

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

21 June 2020

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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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Great Expectations.....

As we emerge from lock down, one can sense legitimate expectations for life to return, at least with some degree of familiarity. We can imagine engaging in 'shopping therapy' once again. We can imagine ourselves enjoying sport together with all the excitement that sport generates. And soon perhaps have that pint or pub lunch together.

This week we celebrate on Wednesday the birth of the great St John the Baptist, the name of the original church in Wappenbury. John's early life is interesting in that, having left home to sojourn in the desert as a hermit, on his return, the scripture text tells, us that "a great expectation had arisen among the people". They, in fact, thought that he must be the waited for Messiah with all the expectations inherent in that – freedom from Roman domination especially. In their desire for what they longed for, they became somewhat divorced from reality leading eventually to his untimely death.

And we know that, when Jesus came on the scene, their expectations were again heightened to the extent that they wanted, on more than one occasion, to make him a king. Their expectations echoed those of John – freedom. And we know how this story ended for Jesus and for them.

Human expectations, valid as they are, must be tempered by an awareness of the fickleness and the reality of human nature. I sense that this vision of a 'new normal' was somewhat tempered last week by the lengthy queues outside some shops in the early morning hours; by the violence in America and its translation to other countries, attached as it was to very legitimate and worthy causes. We need the freedom to associate – it is part of being human; and justice for all must prevail if there is to be lasting peaceful association.

Towards the end of Charles Dickens' "Great Expectations", Estella regrets that she had rejected Pip's love not because of his financial or social situation but because of her difficulty, it seems, in experiencing real deep emotion. "There was a long hard time", she said, "when I kept from me the remembrance of what I had thrown away when I was quite ignorant of its worth", referring it seems to the relationship she could possibly have had with Pip. She seemed unsure of her ability to sustain any emotional bond.

We would do well to reflect and to value just what it is we have received these past months during lock down and what we now expect when it ends. During lock down, there were appropriate verbal protests as to the manner in which the least fortunate in our society were treated. There was a genuine and legitimate concern over the disproportionate death rate among the BAME communities. There was, also, that wonderful acknowledgement of the service and commitment of NHS workers for us, together with gratitude for all who helped to keep the wheels of our society moving. And the evident neighborliness that emerged was a wonderful expression of just what it means to be human.

Now, as lock down begins to end, our expectations need to be honed. Our 'new normal society' must have as its over arching principle that "the time is always right to do what is right" (MLK). Our expectations must not echo the fantasies of the Jewish people in their understanding of John and Jesus and their myth of what 'freedom' meant. With Estella, we must remember the worth of what our time away from each other gave us and, before we lose it, not be "ignorant of its worth".

Recent protests expose a peace and a quietness during lock down that lacked a true foundation, a foundation of justice and fair play for all. Surely our new expectations must have a desire to listen, with head and heart, to our fellow human beings so that now it can be "all for one and one for all".

Justice and peace are two sides of the same coin.

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 21 June – Sunday 28 June	9.30am	Wappenbury	Live streamed using fb.me/stanneswappenbury
Monday 22 June - St John Fisher	9.30am	Wappenbury	
Wednesday 24 June – Birthday of John the Baptist	9.30am	Wappenbury	

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.mscommissions.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

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

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>

DD and SO provide the advantage that you continue to contribute directly during these difficult times. For this, I remain grateful.

You can contribute by cheque, if you still use them, 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**

The Finance Committee is also investigating an on-line donation method.

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 and, as with all of you, regular expenses continue to be incurred, such as Community Charge, Lighting, Heating, Communication, Cemetery and grounds maintenance etc.

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.

Re-Opening of Churches

On Monday 15 June, some churches re-opened for private prayer. Some, including St Anne's Wappenbury, remain closed because I cannot presently guarantee your safety or mine. I am waiting for estimates from two companies to have St Anne's thoroughly cleaned prior to re-opening. At the same time, the porch will be re-decorated.

In the meantime, in so far as legislation permits, you are welcome to come and enjoy the garden at St Anne's and to visit the cemetery. I will continue to stream Mass live each day at 9.30am.

Thank you

I would like to thank all of you who have been so kind and generous in leaving me groceries and gifts during the lock down. It has often happened that I have not heard you coming and going and on opening my front door I have found treats left in bags without me knowing who has dropped them off. Thank you whoever you are and my blessings to you all.

Shoe-Boxes 2020 – Bars of Soap Appeal

In these difficult times Pam and her team are still trying to gather items together for the shoe-boxes for 2020. We have received an email from Glen, the area co-ordinator, asking for bars of soap especially. Understandably, because of the coronavirus situation, the usual supply of gifted hotel guest soap is limited as well as regular bars of soap. If you could consider buying any type of solid bars at all when you are ordering on-line or out shopping please do so. Any gifts can be left in Teddy's porch – no need to ring the door bell just drop off the bag.

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.

Gertrude who died recently. Gertrude's funeral service will be streamed live from St Anne's at 12 noon on Friday 3 July with burial at St Anne's at 2.00pm on the same day. Hopefully her burial will also be streamed.

Sue whose expected operation was cancelled at the last minute. Hold Sue's family in your prayers.

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

Patrick Horgan (76) who is seriously ill. Hold his family in your prayers. Pray for Jo his very close friend.

Tom who is undergoing treatment for prostate cancer.

Stephen, friend of Milena's, who is seriously ill.

Fr John Fitzgerald MSC whose mother died on Thursday evening.

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). 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.

All elderly parents of parishioners.

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.

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.

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 McCorriston (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