

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

26 July 2020

Seventeenth 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.

Tel: 01926 632214

mobile: 07751 444952

Email: fr.teddy.obrien@rcaob.org.uk

Website: stanneswappenbury.wordpress.com

My personal *private email address* is fatherted2017@hotmail.com

Whose Church Is It Anyway?

The Financial Times Magazine (FT Magazine) on 7 May 2005 devoted five pages to an article entitled "God's Line Manager". It was remarkable that a financial magazine should make "The Church Inc." its cover story. A mere four weeks after Pope Benedict's election as pope, the article began by inviting people to 'wait to see how the new pope performs in one of the most complex and challenging leadership roles'.

Benedict fought to preserve the 'product lines' of the Catholic Church: "its teachings on divorce, birth control, abortion, homosexuality and even regular attendance at Mass and Communion", it seems now with little success.

The FT article sees the Catholic Church operating as a "feudal system with specific geographical areas under the control of a lord (bishop) who serves at the pleasure of the king (pope) and is responsible and accountable only to him". The church's international and national operations are conducted by "thousands of bishops, who are essentially independent, have received little or no training in management...and who have the equivalent of lifetime tenure". In a nutshell, the article comments negatively on the lack of regular evaluation of the Catholic Church, nationally and internationally.

What prompts this reflection is reports of some priests (few only, thank God) who insist on the right of people to receive Holy Communion on the tongue, a right, they say, that is given by Canon Law. In a letter to the Tablet (18 July 2020), Dr Joseph Shaw, Chairman of the Latin Mass Society, writes that "The faithful may not be refused Holy Communion just because they wish to receive on the tongue ... (a right that) cannot be taken away by bishops".

I suggest that what is at stake here, however, is not Canon Law or the rights of bishops or lay people, but the Fifth Commandment: 'thou shalt not kill', a commandment that, not only forbids killing, but includes causing deliberate harm to fellow human beings. And Covid-19 is a deadly killer disease.

This fundamentally alters the situation. The actions of individuals, be they priest or lay person, become a matter for all when public health, and then life itself, is the issue. When bishop/priest relationship is involved, it would seem that more is required than "a fraternal dialogue with his diocesan superiors" (Tablet 18 July 2020 - 'Bishops Clarify Communion Guidance'). It suggests a need more for obedience to civil and ecclesiastical law than a 'fraternal discussion'. It also invites inquiry as to why lay folk did not grasp a nettle like this and make their voice heard, locally and within any diocese. A statement from the diocese in question here states that "we are not aware of any complaints made by any individuals directly with the Archbishop or with (the priest)". Is this to say that parishioners concur with the priest's action? It at least asks the question why are they being silent? Have we, including the laity, not learned from Vat II the centrality of the laity as 'church'? And, more to the point, do our lay folk continue to feel silenced!

So whose church is it anyway? Pope? Bishop? Priest? Laity? Or is it not the "property" of the baptised who, in this situation, would, with fraternal charity and understanding, take their priest to task for risking the health of the community and acting contrary to both civil and ecclesiastical directives? Because none of us has the right to risk the health of another by our deliberate actions.

I would hope that, in this parish of St Anne's - and in all other parishes - there would exist a relationship between priest and parishioners (and all who live within the parish boundaries of all faiths and none) that would facilitate and accommodate such 'fraternal correction'. Such a relationship would enable issues to be resolved locally without the need for archdiocesan involvement. Were it to exist, it could readily translate into mutual fraternal correction and enable such correction to be heard with a listening that could only deepen any relationship and foster a real sense of 'church'.

What do you think?

Mass streamed live from St Anne's using fb.me/stanneswappenbury
Please see diary below for this week's timings or no Mass as appropriate

I hope that celebrating with me for this short service gives you a feeling of community which still remains for all of us.

Sunday 26 July	9.30am	Wappenbury	See 're-opening conditions' James Downes (2 nd anniversary)
Monday 27 July	11.00am	Princethorpe	
Tuesday 28 July	9.30am	Wappenbury	
Wednesday 29 July	No Mass		
Thursday 30 July	No Mass		
Friday 31 July	9.30am	Wappenbury	
Saturday 1 August	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.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 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

NOTE: There will be no Zoom prayer meeting on Wednesday 29 July

Re-Opening of Churches

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

Mass will be celebrated at Princethorpe at 11.00am on Sunday 26 July. It will be for limited numbers and for a trial period of six weeks with a review after Sunday 9 August. You **MUST** refer to the Conditions for Attendance at Mass on the website and you **MUST** book the place **BEFORE** arriving at Princethorpe as places are limited. 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.

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.

Princethorpe College - Vacancy

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.

For the vacancy please see <https://www.princethorpe.co.uk/page/?title=Join+Us&pid=1185> or call the College Reception on 01926 634200

Archdiocese of Birmingham Employment Opportunity

SAFEGUARDING ADVISOR

Full-time (35 hours per week) - Permanent - £30,750 to £35,875 pa - Central Birmingham

The Birmingham Diocesan Trust (BDT) is looking to appoint an experienced and qualified social worker or an alternatively qualified professional with significant multi agency safeguarding experience, to its Safeguarding Team.

For an informal discussion about this role please call Alan Hassall, Head of Safeguarding on 0121 230 6275. Please email gerry.dryden@rc-birmingham.org for a copy of the job description and details on how to apply for this role.

Interviews for this role are likely to take place late August or early September.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 12noon Monday 10 August 2020.

Sunday Collections – Are You Able 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.

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

Fr Dan O'Connor MSC who died peacefully in Cork on Wednesday. Fr Dan was headmaster at Princethorpe College for six years and devoted many years to teaching at the College. Pray for his family and MSC colleagues.

Fr Jose Dore Chicas MSC (45) who died in Guatemala ten days after contacting Covid-19.

MSC Priests from the Belgian and USA Provinces of the MSCs who have died because of coronavirus.

George Doull RIP, who died last week. Please pray for his wife Susan and young children Alice and Joe

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 continues his recovery from six weeks of treatment. Hold Bill and Yvonne in your prayers.

Di, awaiting further tests.

Yvonne and Jade. Jade is quite unwell at present. Yvonne has recently retired from Our Lady's School.

Claire as she prepares to move to another part of the country

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.

Sean who is unwell at present.

Stephen, friend of Milena's, who has had some setbacks in his preparation for treatment. Pray for Melina and her colleagues.

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.

Continue praying for

Bishop Leo McCartie RIP, who died recently.

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.

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 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