



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



23.08.2020 – Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome to guests visitors and parishioners.

Peter the Rock

We rejoice today that Christ chose Peter in spite of his human failings to be the rock on which he built his church. The reason for that choice lies in the unfathomable depth of God's wisdom. "The Lord is high, yet he looks on the lowly."

Masses & Intentions

Sunday 23 9.30am	<i>Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Sarah Lyons (Birthday)
Monday 24	<i>Feast of St. Bartholomew, Apostle</i> Philip Hughes RIP (Birthday)
Tuesday 25	<i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i> Beryl Taylor (Birthday)
Wednesday 26 6.00pm 7.00pm	<i>Feast of Bl. Dominic Barberi, P. R.</i> Eucharistic Adoration & Individual Prayers People of the Parish
Thursday 27	<i>St. Monica</i> In Thanksgiving (Prema)
Friday 28	<i>St. Augustine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church</i> In Thanksgiving (Prabhavathi)
Saturday 29	<i>Beheading of St. John the Baptist, M.</i> Thanksgiving (Joy Michael)
Sunday 30	<i>Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Stewart Family Intentions

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.



Sanctuary Lamp: The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for **Ann. Mont. Burnell**. May God be gracious and bless them.

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF MISSIO:

During this difficult time for us all, we have made every effort to keep in touch with our 2,500 parish volunteers. Many have been concerned about not being able to collect and empty the Red Boxes. To help them we have put in place some alternative ways to give including through a dedicated donation page at www.missio.org.uk/redbox

To learn more about the difference Missio is making through prayer and charity please see our Impact Report, available on-line missio.org.uk/mission-today or ringing 020 7821 9755.

Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement.

- Fr Anthony Chantry

APF RED BOX: Thanks to our parishioners who help the Missions through your thoughtful and generous donations through the 'Red Box'. If convenient and possible, please bring / send them to the church for your contributions to be forwarded to the Missio office.

CAFOD - DEC CORONAVIRUS APPEAL: The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) launched a nationwide Coronavirus appeal on Tuesday 14 July. CAFOD is an active member of the Committee and are currently giving support to communities in 26 countries with the £1.6 million they have raised so far, to help prevent the spread of the virus and limit the impact of hunger that lockdowns have caused.

The need is immense, particularly in countries where there is conflict and displacement of whole communities

St. Bartholomew was from Cana in Galilee. Mentioned in the Gospel as one of the twelve apostles, he is identified with Nathanael who was brought to Jesus by his friends, the apostle Philip. According to tradition, St. Bartholomew preached the Gospel in Arabia and Armenia where he died as a martyr.

Blessed Dominic Barberi (1792 – 1849), was born near Viterbo, Italy. He entered the Passionists and was ordained a priest in 1818. He taught theology in Rome and served as a Provincial. He had long believed that he had been called to be an instrument for the conversion of England and in his final years he was given the opportunity of labouring tirelessly in this country, despite facing much opposition. On

Jesus Claims Peter as Rock (Matthew 16:13-20): At last Peter recognizes that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ. At last he realizes that in Jesus he can see the action of God made visible. The disciples followed Jesus as soon as he called, but for a long time they were puzzled about what to make of him, of his wonderful teaching and his godlike personality. Now comes a shaft of light and understanding. We too often take some time to appreciate the true worth of someone we know well: a little gesture can sometimes reveal just how generous and thoughtful they are. Peter suddenly grasps that here is the Son of God, acting among them, a daunting or even terrifying thought. Jesus replies to Peter's recognition with his own generosity, giving him a new name, 'Rock', for this is what 'Peter' means. If you name something, you make it your own, take it to yourself. This is just what Jesus does with Simon who becomes his own Peter, his own 'Rock'. That is the importance of the naming of a child at Baptism: Jesus takes us to himself and we become his. The early Christians called themselves 'Those over whom the name of Jesus has been called'. We may have been named Mary or John, but the name of Jesus has been called over us and we have become his.

What are the implications for us of Jesus' promise to Peter?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

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.

8 October 1845 he received St. John Henry Newman into the Church at Littlemore, Oxford.

Saint Monica (c. 330 – 387): The circumstances of Saint Monica's life could have made her a nagging wife, a bitter daughter-in-law, and a despairing parent, yet she did not give way to any of these temptations. Although she was a Christian, her parents gave her in marriage to a pagan, Patricius, who lived in her hometown of Tagaste in North Africa. Patricius had some redeeming features, but he had a violent temper and was licentious. