

St Francis of Assisi, Baddesley Clinton

[Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216]

Fr John Sharp

www.sfachurch.org.uk

01564 782498

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

17th November 2019

PARISH LITURGY – MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS

Saturday	6.00 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	9.30 am	In Thanksgiving

Monday [Feria]

9.00 am

Holy Souls

Tuesday [Feria]

9.00 am

Catherine and Albert Lees

Wednesday [Feria]

9.00 am

Thomas Anthony Gunning

Thursday [Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary]

9.00 am

Well-being of Thomas

Friday [St Cecilia, virgin and martyr]

9.00 am

Deceased of the Wattrus and Kettle Families

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the end of Mass until 10.00 am

Saturday [St Columban, abbot]

9.00 am

Holy Souls

Confessions: Saturday, 4.30-5.00 pm

Please pray for the sick in our parish and those who have died: **Mary Elizabeth Turner; John Chinn; Vera Matthews; John George Johnson** (anniversaries).

Last Week's Collection: £492.42. Thank you.

November is the month of the Holy Souls. The names of those whom you wish to be remembered at Mass throughout the month can be placed in the casket before the altar; offerings can be placed in the box marked 'Holy Souls' by Our Lady's altar.

I beg you to listen to what the Lord had to say when he stretched out his hand towards his disciples: 'Here are my mother and my brethren'; and 'whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and my sister and my mother'. Are we to take it from this that the Virgin Mary did not do the will of the Father, she who by faith believed, by faith conceived; she who was chosen to bring forth salvation among men; by Christ created that Christ might

in her be created? Indeed and indeed she did the Father's will and it is a greater thing for her that she was Christ's disciple than that she was his mother. It is a happier thing to be his disciple and to be his mother. Blessed then is Mary who bore her Lord in her body before she gave birth to him.

See if it isn't as I say. The Lord was journeying on and the crowds were following him. He did a work of divine power and this women in the crowd cried out: 'Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that you sucked.' But they must not think that that blessedness lay in bodily relationship, so what did the Lord answer? 'Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it.' Therefore Mary is blessed because she 'heard the word of God and kept it.' Her mind was filled more fully with Truth than her womb by his flesh. Christ is the truth, Christ is made flesh: Christ the truth is in Mary's mind, Christ made flesh is in her womb. Greater is that which is in her mind than that which she carried in her womb.

Mary is holy. Mary is blessed. Yet the Church is greater than she is. What reason do I bring? Mary is part of the Church. She is a holy member of the Church; she is the holy member; she is above all other members; but she is still one member of the whole body. And if a member is a part of the whole body, the body is certainly greater than that member. The Lord is the head, and the whole Church is the head with its members. How shall I put it? It is a divine head we have. It is God we have as our head.

Brothers, listen very closely: you are the members of Christ's body and you are the body of Christ. And this is how you are what he said: 'Here are my mother and my brethren.' But how does this prove that you are Christ's mother? He goes on: 'Whoever hears and whoever does the will of God is my brother, and sister, and mother.' Why brothers and sisters? Because we have a common heritage and Christ's heart of love would not be separated from us, though he is the only-begotten: he will have us to be heirs of his Father and co-heirs with himself.

St Augustine of Hippo (354-430 A.D.)