

**St Anne's Parish, Wappenbury
with
Our Lady of the Angels', Princethorpe**

7 June 2020

The Most Holy Trinity

Year A

Fr Teddy O'Brien MSC - Parish Priest

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham
(Registered Charity Number: 234216) and is conducted, on behalf of the Archdiocese,
by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

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1966 and all that.....

1966 was a wonderful year, full of wonderful joyful events. On 21 December 1966, I was ordained priest in the presence of my parents and 7 of my 10 siblings. Then, the autumn of 1966 produced the most wonderful vintage red wines in France - I shared two from that vintage with Fr Alan and other MSCs a few years ago (thanks to Dr Henry Twohig MSC RIP). And no doubt you all remember 30 July 1966 when England beat West Germany 4 – 2 in the World Cup, an event to be remembered because of its rarity.

And further back still, on 8 April 1966, some of you may remember Time Magazine's iconic cover: questioning "IS GOD DEAD?", a cover to be reprinted 50 years later on 24 May 2016.

Today, 7 June 2020, on this Feast of the Most Blessed Trinity – just over 75 years since the D Day Landing in Normandy - I have to tell you that this cover was, indeed, promoting Fake News. To borrow a phrase used frequently in news briefings on COVID-19, 'I can announce today'...' I can indeed announce today that God is not dead nor has God retreated into self-isolation!

True, the image of God that I grew up with is very dead and, if not dead yet, needs to die speedily. This was an image of a capricious God with whom we never knew where we stood, always needing to 'be placated', always described as 'he' because we knew no better. A god about whom we were never sure we were doing (or could ever do) enough to merit to be loved by him. Living our lives from the house of fear rather than from the house of love, waiting always for the judgment that would inevitably descend upon us to finish us off once and for all; making sure that everyone received the 'Last Rites' lest none get refused at those Pearly Gates!

I buried that god a long time ago – not without difficulty, I might add. I still remember confessing the 'mortal sin' of not going to Mass one Sunday because I had the 'flu and was confined to bed. Or that day, never to be forgotten, when I was refused absolution from the priest because, when he asked me had I done those sins before and I said, with honesty (or was it fear?) 'yes, Father', he told me to 'get out, how can you be sorry when you did it again?' - bearing in mind, I was then eight years old!

Yes. That God had to die. Instead, God is alive now. This is a God who demands justice for George Floyd and the other George Floyds of this world; who wants us to enjoy and to 'play' in this wonderful planet He has given to us; a God who became human (and is no longer a cuddly Christmas baby nor a bloody mess on a cross nor the 'Paul Daniels' of the spiritual world waiting to gratify our whims when we, like spoiled children, 'need' something in a hurry).

The God who lives now wants fair play. This living God is one for whom 'all lives matter', from conception to natural death, and who embraces difference and decries exclusion in culture, religion, social status, gender and financial matters. This is a God of relationships, a Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, hungry to establish and enhance relationships with the very creatures, us, whom He 'formed in our mother's wombs' and 'loves us with an everlasting and unconditional love' and who 'wishes for us more than we can ever imagine'.

And here is the God that we celebrate on this Feast of the Most Holy Trinity – a Father who loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son to live and to die like and for us; a Son who kept His promise to send us another Advocate to remind us of all that Jesus said to us, and did for us; a Holy Spirit, with whose gifts which have been endowed in great abundance, there is no limit to the love we can disseminate in this planet of ours.

It is not difficult to celebrate this great feast. Simply, let the god of our fantasies fade away to make room for the real God who craves to be known by us – and to be known by all people of every gender, code, creed and nation inhabiting this planet and from whom, with much Fake News about him, we drove people to want something less than being loved just as they truly are.

Mass streamed live from St Anne's every morning at 9.30am

Thank you to those of you who are able to join me in the weekly daily Mass. I hope that celebrating with me for this short service gives you a feeling of community which still remains for all of us.

Sunday 7 June – Sunday 14 June	9.30am	Wappenbury	Live streamed using
Thursday 11 June	9.30am	Wappenbury	<i>fb.me/stanneswappenbury</i>
Sunday 14 June	9.30am	Wappenbury	Beginning of Novena to The Sacred Heart of Jesus (Feast day is Friday 19 June)
			The prayer for the Novena is available to read on the Homepage of the website
			The Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord

Masses streamed throughout the Archdiocese and elsewhere

You can follow these on

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-chads-cathedral-birmingham>

Mass streamed live on weekdays and Sundays.

For other Masses

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/cameras/county/warwickshire>

Mass and Evening Prayer streamed live each day from Sacred Heart Church Cork

<https://www.mscmissions.ie/spirituality/sacred-heart-live-services/>

Music and Reflective Resources for reflection from the Emmaus Retreat Centre Dublin

<https://www.emmausproductions.com/special-feature/spiritual-comfort-for-troubled-times-holy-week-2020/>

Parish Community Evening Prayer

You can now join with me and other parishioners for a short evening prayer on Wednesday and Friday evenings in May at 7.00pm. This prayer will last about twenty minutes. A copy of the evening prayer will be sent out prior to the meeting.

To join in this prayer, you will need to be using **ZOOM**.

The ID for all meetings on Wednesdays and Fridays is **798 7539 5937** with the password **0(zero)YQRdf**

If you have not joined me up to now, please let me know so that I can send you the prayer.

Sunday Collections

Since it is likely that our restrictions as regards gathering for Mass at either St Anne's or Princethorpe will remain in force for a considerable length of time, may I ask those who contribute weekly, through the collections at Mass, to review how they might contribute while we wait to return to attendance at Mass. Our current overdraft is just over £7000.00 as on 5 May 2020 and, as with all of you, regular expenses continue to be incurred, such as Community Charge, Lighting, Heating, Communication, Cemetery and grounds maintenance etc. DD and SO provide the advantage that you continue to contribute directly during these difficult times. For this, I remain grateful.

You can contribute to cheque if you still use cheques or through BACS if that is your preferred way. For BACS, the details are: National Westminster Bank **Sort Code 60-02-35 - Account number 67502784 – Please reference your surname/name of bank**

Details about Standing Orders, Direct Debits and Gift Aid can be found on the diocesan website -

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/FAQs/standing-order-gift-aid>

My thanks to those who had sent contributions and who have set up SO and DD. I very much appreciate this.

The Finance Committee is also investigating an on-line donation method – further details shortly.

Understandably, in these difficult financial times it is every family's concern to ensure that money can be found for their own budgets. That must remain your priority.

Continue with Sensible Precautions and No Panic

Stay at home/Stay Alert – in either case, please continue to behave in a manner that keeps you and others safe.

Enjoy the outdoor life but with care.

Wash hands thoroughly and regularly.

Avoid close contact and avoid shaking hands – you can be ‘Thai like’.

Think thoughts of peace instead of wishing peace through handshake at any time anywhere.

Receive Jesus in spirit – seek a greater awareness of God’s presence with you each moment.

Use tissues – do not leave used tissues lying about: bin them or burn them!

Even though there are changes ‘freeing’ us up, we must prepare mentally and emotionally to endure, for some considerable time, on-going limitations to our freedom.

Always remember that the ‘limitations’ on health care workers on the front line are there to stay.

Please remember especially in your prayers this week – let us not tire of praying

All those people who put the lives of others before their own in whatever branch of community life they work.

Sue who will undergo a very serious operation tomorrow, Monday 8 June. Hold Sue’s family in your prayers.

Bill who continues tomorrow with week two of his treatment. Hold Bill and Yvonne in your prayers.

Tom who is undergoing treatment for prostate cancer.

Sean who is unwell at present.

Fr Dan O’Connor MSC who is seriously unwell at present in a nursing home in Ireland.

Di, awaiting further tests.

Fr John Fitzgerald as he cares for the elderly members of MSC communities in Ireland.

Fr Manus Ferry MSC as he works as a hospital chaplain in Dublin

Paddy Mernagh RIP 24 May. Paddy is **uncle** to Jim Murray. Pray for Bridget, (wife) and children Peter, Seamus, Dermot, Ray, Denise and Louise

Education staff, children and their parents as there are moves to open schools once again.

