



THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION,
FOSTER AVENUE, BEESTON,
NOTTINGHAM, NG9 1AE
and
ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH,
TAMWORTH ROAD,
LONG EATON, NG10 1DH



Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocese Trustees Company No. 7151646 Charity No. 1134449

PARISH PRIEST: Fr. Christopher A Thomas, Presbytery, 25 Foster Avenue, Beeston, NG9 1AE

E – mail: frcathomas@live.com ☎: 0115 922 8145 Website: www.theassumption.co.uk

PARISH DEACON: Rev. Chris Stevens (deacon@lecatholic.org.uk) ☎: 0115 808 5428)

SAFEGUARDING REPS: – (Assumption) ☎: 0115 922 8145

Carol Morris & Jane Watts (St Francis) – ☎: 08445 880933

DIOCESAN CO - ORDINATOR: – Clare McKenzie – ☎: 0115 953 9850

TIMES OF MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: A

Fifteenth Week of Ordinary Time: 12th – 18th July 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week III)

Saturday 11th July:	<i>St Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe (Feast)</i>	<p><i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i></p> <p>Isobel Alana Barnes, Marica Borsos, Jessie Breame, Margaret Brown, Fr John Cairns, Pat Constable, Francesca Lina Craparotta, Jim & Margaret Dougan, Fr Theodore Gomes, Ann Harrison, Fr Peter Harvey, Andrea Hoffman, Breeda Keaney, Elizabeth Reilly, Alan Roberts, Maria Sawicki, Simpson Family and Evelyn Venning.</p>
Mass;	Fr Michael Eastwood Diamond Jubilee (JP & DW)	
Sunday 12th July:	<i>Fifteenth Sunday of the Year</i>	
Mass;	Private Intention	
Monday 13th July:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass;	Elizabeth Reilly's Intentions (Cookson)	
Tuesday 14th July:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass;	Hilda Mooney RIP (Calladine)	
Wednesday 15th July:	<i>St Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor (memoria)</i>	
Mass;	Special Intention	
Thursday 16th July:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass;	Sheila Mills RIP (Stephens)	
Friday 17th July:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass;	Isobel Barnes & Family	
Saturday 18th July:	<i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass;	Edna Cooke RIP	
Sunday 19th July:	<i>Sixteenth Sunday of the Year</i>	
Mass;	Eileen Curtis RIP (Cooke)	

HOSPITALS

A number of priests are still trying to maintain an 'on – call' rota for City and QMC. This is strictly calls for Anointing of the Sick when someone is nearing the end of their life. The hospital will not call us out for a request for prayers or when someone has already died – these will be dealt with by a member of the Chaplaincy Team who may or may not be a Catholic minister. Holy Communion is not being taken into hospital by Eucharistic Ministers. Families should not contact a priest directly to visit their loved one in hospital – all requests need to go through the Ward and Chaplaincy Department. QMC 0115 924 9924 ext. 63799 or City 0115 969 1169.

THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY AS ALL PUBLIC ACTS OF WORSHIP REMAIN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

The Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and the Parish Hall and the Church of St Francis of Assisi and the Parish Hall are closed to members of the public, until further notice. If you urgently wish to contact Fr Christopher please telephone 0115 922 8145 (at any reasonable time).

For enquiries or to book a Mass, please also do this via the telephone. Stipends can be posted or given at a later date, but for the foreseeable future if you book, or have already booked a Mass Intention, then this Mass will be Celebrated in private.

Items for the newsletter can be given to Fr Christopher or e – mailed to frcathomas@live.com by Thursday of each week for inclusion in the next issue.

LIVE STREAMING AND YOUTUBE VIDEOS WITH LINKS TO ACCESS LITURGIES BEING OFFERED DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC CAN BE FOUND ON PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS (AVAILABLE ON THE PARISH WEBSITE).

POOR CLARES: The Sisters send their grateful thanks to everyone for the generous donations they received from Parishioners. They are all safe and well and have managed to avoid the Covid – 19 Virus so far. They are praying for the safety of everyone during this difficult time. Our donations are always so important to them but especially now during the pandemic. My next visit is planned for *Monday 27th July 2020* and donations can either be given to Father Christopher or myself. Thank you so much for your continued support – *Diane Wilson*.

