



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

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

Seventeenth Week of Ordinary Time: 26<sup>th</sup> July – 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week I)

<b><u>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July:</u></b> <i>St James, Apostle (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 &amp; 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> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>HOSPITALS</u></b></p> <p>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.</p>
Mass; <i>Iain Findlay RIP</i>	
<b><u>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July:</u></b> <i>Seventeenth Sunday of the Year</i>	
Mass; <i>Hugh Curtis RIP (Cooke)</i>	
<b><u>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> July:</u></b> <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass; <i>Emily Sinclair RIP (2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary)</i>	
<b><u>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July:</u></b> <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass; <i>Trevor Jones RIP</i>	
<b><u>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July:</u></b> <i>St Martha (memoria)</i>	
Mass; <i>Mr Louis RIP (Anniversary)</i>	
<b><u>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> July:</u></b> <i>Weekday Feria</i>	
Mass; <i>Winifred Lally RIP</i>	
<b><u>Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July:</u></b> <i>St Ignatius Loyola, Priest (memoria)</i>	
Mass; <i>Jean Fox RIP (Stephens)</i>	
<b><u>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August:</u></b> <i>St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop &amp; Doctor (memoria)</i>	
Mass; <i>Stacia &amp; Harry Willis RIP</i>	
<b><u>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August:</u></b> <i>Seventeenth Sunday of the Year</i>	
Mass; <i>Pro Populo; People of the Parish</i>	
<b>THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY AS ALL PUBLIC ACTS OF WORSHIP REMAIN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!</b>	
<b><i>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).</i></b>	
<b><i>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.</i></b>	

Items for the newsletter can be given to Fr Christopher or e – mailed to [frcathomas@live.com](mailto: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 **THIS Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> 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:** Thank You to all who have who have kindly volunteered to help with the stewarding and cleaning when, please God, we can begin to open the Church for Public Mass once again. We now hope to be able to complete the Risk Assessment, which will need to be approved at Diocesan level before we can set a date to re – open.

We now have about 27 volunteers who have contacted me in various ways and, there is still room for others if they would like to contact me by telephone or e – mail. As is the way of the world these days we have a fair amount of paperwork to get right. To that end I will be sending out, by e – mail this weekend, the volunteer forms that each volunteer will need to complete, so that we comply with the Diocesan regulations. If you complete and return them to me as soon as possible we can then draw up a rota (so far I have received back 16 completed forms). As soon as the Risk Assessment has been completed it will be made available to all volunteers.

Due to the need for Social distancing (which means 2 metres in the Diocese of Nottingham) we have a much reduced and limited capacity for public Mass. At the moment it looks likely that if all the people attending Church comes as individuals that capacity will be set at 24 ONLY. If a group of people living in the same house or ‘bubble’ wish to attend together, then the capacity may be increased to 36.

Other noticeable changes will be a ‘One – Way’ System, whereby the Entrance will be via the main double doors from the car park and the Exit will be via the Fire Exit doors onto Foster Avenue. This will maintain the requirements of social distancing and potential pinch points.

The distribution of Holy Communion will take place at the end of Mass and not at the usual time. Once you have received Holy Communion you will be expected to leave the Church immediately via the Exit door. 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 and at the usual time during Mass.

The Guidance is also clear in its use of phrases such as ‘the shortest possible time’ and ‘minimising time spent in contact’ as important factors in reducing risk. The also Guidance seeks cooperation in the ‘Test and Trace’ system by our keeping a record of those attending Church at any one time. With that in mind and, given that there will be a limited number of places available when we do begin the celebration of Mass again, 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). This therefore be a pre – booking system is the only way of regulating those who come to Church.

***PLEASE BE AWARE THAT YOU WILL NOT JUST  
BE ABLE TO TURN UP AND ATTEND MASS.***

***For the time being and until further notice  
SUNDAY OBLIGATION REMAINS SUSPENDED.***

All supplies of PPE have now been obtained (including, aprons, disposable gloves, disposable masks, face protection, surface cleaners and wipes, waste bins and an infra – red forehead thermometer). We have installed automatic fixed Hand – Sanitisers either side of the Entrance and Exit doors and these will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

It is hoped that we can begin the public celebration of Mass at the beginning of August and I will let you know the date / times of Mass as soon as we have been given the go ahead by the Diocese.

