



THE PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST. WULSTAN

WOOD STREET, SOUTHAM CV47 1PP

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



05.07.2020 - Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord Who Is Kind and Full of Compassion

Our Lord has every claim to the title and majesty of kingship, and yet he comes to us in humility and gentleness. We pray that this spirit of Christ may also be in us.

Masses & Intentions

Sunday 05 9.30am	<i>Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Frank McDonagh Ints. (90 th Birthday)
Monday July 06	<i>St. Maria Goretti, Virgin, Martyr</i> Bishop Leo McCartie RIP (JF)
Tuesday July 07	<i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i> Canon Sean McTernan RIP (JF)
Wednesday July 08	<i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i> Canon Sean McTernan RIP (JF) ~~~ 6.00 – 7.00pm Individual Prayers ~~~
Thursday July 09	<i>St. Augustine Zhao Rong P. & Co. MM</i> Canon Sean McTernan RIP (JF)
Friday July 10	<i>Feria in Ordinary Time (First Friday)</i> Benefactors of Johnson Fund
Saturday July 11	<i>St. Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe</i> For the Parish (Johnson Fund)
Sunday July 12	<i>Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> People of the Parish

Father and Son (Matthew 11:25-30): This much-loved and encouraging passage tells of the intimacy of the relationship between Father and Son in a way that no other passage of the synoptic gospels does. It is reminiscent of those passages in John 5 which unfold the equality of Father and Son: the Son does nothing but what he sees the Father doing; the Father loves the Son so that he entrusts all things to the Son; and the Son gives life just as the Father gives life. Then we read about the gentle invitation of the Son to all who are overburdened. The 'yoke' is often a symbol of the Law of Moses, which could seem burdensome with its many commands, though it was also valued as God's revelation of himself to his own people in love. Christ is not a tyrannical master, but is a sympathetic, gentle and humble leader who shares his life with his followers. The 'yoke' or law of Christ is the interior impulse of the Spirit which we read more about in today's second reading. It cannot be burdensome, since it is a joy to carry this 'yoke'; it is a way of living with Christ and by his Spirit. Martyrs are subjected to physical pains, yet for them joy is a constant feature in the accounts of their martyrdom.

Do you ever feel you can't cope? Do you ask Jesus for help? What does Jesus mean by his 'yoke'? Do you find it comfortable?
Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

Pope's Prayer Intention for July - (Our Families): We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.

Sanctuary Lamp: The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for Frank McDonagh's 90th Birthday Intentions. Wish you a Very Happy Birthday Frank! May God bless you and your family as always!

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.

A warm welcome back to our Mass in church this Sunday! We are able to celebrate Mass together again which is at the centre of our faith.

As we gather here after more than three months, the Lord's message in today's Gospel is ever apt, 'Come to me... and I will give you rest'. We are burdened with many things, but most of all with the pandemic and its lingering, painful effects of loss, bereavement and job insecurity to name but a few. Let us be certain that we shall surely find rest for our souls in the Lord and pray wholeheartedly!

We shall continue to cooperate with the guidelines and restrictions put in place by the government. We thank our stewards in the parishes for volunteering, as we are ever grateful to all our brothers and sisters who have laboured in frontline responsibilities across the nation such as the NHS and other vital service sectors!

Our church will be open also on **Wednesday between 6.00 and 7.00pm for individual prayers.** All are welcome.

We appeal for more volunteers so that we could have Mass in our church as regularly as possible.

Until then there will be Private Masses for your intentions and for any other specific intentions requested. Parishioners who are / will not be able to come to church as per the government guidelines are encouraged to continue taking part in live streamed Masses online and have 'Spiritual Communion'. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Visiting the housebound / sick in the parish will resume as soon as it is safe to do so.

Please be encouraged to celebrate the *Liturgy of the Hours*. For accessing 'Liturgy of the Hours' or '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.

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

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.

