



THE PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST. WULSTAN

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



26.07.2020 - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Treasure We Have Found

Solomon prayed for the wisdom to discern the true value of things. We scarcely need the wisdom of Solomon to realise that in finding the love of God and the Kingdom of God we have found a treasure beyond price. It is in the joy of this realisation that we hold our celebration today.

Masses & Intentions

Sunday 26 9.30am	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Gary Patterson RIP (9 th Anniversary)
Monday July 27	Feria in Ordinary Time / Bl. Robert Sutton P.M. People of the Parish
Tuesday July 28	Feria in Ordinary Time Lorraine, Liam & Amelia Patterson (Ints)
Wednesday July 29	St. Martha Joanne Stewart (Intentions)
6.00pm 7.00pm	Eucharistic Adoration & Individual Prayers Mass – Joanne Stewart's Intentions
Thursday July 30	Feria / St. Peter Chrysologus, B. D. Danny, Elizabeth & Bobby Stewart (Ints)
Friday July 31	St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest The Stewart Family Intentions
Saturday August 01	St. Alphonsus Mary de'Liguori B. D. Gary Patterson RIP (9 th Anniversary)
Sunday August 02	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time People of the Parish

Treasures New and Old (Matthew 13:44-52): St Matthew presents us this week with three final pictures from his collection of Jesus' images about the Christian community. Matthew likes pairs of parables: the dragnet pairs with last week's darnel-parable, the treasure pairs with the pearl. The Kingdom is an exciting and unexpected treasure which can change our whole life; it's like winning the pools or the lottery – except that God's gifts change us only for the good, and fill our lives with meaning and joy. Of course we know that God's call is demanding: you've got to pay a price for the field in which the treasure lies, or for the genuine pearl found in a junk-shop! The very last picture - the householder bringing down different food-packets, pots and jars off the shelf - is encouraging too: some are old favourites (perhaps like the Christian values and prayers which we inherited from our families), but some add new flavours too, which we have discovered or been taught ourselves. If we listen, the Spirit is always there to show us new ways of living out our Christian calling, revealing to us an opportunity for prayer or help or service. This 'householder' is often thought to be Matthew's secret signature for himself: he brings out old and new in the Christian message.

How can we learn new ways of living out our Christian calling?
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.

Pope's Prayer Intention for August - (The Maritime World): We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

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.

Welcome to Mass in our church this Sunday. Thanks to our stewards for their help and suggestions at the meeting last Sunday.

In addition to the Sunday Mass at the moment, there will be Mass on Wednesday at 7.00pm. with opportunity for 'Individual Prayer' from 6.30pm. All are welcome.

Please pray for all those who are unwell and housebound / self-isolating in our parish and community, especially those affected by Covid 19 and those serving in frontline services.

As countries around the world are still struggling with the pandemic and in some countries the situation is rather alarming, let us pray for those in power and those making decisions, that they may be responsible and respectful of human lives, particularly of those on the margins of the society. Let us hope and pray that the pandemic will end soon.

Guidelines and restrictions such as social distancing, wearing face mask, use of sanitizers in the church are to be observed.

At the end of the Mass this weekend there will be a brief review with parishioners of the current arrangement. Organizing one more Mass at the current circumstance will be discussed. This will depend on having more volunteers.

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.



Congratulations to Bernard & Jill Cadogan who will be celebrating their Golden Jubilee of their Wedding on Aug 1st. Let us offer them our prayers and best wishes

RIP: Please pray for **Janine Curry, John Clifford** and 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.

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

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.

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)

Ignatius of Loyola (1491 – 1556): St. Ignatius came from a family of minor nobility in Spain's northern Basque region. One thing to know about Ignatius is that he was far from saintly during much of his young adult life. He was vain, with dreams of personal honor and fame. He gambled and was not above sword fighting. As some have noted, he might have been the only saint with a notarized police record: for taking part in a night-time brawl.

All that began to change one day in the spring of 1521. Ignatius was 30 years old at the time, an officer in the Spanish army. Leading his fellow soldiers into a battle against the French that they were sure to lose, he was struck by a cannonball in the leg. During a difficult recovery (he limped for the rest of his life), the young man asked for books about chivalry — his favorite reading. There weren't any at the family castle where he convalesced. He had to settle for a book about the life of Christ and biographies of the saints — which he found unexpectedly riveting.

St. Ignatius had always dreamed of imitating heroic deeds, but now, the heroes had names like Francis of Assisi and Catherine of Siena. Ignatius also noticed something strange happening to him. God, he realized, was working within him — prompting, guiding, inviting. As he traveled far and wide, he realized too that God was similarly at work in the lives of all people, in the everyday events of the world.

These experiences would prove to be the beginnings of Ignatian spirituality — and Jesuit ministry. While in Paris, Ignatius gathered around him some friends or "companions," as they became known. Together they made religious vows in 1534 and came to call themselves the *Compañía de Jesús* — the Society of Jesus. Six years later, the order was granted official approval by the pope.

The early Jesuits fanned out to the metropolises of Europe and beyond. They did so with instructions from Ignatius, their leader in Rome, to "seek the greater glory of God" and the good of all humanity. They devoted themselves to the care of souls, to helping people discern God's presence in their lives.

Anything Extraordinary: One other thing to know about the Jesuit founder is that he was a different kind of saint. As the noted Jesuit historian Fr. John W. O'Malley, S.J. has observed, "Ignatius redefined the traditional basis of saintliness," which usually involved a degree of unworldliness.

In contrast, O'Malley refers to Ignatius as a "worldly saint." He made sure his men were spending most of their time not in pulpits and confessionals, but in relatively secular spaces such as classrooms — teaching less directly about the Bible and Church doctrine than about literature and the ancient classics. He sent letters to his missionaries asking that they write back not just about their ministries, but also about the local customs, the plants and wild life — "anything that seems extraordinary."

Most of all, Ignatius Loyola wanted his Jesuits and everyone to go out and "find God in all things." He died in 1556 — on July 31, his feast day in the Catholic Church.

<https://jesuits.org/spirituality?PAGE=DTN-20130520125033>

Saint Alphonsus Liguori (1696 - 1787): Moral theology, Vatican II said, should be more thoroughly nourished by Scripture, and show the nobility of the Christian vocation of the faithful and their obligation to bring forth fruit in charity for the life of the world. Alphonsus, declared patron of moral theologians by Pius XII in 1950, would rejoice in that statement.

In his day, Alphonsus fought for the liberation of moral theology from the rigidity of Jansenism. His moral theology, which went through 60 editions in the century following him, concentrated on the practical and concrete problems of pastors and confessors. If a certain legalism and minimalism crept into moral theology, it should not be attributed to this model of moderation and gentleness.

At the University of Naples, Alphonsus received a doctorate in both canon and civil law by acclamation, at the age of 16, but he soon gave up the practice of law for apostolic activity. He was ordained a priest, and concentrated his pastoral efforts on popular parish missions, hearing confessions, and forming Christian groups.

He founded the Redemptorist congregation in 1732. It was an association of priests and brothers living a common life, dedicated to the imitation of Christ, and working mainly in popular missions for peasants in rural areas. Almost as an omen of what was to come later, he found himself deserted after a while by all his original companions except one lay brother. But the congregation managed to survive and was formally approved 17 years later, though its troubles were not over.

Alphonsus' great pastoral reforms were in the pulpit and confessional—replacing the pompous oratory of the time with simplicity, and the rigorism of Jansenism with kindness. His great fame as a writer has somewhat eclipsed the fact that for 26 years he traveled up and down the Kingdom of Naples preaching popular missions.

He was made bishop at age 66 after trying to reject the honor, and at once instituted a thorough reform of his diocese.

His greatest sorrow came toward the end of his life. The Redemptorists, precariously continuing after the suppression of the Jesuits in 1773, had difficulty in getting their Rule approved by the Kingdom of Naples. Alphonsus acceded to the condition that they possess no property in common, but with the connivance of a high Redemptorist official, a royal official changed the Rule substantially. Alphonsus, old, crippled and with very bad sight, signed the document, unaware that he had been betrayed. The Redemptorists in the Papal States then put themselves under the pope, who withdrew those in Naples from the jurisdiction of Alphonsus. It was only after his death that the branches were united.

At 71, Alphonsus was afflicted with rheumatic pains which left incurable bending of his neck. Until it was straightened a little, the pressure of his chin caused a raw wound on his chest. He suffered a final 18 months of "dark night" scruples, fears, temptations against every article of faith and every virtue, interspersed with intervals of light and relief, when ecstasies were frequent.

Alphonsus is best known for his moral theology, but he also wrote well in the field of spiritual and dogmatic theology. His *Glories of Mary* is one of the great works on that subject, and his book *Visits to the Blessed Sacrament* went through 40 editions in his lifetime, greatly influencing the practice of this devotion in the Church.