Melanie, a young girl who struggles with identity. Pray for her family and friends as they present support.

Anastasia as she is cared for at home.

Eileen who is unwell in a rest home.

Wolfgang, Chrissie’s father, who died recently.

Norman, close friend of Paul. Norman is unwell in hospital.

Alice whose Lupus has returned.

Maura Bennett RIP, mother to Fr John Bennett MSC. Maura died unexpectedly recently.

Liz’s mum who is unwell.

Peter Power family.

Catherine, niece to Una Power, who gave birth to a baby recently.

Alice, sister to Jimmy Murray, who has been ill and is now recovering at home.

Members of the medical profession who have died while ministering to those ill with coronavirus.

Parishioners who have been diagnosed with coronavirus.

MSC Priests from the Belgian Province of the MSCs who have died because of coronavirus.

Continue praying for

Parishioners with underlying medical problems of varying kinds and for whom this present viral situation induces increased anxiety. Pray for patience for all as times moves on.....

Our medical staff – some members of this parish are actively engaged on the front line in our hospitals.

John whose family has asked for prayers.

Domonkos Kordas (14) who has lost sight in one eye. Pray for him and family and friends. His parents work on the front line.

Steve, who continues to receive treatment.

Peter Lamb, recovering from a stroke

Elizabeth and Neville Compton, sister and brother-in-law of Margaret Simmons.

Lawrence who has completed the three years of maintenance chemotherapy. The family gives thanks for your love and prayers.

John (75) diagnosed with bladder cancer.

Liz Griffin's parents as they settle in to their new home.

Elizabeth who has been diagnosed with a long term illness and is improving. She has had some good news recently.

Paul, a paramedic friend of Kathy Bond, Stretton on Dunsmore, seriously ill in University Hospital, Coventry.

Marc, who is seriously ill.

Maria, sister of Janet, who is improving.

Keren and her husband. Keren is a member of Princethorpe College staff.

Karen, waiting results of an exploratory investigation.

Linda, Stretton on Dunsmore, who is recovering at home. Thank you for your continued prayers.

Adrian, a friend of Loretta, who is continuing to receive treatment. Adrian has had some good news.

Carolyn whose daughter is experiencing on-going mental health difficulties.

Roisin and Niamh, as they cope with difficult health problems. Their health problems are on-going.

Claire, who is going through a tough time right now.

Linda, who is recovering from the effects of her treatment for cancer.

Michael, who is awaiting further tests.

Louise, suffering from various cancers.

Zavier, a young child who is ill.

Lucy (29), who is suffering from bacterial meningitis and is unable to digest food.

Jade (28), who is receiving chemotherapy.

Liam (44), who is undergoing chemotherapy for bowel cancer.

Eileen, friend of Mary Hewitt who is suffering from cancer.

Harry (23), who has undergone serious heart surgery and is returning to work.

Sue, who is enduring further chemotherapy for her cancer.

Seamus, who suffers from prostate cancer. Hold Seamus' family and friends in your prayers.

Michele, who has some serious health issues.

Kathy, who is recuperating after her successful operation.

Lola (29), who has been ill for most of her life and is again very ill.

Rose, who has severe mental health problems.

Frank

Carolyn, who is ill with breast cancer.

Bishop Leo McCartie RIP, who died recently.

Mildred (87) RIP (Ryton on Dunsmore)

Betty Lucas RIP

Kay RIP, aunt to Yvonne.

Peter Morgan RIP, father of Helen Morgan, a member of staff at Princethorpe College.

Antonio (80) RIP who died recently.

Betty Kaminski RIP

Thomas Duffy RIP

Pauline RIP.

Chris Smart (77) RIP

Con McCorrison (88) RIP

Darren RIP

Joan (91) RIP

Myrtle Forster (64) RIP

Joan and Sister RIP

Bob RIP

Maria Ramsay (76) RIP

Mont RIP

John RIP