

THIS SUNDAY: TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St. Francis' Church will be the location for public masses on Saturday 29 August at 5.30pm, on Sunday 30 August at 8:00, 9:30am and 11:15 am. There will be also be a public mass this week on Tuesday 1 September at 10.00am.

Please remember to wear a face covering in church, thank you.

Last Sunday we were celebrating St Peter, the Rock on which Christ stated he would build his church. This week Peter finds Jesus teaching about his forthcoming Passion something hard to accept. When Jesus says 'Get behind me Satan', it is Peter's suggestion of an easier way of fulfilling his mission that Jesus is reacting to. You will remember that in the wilderness, Satan tempted Jesus to behave in a way that would draw attention to himself in all the wrong ways. It is to counter such an idea coming from Satan, not to shame the speaker that Jesus uses language like this. It is the cross, the image of self-giving love which is to be his way and it is one he commends to us as well in today's Gospel, as we are invited to take up the cross and to follow him. St Paul also uses this theme when he invites the Romans not to follow the pattern of the world around them, but to offer 'your living bodies as a holy sacrifice acceptable to God. May our willingness to live in this way, be for us like for the prophet Jeremiah, 'a fire burning in my heart'

FATHER DAVID BAZEN

On Friday of last week, Father David had an operation in hospital. Please continue to remember him in your prayers.

SINCERE THANKS FROM FATHER KEVIN

We have just begun the sixth month since 'lock-down' and the easing which has happened since. About half the usual congregation numbers have begun to attend Mass in church again. Gradually the sick are being visited and Baptisms are beginning again. Confessions are available on Saturday afternoons. For all of this I am grateful to almighty God. All this work done has been the result of the work of the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Finance Committee. We had 'Zoom' meetings to begin things and then, in particular, Robert Hodges and Simon Hill have given a **huge** amount of time and effort to organise both church and people. Willing Stewards have then enabled the church to open for prayer and Mass, and soon for Baptisms and the cleaning to be done after these events. Peter Roddy and Robert Hodges have done wonders regarding communication. Gail Buswell has been cleaning Church and Parish Centre. Kevin Alexander has been keeping an eye on our buildings and Joseph McDonnell, the finances. Without you all we would not be where we are, so as we approach six months, thank you all.

SCHOOLS

In these strange circumstances, please remember in prayer, St Augustine's and Crackley Hall Schools, the Trinity Catholic School and Princethorpe College, at the beginning of a new school year. We ask God to bless head-teachers, staff and pupils.

FROM YVONNE SALTER-WRIGHT

Catholic Senior Executive Leader (CSEL): A new type of leader for our families of schools

The Birmingham Diocesan Education Service is launching an initiative to find a new style of executive leader for our multi academy companies (MACs). We are at an

important juncture in the delivery of education across our Archdiocese. The Diocesan Academy Strategy of ensuring each one of our 234 schools is part of a family within a multi academy offers a unique opportunity for our community to take real strategic ownership of our schools and how we deliver a Catholic education in the very broadest of senses.

That is why we have developed a new post, the Catholic Senior Executive Leader (CSEL), to lead these and other new and growing MACs. This is a CEO level position, but the job description goes beyond that. It is about delivering a Catholic strategy and ethos and a collective approach to enable our children and our faith to thrive. While the role demands a range of skills, CSELS don't necessarily have to be "educationalists" themselves but will need to have an inclusive leadership style. We are looking for Christ-centred servant leaders who are passionate about the transformative effect a Catholic education can have. To find out more, see:

www.becomingacsel.co.uk

SVP AID

Our SVP conference in Kenilworth is here to provide practical assistance to those in need. If you need support, or know of anyone who does, contact us to see if we can help. Contact is PresidentF021304@svp.org.uk

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Members of the SVP (Kenilworth conference) send sincere thanks to all parishioners who donated generously to the recent food bank collection. With increasing numbers of people becoming unemployed, your support is important and much appreciated. We shall be collecting again from time to time in the future.

SEASON OF CREATION

The World Day of Prayer for Creation on 1st September falls at the beginning of the Season of Creation, which runs until 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.

This is an ecumenical season dedicated to prayer for the protection of creation and the promotion of sustainable lifestyles.

Pope Francis has established this to encourage the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home. Because of climate change, people are already facing droughts, floods and storms. Climate change highlights the issues of injustice just as much as it destroys natural habitats and wildlife.

EDUCATION SUNDAY 12 / 13 SEPTEMBER 2020

At the beginning of a new school year, **Education Sunday** will be celebrated in all parishes in England and Wales over 12 / 13 September. It is for us all, an important moment to pray for the work of our schools, and to express our support for the work of Catholic Education in our local parishes and across our Archdiocese.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ALSO CONFIRMATION FOR THOSE NOT AT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

All names, addresses and phone numbers to Father Kevin as soon as possible, please.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES ETC.

These envelopes and other donations may be posted through the Presbytery inside letter-box. Thank you for this continued sign of kindness and generosity.

MAY OUR LORD BLESS YOU ALL DURING THESE DIFFICULT AND CHALLENGING TIMES, FATHER KEVIN