



THE PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST. WULSTAN

WOOD STREET, SOUTHAM CV47 1PP

Parish Priest: Fr Arul Samy Deacon: Rev. Terry Hum (Rtd)

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The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No 234216



21.06.2020 – Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses & Intentions

Sunday	<i>Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
June 21	People of the Parish
Monday	<i>Ss John Fisher & Thomas More MM</i>
June 22	John, Rita, Bernadette & Peter (Intentions)
Tuesday	<i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>
June 23	Mary Hughes (Intentions)
Wednesday	<i>Nativity of St. John the Baptist - Solemnity</i>
June 24	In Thanksgiving.
Thursday	<i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>
June 25	Mass
Friday	<i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>
June 26	Mass
Saturday	<i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>
June 27	Julie, Steve, Stephanie, Daniel & Adam Harrison (Intentions)
Sunday	<i>Solemnity of Ss Peter and Paul, Apostles</i>
Junw 28	People of the Parish

The Lord at Our Side

Faced with all the evil in the world and the fearful consequences of sin, we might well be afraid did we not have Christ as a mighty hero at our side, the source of divine grace.

The Mission of the Apostles (Matthew 10:26-33): This whole chapter 10 of Matthew brings together and sums up what Jesus has to say to his apostles about declaring his teaching in the face of hostility and persecution. Jesus himself was fearless in proclaiming his message. He 'taught with authority', as the gospel constantly tells us. His disciples are sent out to do the same. We do not often meet with real persecution, although it may yet happen. The martyrs of communist Russia or Vietnam lived many years of peaceful Christianity before unexpectedly facing martyrdom. The monk martyrs of Algeria did not reckon on martyrdom when they went to Algeria. The only preparation for martyrdom can be fidelity and prayer. More often we face mockery for holding to Christian principles, and that too can be difficult to bear. We can be accused of narrow mindedness, lack of appreciation of human values, blind obedience, sentimentality, naivety, and a host of other hurtful slurs. Jesus did not promise that the Father would prevent the sparrows falling to the ground! Neither is it always easy to respond to such slurs with the patience and generosity as well as the truthfulness which Jesus would have shown. 'A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrelful of vinegar', said St Francis de Sales.

Do I fearlessly proclaim the Gospel? What situations in the coming week might require courage? How can I grow in courage?
Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you have already come and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. — St. Alphonsus Liguori

Pope's Prayer Intention for June - (The Way of the Heart):

We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.

We are glad to announce that our church will be open for 'Individual Prayers' on SUNDAY 21ST JUNE between 4.00 and 5.00pm. Depending on the response and the availability of volunteers / stewards, opening days & times will be extended.

Please be reminded that social distancing, use of sanitizer, wearing gloves (and face mask etc.) will be strictly observed in church. Parishioners are reminded in advance to bear these measures in mind and cooperate.

Priests will continue to celebrate Mass on a daily basis, for your intentions and for any other specific intentions requested and parishioners are encouraged to continue taking part in online Masses and have 'Spiritual Communion'.

Those who wish to celebrate the *Liturgy of the Hours*, or have access to the Readings at Mass, please visit: <https://universalis.com> for assistance.

www.wednesdayword.org offers reflections (Lectio Divina) as well as reflections / activities for children & family.

Congratulations to Deacon Terry Hum on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Diaconate (18.06.2000). We offer him our prayerful felicitations and thank him for his dedicated service to our parish community and to our diocese.

Sick: Please pray for all those who are unwell at this time, especially all those who are affected by Covid-19, those who are in isolation and all who help / take care of them as well as all those who serve our communities in frontline jobs.

RIP: Please pray for all those who died recently and for all the faithful departed. *May they all, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

Telephone support: Some of our parishioners are supporting each other by telephone. Please phone 811703 (Shirley) or email (shirley@shirleyrush8.plus.com) if you want a chat or to receive calls or if you would like to join those who are calling others.

