

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY (a)
July 5th 2020



PRAYER OF ST BENEDICT
*Gracious and Holy Father,
give us the wisdom to discover You,
the intelligence to understand You,
the diligence to seek after You,
the patience to wait for You,
eyes to behold You,
a heart to meditate upon You,
and a life to proclaim You,
through the power of the Spirit of
Jesus, our Lord.*
Amen.

My yoke is easy, my burden light

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FOURTEENTH SUNDAY (A)

Psalter Week 2

Introduction: Words of gentleness and comfort as the Lord invites us to rest in him.

First Reading : Zech 9 : The king comes humbly on a donkey to comfort his people.

Resp ps: I WILL BLESS YOUR NAME FOREVER, O GOD MY KING

Second Reading : Rom 8 : In the power of the Spirit we can be set free from evil.

Gospel : Mt 11 : Jesus is gentle and humble in heart.

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:

Paul Farnsworth RIP (fam); Eileen Berry 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, Phillipa 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 : Bishop Ellis; Michael Doran, Cyril Haley, Bernard O'Driscoll, Mary Bowdren;

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

PARISH NOTES

THIS WEEKEND we journey (damply and coolly) into July, and the fourteenth ordinary Sunday. These days of unlocking and loosening of constraints will have found all of us thronging the pubs yestereve; seeking out our favourite eateries, and getting closer to each other. And besieging the barber shops or better . . .

Except in church.

Many folk are streaming to Mass in nearby and faraway places, and message me to tell of Mass being publicly celebrated, hymns sung and groups of parishioners in attendance. And of course they ask "When for us"? A few pointers:

In Bishop's messages of recent days we are reminded that the Obligation to go to Mass on Sunday is suspended, and will continue to be suspended for the foreseeable future;

We have received 28 dense pages of advice and direction towards opening for private devotional visits, as a necessary prelude to Sunday worship.

Eager and generous-hearted parishioners have made impressive inroads into the church-preparing, steward-seeking, form-filling, risk-assessing, labelling, signing and taping necessities. In the next few days we will be able to send our portfolios of documentation to the Bishop for him to say yeah or nay to our request to open up. (Incidentally, our diocese continues to mandate the 2-metre distancing in churches - which seriously reduces our eligible number of worshippers at any one time).

Once approval is given we must decide what we open up for.

And that's where you and I pause for thought. If our churches were authorised for all-comers, in whatever number, we'd be in the fast lane. If we could sing hymns we'd be thrilled; if we didn't have to pre-book a space in church, hoping we'd got on the list before the 'acceptable number' was reached - then we'd be delighted . . . And so on.

I'll spare you the rules for 'how to say Mass in COVID conditions' . . .

Nobody is more eager than your clergy to celebrate Mass together with you. But I find it hard to link the word "celebrate" with the COVID rulebook.

We shall overcome some day! But maybe not tomorrow.

THE SUNDAY READINGS offer much enlightenment as ever:

The first reading (Zechariah) : the man on the donkey comes with gifts of peacefulness;

The second reading (Rom 8) : St Paul reminds us that we are body, soul - and spirit. "God's Spirit is in my heart; he has called me and set me apart . . ."

The gospel (St Matthew) Jesus come to show us the Father, and to teach of the gifts of gentle restfulness that the Father offers us through his Son - who helps us bear his gentle yoke.

IN OTHER YEARS a heavy board would be puddled with clay; strong hands would drag the board to the riverbed to soak it; the tracery-image of a holy person would be stretched and displayed; flowers and petals and nuts and seeds and eggshells and coloured silks and peppercorns would be collected together; refreshments prepared and trestles laid out. Yes, in other days we would be preparing for well-dressing. Time to give thanks for those lovely memories not only of hard and heavy work over many months of preparation, but also for the fun, food, fellowship and dedication of parishioners over so many years. And Padley and Lourdes sadly in abeyance . . .

SAINTS ALIVE honoured this coming week : on July 6th St Maria Goretti is honoured, canonised for her being martyred in defence of the virtue of purity.

St Benedict is a Patron Of Europe, and we join Benedictine monks, Brothers and Sisters in celebrating his greatness on Saturday.

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. If you want the parish bank-account details, just ask.

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

- ◇ *Belated congratulations to Fr Daniel on the fourth anniversary of his ordination on 2nd July. Ad Multos Annos! Plurimosque annos!*
- ◇ *Called on a parishioner or few during the week. One kindly door-opener offered me a sanitiser, a spray and a disinfectant-tissue, which I used with thanks. The next house I called at happily offered gel - which was hidden behind a Holy Water bottle, which I used first!*
- ◇ *On Friday of this week pal Canon Bernard Needham celebrates his diamond anniversary of ordination. Congratulations, fidelis servus! And even at age 84, Ad Multos Annos!*
- ◇ *The `Black Lives Matter` initiative has been much in the news, spawning like groups who want various other life-groups equally to be honoured. In our church context we will all have heard simply of the “Life” organisation which celebrates human life in all its diversity, particularly supporting women tempted to terminate the human life in their womb. I read somewhere recently that there has been a dramatic surge in abortions this year, and that the most recent annual statistics indicate 206,000 abortions in England & Wales in a year - that 564 a day. Five hundred and sixty four daily `lives that matter`. `Life Matters` do I hear you proclaim?*
- ◇ *Renewed thanks to supporters of the BB/GAM tote. There were two more worthy winners recently, which I briefly noted in a Whatapp missive. Then I fumbly pressed the wrong button and I’ve lost the names!*
- ◇ *A chance conversation with one of Arthur Worsley’s team of undertakers revealed that while they had been somewhat busier than average over the last 100 days, none of their interments or cremation-committals listed COVID as the cause of death. Furthermore for the first time in seventeen years, last week that had no ‘clients’ . . .*
- ◇ *A message from the Briars: We are thrilled to say that applications for Team 20-21 remain open! Based in Derbyshire at our retreat centre (The Briars), successful applicants will live together in community for 11 months, working across the Diocese of Nottingham with young people in Schools and Parishes and providing Digital Ministry and content via our YouTube channel, thus carrying out the mission of NDCYS. Interested? Let me know!*
- ◇ *St Mary’s and All Saints in Glossop have a timetable for prepared for the people and the churches ready for private visits. You are welcome to go to www.glossopcatholics.org.uk/visit/ and discover when and for how long those churches are accessible.*
- ◇ *Great to welcome (safely & remotely) some members of the ‘gleam team’ during the week who briskly worked their miracle in church and rectory. Thank you! St Martha watch over you!*
- ◇ *Dear God: it’s raining again, my thick jumper is on (but not the central heating). O Lord Hear my Prayer for the return of warm sunshine!*

And finally a note from the BB/GAM “preparation team”:

“Having received the latest Diocesan guidance this week, a small working party have come together to explore the feasibility of making the Immaculate Conception church secure to open, initially for Private Prayer, and hopefully in the not too distant future, for Mass. The various directions and risk assessments are rightly complex and involved, but we are engaging with them and are hopeful that we will be able to secure approval to open the doors in due course. We will keep everyone posted with the progress, and if you feel that you could offer any assistance in these early stages, please contact Angie C or Cathy N.”