in today's news that the floor-stickers demanding 2-metre distancing may soon be obsolete.*
- ◆ *The energetic Vitalis has been hacking back the dense undergrowth in much of the rectory garden area. I'd heard of the enterprise of my PP-predecessors and out-of-work parishioners during depression –years carving our processional pathways through the steep garden. These led to small shrines where a host of saints were honoured in elaborate statuary. All of these have been hidden for generations, but some of them newly-revealed. This allows me to marvel at the "faith of our fathers" (and doubtless mothers as well).*
- ◆ *St Joseph's Convent adjacent to St Charles church has had many reincarnations since the last Sisters moved out. It has been a diocesan children's home, and a succession of care-homes, the most recent of which has been Beechwood. That closed for business almost a year ago. A long and demanding journey property-restoration, re-roofing and renovation has taken place. This has been a shared enterprise between the parish, the diocesan property department and Wendy S, who has taken on the new lease. The virus shut-down has incurred delays and extra expense. However, the end-of-tunnel light is beginning to appear, and another reincarnation is in prospect. My especial thanks to parish chair and treasurer for their immense help in this enterprise.*
- ◆ *Recently approached by two gentlemen of middle years, trying to connect with friends they made when erstwhile St Joseph's convent was briefly a children's home. Where could they find records of who and when? I gave them the Nottingham diocesan archive number. Hope they made contact.*

◆ ***AN EXTRACT FROM ST CHARLES' SCHOOL'S RECENT NEWSLETTER:***

St Charles Borromeo was the Archbishop of Milan from 1564 to 1584. In 1576 there was a famine in Milan due to crop failures and later this led to a plague outbreak. Many of the city's nobility and wealthy people fled the city. St Charles stayed and devoted himself to feeding 60,000 to 70,000 residents a day. He used his own personal funds and went into debt to provide food for those who were affected by the plague. St Charles was famous for venturing out into the plague-ravaged community where he used a long stick to 'socially distance' himself as he fed and tended the poor and dying. I don't think there has ever been a time where we have felt as close to our school's patron saint as we do today. It is with a real irony that we can compare ourselves in 2020 to the world which existed nearly 500 years ago.

At St Charles' we too are trying to play our part in supporting our local community. We would like to thank 'Fare Share' for delivering food supplies each week to our school which we have used to make food parcels for some of our families. If you feel you would benefit from our support, please contact the school.

humilitas

AND FINALLY *The honouring of Fathers' Day brings back an African memory. Returning one evening from visiting an outstation, I was stopped as ever at the roadblock. The rifle-toting soldier demanded to see identification. I didn't have my passport with me, but showed him the crucifix I was wearing on a chain around my neck, explaining I was a priest. "What's your name?" he demanded. "Well my parishioners call me 'Fr Don'". This did not impress this evangelical Christian soldier. "How dare you call yourself Father!" and he quoted, chapter and verse. Mt 23.9 - 'call no man on earth father'. Meanwhile the young parishioners on the back of the pick-up addressed him in his mother-tongue and explained, as they later told me, that like a good father I tried to provide guidance and spiritual nourishment, and that I wasn't the devil incarnate. A near-martyrdom moment passed.*