Rosary: The Parish Rosary group are continuing to pray the Rosary at 10am on Thursdays in their own homes, but connected spiritually. Please join if you would like to.

Welcome to Children's Liturgy: The Children's Liturgy at our Church normally takes place alongside Mass on Sunday mornings but of course this has not been happening in recent weeks due to the pandemic. Our Church is now proposing to hold the Children's Liturgy on-line using Zoom. The Liturgy is a time of worship and fun for children of primary school age and usually involves a bible reading, songs, prayers and handicraft activities. The first on-line Liturgy will take place on Sunday 14th June at 10.15 - 10.45. All children will be most welcome to attend even if you do not attend Church.

If you would like your child to take part please e-mail presbytery@stwulstan-southam.co.uk as soon as possible and further details including log in instructions will be sent to you.

Children's Liturgy Newsletters / Materials are also available at www.wednesdayword.org and Redemptorist Publication's newsletters are sent to all parishioners on the e-mail contact list.

Administration Assistant: The Governors of St. Mary's Catholic Primary School are looking to appoint an administration assistant to our welcoming and supportive school. Do you have some experience of office work and are you able to remain calm, stay positive and keep smiling whilst demonstrating integrity and confidentiality?

If interested please contact Mrs. Price at school 01926 812512 or e mail head3505@we-learn.com

Thank You: Leo has written a ‘thank you’ letter to our parish.

Dear All,

Thank you all very much for making last Wednesday such a special day. I was overwhelmed to receive such an honour which I will treasure. Thank you for your immense kindness and generosity with regard to the collection. I will miss you all but hope to be able to attend a Mass at some point in the future.

Love and God bless,

Leo

[Well done everyone! Thank you very much for all your generous support and help. Much appreciated. God bless – Fr. Arul]

Thank you to our volunteers for their generous help in cleaning and preparing our church for it to be open for ‘Individual Prayer’ on Sunday. Thank you & God bless you.

Live Streaming: St. Peter’s, Leamington Spa has live streaming facility now. The daily Mass at 11.00am is live streamed. You can access through the parish website: <https://www.catholicleamington.org.uk/live-stream-masses.html>

Evangelisation Team: Our next virtual meeting by Zoom for the Warwick Deanery parishes is on **Monday 6th July at 7.30pm**. It is hoped that each parish could be represented to help us plan how to share the Good News in these challenging times. Contact: Peter Dimambro Tel. No. 01926 - 428399 mdimambro@hotmail.co.uk

PRAYERS FOR THE PANDEMIC: FOR THOSE WHO ARE ANXIOUS

God of Gethsemane, who knew deep anxiety,
the desire for the cup to be taken away,
your sweat dropping onto the clay of earth like blood,
be with those who suffer at this time
from anxiety, the fear of their world
running out of control.

The facts alone
fan the embers of anxiety
in all of us: the grim daily numbers,
the fear of falling ill, of facing our end.
In our loneliest darkness,
in the night of our Gethsemane,
may we find you there. Amen



(Raymond Friel)

St. Thomas More & St. John Fisher (Feast: June 22)

The lives of St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher are very closely linked, and thus it is quite appropriate that the Church celebrate their feasts together.

They are both renowned Englishmen martyred within two weeks of each other for the same cause of defending religious liberty, the sanctity of marriage and Papal authority against State usurpation. They were both associates of King Henry VIII before his apostasy, and it was at his hands that they both suffered martyrdom.

Sir Thomas More was a distinguished statesman in the English Parliament. First and foremost, however, he was a faithful Catholic, a loving husband, and a devoted father. More was widely known for his “unfailing moral integrity, sharpness of mind, his open and humorous character, and his extraordinary learning.” He was a close friend and confidant of Henry VIII, and the King himself eventually promoted Thomas to the prominent office of Lord Chancellor.

