

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

19 July 2020

Sixteenth 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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On Returning Home.....

A letter in the Catholic Herald for July 2020 on re-opening of churches for prayer and Mass suggests that 'constantly disinfecting pews is obsessive'. The letter goes on to say that 'we cannot know how many souls have been lost through the current denial of the sacraments, but presumably this will be revealed at the Last Judgement'.

For fourteen weeks, we have waited for a lessening of the conditions accompanying Covid-19. Eventually some shops opened then restaurants and pubs and recently hairdressers etc. Each opened under strict conditions, retaining social distancing, even if reduced to 1m+, face coverings etc. The government was keen for us all to start spending again – and we did. Then we heard of Melbourne and Victoria shutdown and Leicester and Bradford and Beijing – there probably are others. We like to think that future lock downs might be local only. Many, indeed, behaved as if was 'all over' and, at last, we are back to normal!

Then places of worship opened, again under strict conditions – retaining social distancing and monitoring those who attend, all with the intention of keeping everyone safe. The letter quoted above goes on to say: 'let us be treated as adults, able to make our own judgements about the level of risk we are prepared to take for ourselves and our families'. When you return to Mass in St Anne's parish, I regret that you will not be afforded the luxury of choosing the level of risk you wish to manage.

Everything will be different when you return to church again for Mass. You may hope and wish that it will be the same, and then you will be disappointed. It will not be the same. Much of what formerly was a 'normal' part of Sunday Mass will not be there.

And for good reason. For the foreseeable future, Mass will be shorter, with no interaction between those attending. A 2m social distancing will operate in all directions. There will not be singing to lift the mood, nor newsletters to distract. There will not be an Offertory Procession and Holy Communion will be brought to you at your seat by the priest who will wear PPE. You will wear face covering throughout your time in church except to place Communion in your mouth. Toilets will be locked and certain familiar spaces within the church will be off limits. All this to keep you and me safe.

So why do I spell this out even before we re-open for Mass? I do it to ask a serious question: just why *are* you coming to Mass? Why do you come to Mass each week? And since you have not 'been to Mass' for about 14 weeks, are you any worse off? It is a question that will have many answers – but answers to the question there must be if we are not to 'drift back' into a 'normal' that in, many ways, was changing the Catholic Church into a 'Congregational Church'. And how do you understand the letter quoted above referring to 'soul (being) lost'? Is this your theology?

People returning for a pint in their local or a meal in a restaurant they loved were faced with separations that impacted hugely on their expectations and on their enjoyment because they did not go 'just to eat' or 'just to drink'.

I am sure that you do not go to Mass 'just for Communion'. And here is where a big change is called for. 'Going to Mass' must be a thing of the past – that is the 'old normal'. 'Celebrating Mass' will be the 'new normal' where the community, who take 'ownership' of the local church, celebrates together on a Sunday the events, the relationships, the experiences of the previous week. Baptism will be the lynch pin that will remove the distinction between "St Anne's" and "Princethorpe". Each will hear loudly St Paul's exhortation to the people of Corinth recorded in his first letter he wrote to the Christian community in Corinth (1 Cor 3:4).

And here might we not find one of God's gifts to us during Covid-19 pandemic in this rural parish of some seventeen villages, widely scattered throughout Warwickshire. An ageing priest whose former manner of ministering to the community is now – and will be for some time yet - seriously curtailed invites the community of the baptised to BE church and to work together to discover how this would manifest itself. Because it will be new. It will be a learning experience. And it will not respond to a quick fix. It will be born from prayer-filled reflection on how each one is gifted and how this giftedness combines to provide new life, especially for our youth, our young adults, our young married couples, our senior parishioners – and an ageing Parish priest!

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 19 July - Sunday 26 July	9.30am	Wappenbury	Live streamed using fb.me/stanneswappenbury James Downes (2 nd anniversary)
Monday 27 July	9.30am	Wappenbury	
Wednesday 22 July – St Mary Magdalene	9.30am	Wappenbury	
Thursday 23 July – St Bridget	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.mscomissions.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 at 7.00pm. This prayer will last about twenty minutes. A copy of the evening prayer will be sent out prior to the meeting. If you have not joined me up to now, please let me know so that I can send you the prayer.

