



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: TWENTY – FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME: A

Twenty – First Week of Ordinary Time: 23rd – 29th August 2020 (Weekday Cycle Year II / Psalter Week I)

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| Saturday 22nd August: <i>Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> | <i>Your Prayers are requested for those who are sick:</i> 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, Simpson Family, Evelyn Venning and John Wilcox. |
| Mass; Holy Souls | |
| Sunday 23rd August: <i>Twenty – First Sunday of the Year</i> | 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. |
| 10:00 am Mass; Pro Populo; People of the Parish | |
| Monday 24th August: <i>St Bartholomew, Apostle (Feast)</i> | |
| 10:00 am Mass; John & Helen Wilcox's Intentions (Wilson) | |
| Tuesday 25th August: <i>Weekday Feria</i> | |
| Mass; Anne Bergin RIP (Mc Grath) | |
| Wednesday 26th August: <i>Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God, Priest (memoria)</i> | |
| 10:00 am: Mass; John Frederick Dixon RIP (Teresa) | |
| Thursday 27th August: <i>St Monica, (memoria)</i> | |
| Mass; Maria Sawicki RIP (Williams) | |
| Friday 28th August: <i>St Augustine, Bishop & Doctor (memoria)</i> | |
| 10:00 am Mass; Dixon Family | |
| Saturday 29th August: <i>The Passion of St John the Baptist</i> | |
| Mass; Michael Hughes RIP | |
| Sunday 30th August: <i>Twenty – Second Sunday of the Year</i> | |
| 10:00 am: Mass; David R Morgan Snr RIP (Anniversary) | |
| UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED THE ABOVE MASSES WILL ALL BE SAID PRIVATELY! | |
| The Parish Hall of Our Lady of the Assumption 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 Intention, please continue to do this via the telephone. Stipends can be posted or given at a later date. | |

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.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: Please remember in your prayers to pray for the repose of the soul of *Maria Sawicki* who died on *Monday 17th August 2020*. Maria's Funeral Service will take place at *11:30 am* here in Church on *Wednesday 2nd September 2020* followed by burial at Beeston Cemetery. Also, please remember in your prayers *Sean Rickard* who died on *Saturday 15th August 2020*. Sean's Funeral Service will take place at Bramcote Crematorium on *Thursday 27th August 2020*. We remember them and their families at this sad time. May they rest in peace.

POOR CLARES: The Sisters were delighted with the gifts I took from our Parish on my latest visit. They send their thanks to you for your generous support and want you all to know that you are remembered every day in their prayers. During these difficult times they have particularly appreciated being remembered by our Parish. Fortunately the virus has not affected the Convent and they remain safe. My next visit is planned for *Monday 31st August 2020* and donations can be either given to Father or myself. Many thanks – *Diane Wilson*.

RE – OPENING OF CHURCHES: Thank You to all who have who have kindly volunteered to help with the stewarding and cleaning as we have finally begun to open the Church for Public Mass once again. We continue with our new schedule for the time being and it is working well even with limitations and restrictions in place.

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 come 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 up to a maximum of 48; but this will only apply when family groups of 6 come together. So at the moment we have 6 family pews (seating from 2 up to a maximum of 6) and six pews for individuals (with a maximum of 2 per pew).

Other noticeable changes will be the added signage and tape in Church and 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 prevention of potential "pinch points." Another condition is the need to wear face coverings in Church.

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 required to leave the Church immediately via the Exit doors onto Foster Avenue. 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 seeks cooperation in the 'Track and Trace' system by 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 for the celebration of Mass the Diocesan Booking System must be used if you wish to come to Mass at the Assumption. Details of how to book for Mass can be found on the Diocesan Website by following the link: <https://massbooking.uk/> where you will need to Sign Up in order to book for Mass. This is a pre – booking system and is the only way of regulating those who come to Church. The latest time to book for a Mass will be two hours before. Please book one pew for 2 or more people in the same household or "social bubble" (number not required as one pew will be allocated irrelevant of the number). If you would like to book a pew and individual seats, please treat as 2 separate bookings. If you do not have access to, or are unable to use a computer you may book for Mass by telephone by calling Marie Calladine (Tel: 07850 978788), but I would ask that you only use this option if you unable to book online. For the remainder of August, Mass will be available on **Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays**, all at **10:00 am**. **IN LIGHT OF THE CURRENT LIMITATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS COULD YOU PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU ARRIVE IN GOOD TIME BEFORE MASS BEGINS SO THAT YOU CAN BE SHOWN TO YOUR PLACE. ALSO, IF YOU HAVE BOOKED FOR MASS BUT CANNOT ATTEND PLEASE LET US KNOW IN GOOD TIME.**

Churches cannot currently pass round the collection plate, there is however, a collection basket adjacent to the exit door onto Foster Avenue. I know that many of you have already changed to Standing Order for Church Offerings and there is also a donation section on the Mass Booking website at the bottom of the booking page, allowing people to make a one – off or regular donation to the Parish via JustGiving, with or without Gift Aid.

Please be aware that for Health & Safety and security reasons there is **NO ACCESS** through the Car Park from Devonshire Avenue / Cavendish Place; entrance to the Car Park is from **FOSTER AVENUE ONLY**. If you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

**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.**

Twenty – First Sunday of the Year A.

The most memorable words from today's Gospel passage are "rock" and "keys." "Rock" refers to the unshakable foundation Christ has given to His Church: the Papacy. "Keys" refer to the divinely guaranteed guidance and authority that the Papacy will steadily provide about what we should believe and how we should live – faith and morals. As St Augustine said: "*Ubi Petrus, ibi ecclesia*," where Peter (the Papacy) is, there the Church is. This is why we call the Pope Christ's Vicar on earth, the visible head of the Church. This is also why it is hypocritical for Catholics to criticise, contradict and disobey the Pope and his official teaching. Throughout history, some Popes have been corrupt, weak and sinful, but Jesus kept His promise. Those bad Popes never dismantled the pure teaching of the Gospel, nor did they interrupt the flow of grace that the Holy Spirit continues to send through the Sacraments. But there is also a third memorable image in today's Gospel. After talking about the rock and the keys, Jesus says that "*the gates of the underworld*" will not prevail against His Church. The rock and the keys tell us how the Church is structured, but this phrase tells us what the Church does: it overthrows the kingdom of the devil, breaking down the gates of evil that closed upon the world after Original Sin. The Church is not a passive organization, it is not a religious or social club; it has a mission. Being Catholic means being part of a spiritual army called and equipped by God to fight and conquer sin and evil.

Some non – Catholics mistakenly think that the Papacy was invented by the Roman Emperor Constantine three – hundred years after Christ. Up until then, they claim, the Church had no single leader. Rather, the Bible alone showed individual believers the way to follow Christ and the Church was a democratic gathering of those followers. Today, even some Catholics have accepted that point of view. And so they want to change Catholic beliefs and practices the way modern political systems change their laws and their leaders – by opinion polls and popular votes. Besides forgetting that the list of books included in today's Bible was not finalised until decades after the death of Constantine and besides ignoring the fifteen Centuries of Christian history between St Paul and Martin Luther, that point of view seriously misinterprets today's powerful Gospel passage.

Christ's Church never was and, is not, a democracy. The Church of the New Testament, like Israel of the Old Testament, is a family of believers, a Kingdom ruled by God, with Christ Himself as the head of that family and the eternal King of that Kingdom. But Christ chose to exercise His headship through a representative, a vicar on earth, much like the Old Testament kings temporarily delegated their authority to the "master of the palace," like Shebna and Eliakim, who are mentioned in the First Reading. In other words, Jesus Himself invented the Papacy as an instrument of unity and continuity for His Church, the community of believers forged by God's grace and destined to overthrow the devil's rule of evil, which has dominated the world since the fall of Adam and Eve. This comes across in today's Gospel passage both in what Jesus says to Peter, who was the first Vicar of Christ; the first Pope and also in where He says it. The conversation recorded in this passage took place outside the city of Caesarea Philippi. That glorious city was constructed on the top of a huge hill, one side of which was a towering, bare rock cliff. It gave the city an appearance of invincibility and magnificence. Precisely there, standing near that imposing cliff, Jesus explains that His Church will also be invincible, because it too will be founded on rock, the rock of Peter, Christ's Vicar, the first Pope. The solidity of the Papacy, Jesus explained, will not come from Peter's natural, human qualities, but through the supernatural intervention of "*my Father in heaven*." Peter, in other words will receive from God the authority to rule the Church in Christ's name. This authority is symbolised by the keys and the "*binding and loosing*." This authority has remained intact throughout twenty Centuries of Popes, giving the Catholic Church a truly amazing record of unbroken unity of faith, worship and governance, in spite of the many failings of its members.

The Papacy was founded by Our Lord and is sustained by Him. What else could explain its incredible longevity and vitality, in spite of so much hardship, persecution and corruption throughout the centuries? Christ guides us through His Church and the visible head of that Church is the Pope. Today we have been reminded that this is true and we should be glad to explain it to anyone who may not understand it. The Pope is no political leader or an authoritarian patriarch, tyrannically imposing his will on Catholics. No, he is our spiritual father, appointed and guided by Christ to keep the Gospel pure and to apply it faithfully to the changing times and circumstances of history.