However, the two were alienated when Thomas refused to compromise his conscience and faith when Henry openly defied Church teachings and divorced his wife to marry Anne Boleyn, choosing instead to renounce the King’s friendship, his own public career, wealth and worldly prestige. Thomas was consequently imprisoned in the Tower of London and eventually condemned and beheaded on July 6, 1535. He was named patron saint of statesmen and politicians by Pope John Paul II.

A friend of St. Thomas More’s, St. John Fisher also had a close connection to Henry VIII, having once been his tutor, and was a friend of the royal family. As the Bishop of Rochester, he was known as a man of great leaning and deep and unshakable faith. He was supported by the King and appointed to the lifetime position of Chancellor of the University of Cambridge.

However, he too fell into disfavour with Henry when he also opposed the King’s unlawful divorce of Queen Catherine of Aragon. Bishop Fisher courageously warned Parliament of Henry’s encroaching powers over the Church in England in direct disregard of the Papal audit, and publicly preached against the divorce from the pulpit at the same time as Sir Thomas More was resigning his high office. By thus calling down the King’s fury on himself, the holy Bishop of Rochester suffered multiple imprisonments in the Tower, during which time he was made a Cardinal by the authority of Pope Paul III – an appointment which Henry rejected.

Fisher was condemned to be hung, drawn and quartered; and, although originally sentenced to be killed on June 24, the feast of St. John the Baptist, the King had a superstitious fear of executing him on that feast because of the strong resemblance of the deaths of these two saints, and instead had him beheaded – ironically just like John the Baptist after all – two days earlier, on June 22, 1535.

Thomas More and John Fisher were beatified together by Pope Leo XIII in 1886, and canonized together by Pius XI in 1935. One a layman and statesman, the other a priest and bishop – they stand together as models and heroes of religious freedom against encroaching government powers.

<https://www.americaneedsfatima.org/Saints-Heroes/st-thomas-more-st-john-fisher.html>

The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist (Solemnity: June 24)

Jesus called John the greatest of all those who had preceded him: “I tell you, among those born of women, no one is greater than John...” But John would have agreed completely with what Jesus added: “[Y]et the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he” (Luke 7:28).

John spent his time in the desert, an ascetic. He began to announce the coming of the Kingdom, and to call everyone to a fundamental reformation of life. His purpose was to prepare the way for Jesus. His baptism, he said, was for repentance. But one would come who would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. John was not worthy even to untie his sandals. His attitude toward Jesus was: “He must increase; I must decrease” (John 3:30).

John was humbled to find among the crowd of sinners who came to be baptized the one whom he already knew to be the Messiah. “I need to be baptized by you” (Matthew 3:14b). But Jesus insisted, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15b). Jesus, true and humble human as well as eternal God, was eager to do what was required of any good Jew. Jesus thus publicly entered the community of those awaiting the Messiah. But making himself part of that community, he made it truly messianic.

The greatness of John, his pivotal place in the history of salvation, is seen in the great emphasis Luke gives to the announcement of his birth and the event itself—both made prominently parallel to the same occurrences in the life of Jesus. John attracted countless people to the banks of the Jordan, and it occurred to some people that he might be the Messiah. But he constantly deferred to Jesus, even to sending away some of his followers to become the first disciples of Jesus.

Perhaps John’s idea of the coming of the Kingdom of God was not being perfectly fulfilled in the public ministry of Jesus. For whatever reason, when he was in prison he sent his disciples to ask Jesus if he was the Messiah. Jesus’ answer showed that the Messiah was to be a figure like that of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah. John himself would share in the pattern of messianic suffering, losing his life to the revenge of Herodias.

Reflection

John challenges us Christians to the fundamental attitude of Christianity—total dependence on the Father, in Christ. Except for the Mother of God, no one had a higher function in the unfolding of salvation. Yet the least in the kingdom, Jesus said, is greater than he, for the pure gift that the Father gives. The attractiveness as well as the austerity of John, his fierce courage in denouncing evil—all stem from his fundamental and total placing of his life within the will of God. <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/solemnity-of-the-nativity-of-saint-john-the-baptist/>