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

The ID for all meetings on Wednesdays and Fridays is **792 0665 7076** with the password **0(zero)YQRdf**

Please note the new ID number

Shoe-Boxes 2020 – Bars Of Soap Appeal – Please Remember If You Can

Please, please you could consider buying any type of solid bars of soap 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. All donations will be passed to Pam and the team. Thank you.

Re-Opening of Churches

St Anne's will remain closed for the time being.

I am presently working to enable Mass to be celebrated at Princethorpe in the next few weeks. When this happens, it will also be for limited numbers. We will continue to be obliged to honour social distancing. Your safety and mine is of paramount consideration.

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.

In the meantime, in so far as legislation permits, you are welcome to come and enjoy the garden at St Anne's, to visit the cemetery and, insofar as is permitted by the civil authorities, to stay for a chat on the terrace, with appropriate distancing. Those who are shielding and those caring for vulnerable people need to be especially careful.

I will continue to stream Mass live each day at 9.30am. It is uplifting that the numbers joining each day increase.

Thank you again for my birthday cards and presents

At my age you tend to ignore birthdays but it was a lovely surprise when I received cards and gifts on the day.

I would also like to thank all of you who have been so kind and generous in leaving me groceries and gifts during the lock down – and you continue to do it!! .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.

Sunday Collections – Are You Are To Help?

Regular expenses continue to be incurred for the parish such as Community Charge, Lighting, Heating, Communication, Cemetery and grounds maintenance etc during these difficult times. Many thanks to those who have managed to contribute since the lockdown in early March.

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; for this, I remain grateful. The Finance Committee is also investigating an on-line donation method. 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

Princethorpe College - Vacancies

Administration/Reception – Maternity Cover -We require an Administrator and Receptionist as a maternity cover, ideally starting mid-August 2020, to assist with the administration and organisational requirements of the College – closing date Monday 20 July 2020.

Dyslexia Tutor/Learning Support Teacher – part-time - We seek a specialist teacher of Learning Support for pupils aged from 11 to 19 years with Specific Learning Difficulties and other SEND. There is some flexibility and this could be a full-time position or significant part-time – closing date Monday 20 July 2020.

Uniform and School Shop Manager - must be able to manage and run the shop providing a high level of service to potential parents, parents, pupils and staff of the Foundation – closing date Monday 27 July 2020.

Teacher of Chemistry - required for January 2021, a well-qualified graduate to teach Chemistry in a lively, successful and growing department, on a full-time or significant part-time basis. This person's timetable for the coming year goes up to GCSE but the ability and desire to teach A-level thereafter would be advantageous – closing date Friday 18 September 2020 - For all vacancies please see <https://www.princethorpe.co.uk/page/?title=Join+Us&pid=1185> or call the College Reception on 01926 634200

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

Patrick Horgan (76) who died unexpectedly and peacefully recently. Hold his family in your prayers. Pray for Jo, his very close friend.

Jim and Anne whose young baby is undergoing tests in hospital in Ireland. Hold their wider family in your prayers.

Bill, as he begins his recovery from six weeks of treatment. Hold Bill and Yvonne in your prayers.

Yvonne and Jade. Jade is quite unwell at present.

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

Remember also, and especially, those who have been shielding now for a long time and those who, this weekend, will experience more freedom from lock down.

Those who will soon venture on holidays abroad.

Gertrude RIP – hold the family at home and overseas in your prayers

Sue, waiting for a date for her re-arranged operation. Hold Sue's family in your prayers.

Jeanne who is unwell.

Tom who is undergoing treatment for prostate cancer.

Stephen, friend of Milena's, who is seriously ill. Pray for Melina and her colleagues.

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. John buried his mother recently.

Fr Manus Ferry MSC as he works as a hospital chaplain in Dublin. His mother and cousin died recently.

Paddy Mernagh RIP Pray for Bridget (wife) and children Peter, Seamus, Dermot, Ray, Denise and Louise

Education staff, children and their parents as schools re-open and as they all prepare for a return in late August/September.

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 being cared for in a rest home in Leamington.

Wolfgang, Chrissie's father, who died recently.

Alice whose Lupus has returned.

Liz's mum who is unwell.

Peter Power and family.

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 and USA Provinces 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.

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.

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.

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