RE – OPENING OF CHURCHES: On Monday 29th June 2020 Bishop Patrick sent out the following message to all the Clergy of the Diocese:

“As you may have seen, the full Government Guidance on the use of Places of Worship from 4th July 2020 was only just published this morning. The guidance I sent out last week from the Bishops’ Conference is not in conflict with this Guidance; it is, rather, the fruit of the ongoing discussion between the Government Task Force and Faith Representatives.

I would therefore highlight the following key points that we need to heed in our planning:

RISK ASSESSMENT: the Government advice is clear that a Risk Assessment must be carried out before a church can be brought back into use. Failure to complete an adequate Risk Assessment could constitute a breach of regulations.

NUMBERS AND SOCIAL DISTANCING:

- a) The Government guidance is now clear that 30 is the maximum for Funeral Services and Weddings and for Baptisms as ceremonies outside the normal pattern of parish worship.
- b) The guidance is clear that a calculation of numbers to be admitted to a church needs to be carefully made with a number of factors in mind, especially social distancing and potential pinch points (Entry and Exit).
- c) Social distancing means 2 metres or ‘1 metre with risk mitigation.’ 1 metre without additional measures is not an option offered in the government Guidance. It clearly recommends using ‘1 metre with risk mitigations’ only ‘where 2 metres is not viable.’

SINGING: The Government Guidance stresses that singing is to be ‘specifically avoided.’ If a cantor is to be used, then it recommends that a perspex screen be placed between the singer and the congregation in addition to social distancing, which should be increased.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION: the Guidance has quite specific statements about this under the heading of ‘*Food and Drink*.’ The Guidance is explicit that Communion is to be given hand to hand only and that social distancing is to be maintained with people moving within the space. I would emphasise at the point of Holy Communion that this is only a necessary *temporary* emergency measure and that, as soon as is possible, we will revert to our usual canonical practice of offering people the choice of receiving Holy Communion either on the hand or on the tongue.

DURATION OF THE SERVICE: the Guidance is clear in its use of phrases such as ‘the shortest possible time’ and ‘minimising time spent in contact’ as important factors in reducing risk.

TEST AND TRACE: the Guidance seeks cooperation in the ‘Test and Trace’ system by our keeping a record of those attending a church at any one time. The Guidance states that it will explore with us ways that are ‘manageable’ and mentions the pre – booking systems of regulating those who come to church. Contact details of people who wish to attend a particular Mass could be taken at the point of booking online or by phone, explaining why and, assuring people that their details will be destroyed after 21 days.

Finally, I do wish to emphasise again my concern that no priest feels under any pressure to open his Parish Church until he feels confident that he has the support around him to fulfil these Government requirements.

SUNDAY OBLIGATION REMAINS SUSPENDED.”

Given the above guidelines it will not be a simple task to re – open the Churches in Beeston or Long Eaton. The emphasis remains on being cautious and keeping everyone safe. It should be abundantly clear from recent events just down the road in Leicester that the Covid – 19 virus has not gone away and that the chances of a second spike remain a distinct possibility in certain areas where the pandemic has not been so prevalent.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING ON WEDNESDAY and to the other people who have kindly volunteered to help with the stewarding and cleaning. We have about 21 volunteers, but there is still room for others if they would like to contact me by telephone or e – mail. We hope to complete a Risk Assessment this week, which will need to be approved at Diocesan level before we can set a date to re – open.

As you can probably guess the need to purchase supplies of PPE (including, aprons, disposable gloves, safety glasses, disposable masks, hand sanitiser, liquid soap, paper towels, bin bags, surface cleaners and wipes), as well as appropriate signage and barrier tape to mark off certain areas, is not that straightforward due to the high demand from so many areas and also the blatant profiteering by some unscrupulous companies.

I will let you know the date / times of Mass as soon as we have fulfilled all of the required conditions and been given the go ahead by the Diocese. There will be a limited number of places available when we do begin the celebration of Mass again and a Diocesan booking system is now live for Parishes where Mass is available (details will follow of how to book for Mass once we are up and running).

Fifteenth Sunday of the Year: A

“Some seed fell on the edge of path...others fell on patches of rock...and not having any roots, they withered away.” The words of Our Lord in today’s Gospel. Jesus instructs His disciples and us, by using the Parable of the Sower. Unusually, it is one of the few Parables that are explained to us by Jesus. He leaves no room for ambiguity in what He means about the Word of God and the types of response it receives from different people.

Very often the language we use can be ambiguous. The words we use can often have several meanings, unless we explain them clearly. Sometimes we may even be, “economical with the truth.” But there is no such economy in the words of Jesus.

What Jesus is encouraging us to do today is to be “grounded.” But if you mention that to any teenager it has negative connotations – to them it means an imposed restriction or reduction of their freedom. Jesus wants us to be “grounded” in the spiritual sense. “Grounded” – What does that mean? It really mean three things.

Sometimes because of the difficulties and problems we have to face in life, we have no alternative but to literally drop to our knees in prayer.

Secondly, we have to grow in the virtue of humility as we become more conscious of our own weakness, our own frailty, our own dark side and our own sinfulness. The word humility comes from the Latin word, “humus” meaning soil or earth.

Thirdly, grounded because often we have to return to our roots, the roots of our very being, our very core. To return to Jesus; our faith in Him and our love for Him, our love for His Church and our dependence on His love and mercy. That is what it means to be grounded. So that when lightning strikes you don’t need to worry because you are grounded.

Jesus, in today’s Gospel speaks of us, to us, of being grounded. He talks about roots, about soil, He talks about seed and He talks about earth. God’s Word throughout the whole of the Bible is full of images about being grounded. How often do we hear Our Lord speak about building your faith on rock? How often do we hear about an anchor as the image of our faith, an anchor holding someone firm and strong and steadfast? How often do we hear Jesus speaking about building our lives on a firm foundation? And today we hear Him speaking about having roots deep down in the earth, in the ground. The point is that our faith needs to be deep. Our faith needs to be rock solid. Our faith needs to be steady, with deep roots. Or guess what? All the storms and all the winds and all the travails that life brings will overwhelm it, unless it is rooted firmly in the ground.

How many parents are there that worry about their teenage children because they don’t seem to be grounded or because they don’t seem to have any foundation in their lives? You may well send them to Catholic schools and give them a good Catholic education in their formative years. But as they begin to grow into adulthood they seem to be influenced by the latest fad or fashion or novel idea that comes along. And they may run after that for a few months or a few years. There doesn’t seem to be anything steady or anything reliable or permanent in their lives. Everything is shifting, everything seems rootless.

Some years ago a very wise old man said this in a homily: “*How many winds of doctrine have we known in recent decades? How many different ideological currents? How many new ways of thinking? Having a clear faith based on the Church is often labelled today and dismissed as fundamentalism. Whereas relativism, which is letting oneself be tossed and swept along by every wind and current, looks like the only acceptable attitude; according to today’s standards. I am afraid we are moving towards a dictatorship of relativism, that does not recognise anything as certain and has as its highest goal one’s own ego and one’s own desires.*”

That homily was preached in 2005 by a man named Joseph Ratzinger, during the Mass that opened the conclave which would elect him Pope Benedict XVI. Although that was some fifteen years ago it remains as true today. It is right in line with what Jesus was saying in today’s Gospel.

So we may ask ourselves: is our faith built on rock or on sand? Is our faith for us an anchor or is it more like a sail that takes the wind and goes in different directions? Does our faith have roots or will it wither? Is our faith built on opinions, winds of change and novel ideas, and fads and fashion – almost a kind of pick-and-mix spirituality – that caters to curiosity and chic acceptability? Or is our faith rooted? Rooted in Jesus and His Word, His teaching and His commandments and His Church and Her Creed and Her Doctrine; guarded by Her Tradition and Her Magisterium. “*Some seed fell on rich soil and produced a rich harvest.*”