## *Seventeenth Sunday of the Year: A*

In today's Gospel Jesus is showing us not only what His Kingdom is like in itself, but what it means for us personally. He gives us a snapshot of two men whose lives are suddenly lifted to an entirely different level. A farmer is ploughing a field that is not his own. He is a hired labourer, a farmhand, someone who has to spend his days worrying about making ends meet. As he ploughs he uncovers a buried treasure. Suddenly, he is set free from the chains of poverty and uncertainty; now he can live life to the full. A businessman spends his career working long hours, travelling, suffering, looking all the while for the deal that will liberate him from sixty – hour work week and give him security. Finally he finds the pearl of great price. He too can now enjoy the peace of stable prosperity, free from the rat race and the worry of living hand – to – mouth. This is what happens to us when we enter fully into Christ's Kingdom. When we decide to follow Jesus, to obey His teachings and make His friendship our highest priority, we put ourselves under His protection and His guidance, becoming full citizens of His Kingdom. And as soon as we do that, suddenly our lives take on a whole new purpose. Suddenly our relationships, actions and decisions take on transcendent meaning; because they are connected to eternal life. Suddenly, we are free from the frustration and meaninglessness that comes from living only for the passing, superficial pleasures and successes of this life, because we have found something infinitely more valuable: a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, King and Lord of heaven and earth. That relationship is our treasure and pearl; it alone can give us the joy and satisfaction we yearn for in the depths of our hearts.

One reason we often give into frustration and discouragement is because we sometimes forget how wonderful this treasure really is. In Christ, we have become children of God, members of God's own family. All of God's omnipotence is now at our service. As St Paul puts it in today's Second Reading, "We know that by turning everything to their good, God co – operates with all those who love Him." A little boy was playing in his sandpit one Saturday morning. He had with him his box of cars and trucks, his plastic bucket and a shiny, red plastic spade. While digging roads and tunnels in the soft sand, he ran into a large rock in the middle of the sandbox. He dug around the rock, finally dislodging it from the dirt. Struggling, the little boy used his feet to push and nudge the large rock across the sandpit. But when he finally got it to the edge of the sandpit, he was simply unable to roll it up and over the little wall. Determined, the little boy grunted, shoved, pushed and forced, but every single time the rock just fell back into the sandpit, scraping and smashing his little fingers. Finally he burst into tears of frustration. Moments later, a large shadow fell across the boy and the sandpit. It was his father, who had been watching from the living room window. Gently but firmly he said, "Son, why didn't you use all the strength that you had available to you?" Defeated, the boy sobbed back,

"But I did, Daddy, I did! I used all the strength that I had!"

"No, son," corrected the father kindly. "You didn't use all the strength you had. You didn't ask me." With that the father reached down, picked up the rock and removed it from the sandpit. The treasure Christ offers His followers is access to the Father and a share in the grace that makes us children of God's.

In a sense, each one of us has already found the treasure of friendship with Christ and the benefits it brings. And yet, here He is, telling us this parable again. Why? Because friendships are unique treasures. Not only can it be lost, like normal treasures and pearls of great price, but it can also grow. We can always get to know our friends better, experience more things together and enjoy each other's company more as the years go by. If that is the case with merely human friendships, how much more is it the case of our friendship with God Himself, who is infinite wisdom, sheer goodness and eternal beauty! St Paul wrote about the inexhaustibly abundant riches of Christ's grace (Ephesians 2<sup>7</sup>). It is as if he were saying that Jesus is not just one buried treasure, but a whole series of them, each one more marvellous than the one before. Jesus has more He wants to give us, more He wants to show us, more He wants to teach us. And He is reminding us today that nothing is more valuable than discovering and laying claim to that "more." The farmer sold all he had to buy his treasure. The merchant sold all he had to buy the pearl. We too have to step out of our comfort zone to lay claim to the treasures Christ has in store for us. We have to give something up – maybe a sinful habit, a secret grudge, a self – centred ambition or a hidden sorrow – in order to lay firmer hold on Christ. Today, Jesus is hoping with all His heart that we will trust Him enough to do just that: to give up whatever it is He has put on our conscience, in order to experience His grace more fully. Let us not disappoint Him.