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

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. Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe (480 – 547): On Saturday 11th of July we celebrate the Feast of St. Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe. He is generally regarded as the founder of monasticism in the western Church. He lived in the fifth and sixth centuries in Italy. As the Roman Empire gradually fell apart these were years of great turmoil in Italy, marked by lawlessness and violence. The foundation of radical communities of men (and indeed women) who took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience was a profoundly counter-cultural statement over and against the spirit of the age. In the centuries that followed, monasteries in Benedict's tradition became *centres of light, learning and charity all over Western Europe*. Their pivotal place in English society only came to an end in the 16th century when Henry VIII closed them and took their possessions; for the Catholic community now, of course, the small number of Benedictine monasteries remain important.

In 1964 Pope St. Paul VI named Benedict as Patron Saint of Europe. There are now five others, but for nearly twenty years he was the only one. (The other five being **Ss. Cyril and Methodius, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Bridget of Sweden, St. Edith Stein**). When the Church gives a community a patron saint it is making various statements (some patron saints have that role by longstanding tradition; otherwise the Church officially designates a particular saint for this role of interceding for a particular community in heaven).

The first statement the Church is making is about the community concerned; the act is designed to enhance a community's sense of identity. So when the Catholic Church says that six men and

women are Europe's patron saints it is affirming our commitment to European unity, in line with Catholic Social teaching. The saints remind us of the shared spiritual and Christian identity of Europe, the basis of all that we do to foster European unity (and beyond).

The second statement is to do with the life and virtues of the saints concerned. There are things about a saint's life which are special, which is why we see them as role models as well as intercessors for us. Benedict's life and influence are immense, but good to concentrate on three things about him which have a message for the countries of Europe and in fact for the whole world. These qualities stem from his *Rule*, the comprehensive document (of insights drawn from the Bible) he worked out to order the communities he founded.

The first is **the value of work**. Benedict saw idleness as the path to ruin. Physical work was important for the communities he founded, and this challenged the traditional Roman view which saw it as only fit for slaves. The Church, in this tradition, sees work as important and part of the vocation each of us has from God, whatever we're called to do (as all who engage in gardening / farming will be able to attest). Unemployment and poor working conditions are social evils, in Europe and the rest of the world.

The second characteristic of Benedict's rule which is important for today's Europe is to do with **the love and respect which members of his communities are meant to show for each other**. The key (to this) is *the idea of obedience* – and not just for the leader of the community, the abbot. Writing of the monks Benedict claims **'Let them obey one another...let them put aside their own concerns and abandon their own will.'** The key to living in a religious community, as indeed in a family, is a *constant battle against selfishness, against a desire to control and dominate*. Members of the community should cultivate humility, and always put the person first. This isn't just for monks and nuns – it's a good rule for all of us, and it's a good rule in international relations. Efforts, rooted in our Church's teaching, to bring about European unity are about *sharing the common good* of the whole continent, over and against selfish nationalism and pride. We don't want children to be selfish: why should countries be selfish? The spirit of Benedict's rule is desperately needed at this time in our world.

Thirdly, the *Rule* insists that the monks greet **guests as they would Our Lord**. To this day if you go to stay in a Benedictine house or retreat centre you are not charged for your board and keep (although donations are received) – the monks or nuns are not allowed to ask you. Also at various points in history Benedictine houses have offered sanctuary and refuge to those in danger of arrest (think of *The Sound of Music* and the nuns who disable the cars of the Nazis). This emphasis on hospitality and welcoming the stranger helps to inspire the Christian message – so unpopular with so many – calling on all the nations of the world today to *welcome migrants* and refugees, constantly reiterated by the Holy Father, one of the most important moral issues of our time. The twenty-first century's women and men really need to listen to this part of Benedict's rule and what it says to Europe today, and indeed the rest of the world. (*Edited & paraphrased*).

<http://saintmunds.net/index.php/sermon/st-benedicts-message-for-europe-and-the-world/>

A Prayer by Saint Benedict for Seekers of Faith

Gracious and Holy Father,
give us the wisdom to discover You,
the intelligence to understand You,
the diligence to seek after You,
the patience to wait for You,
eyes to behold You,
a heart to meditate upon You,
and a life to proclaim You,
through the power of the Spirit of Jesus,
our Lord. Amen.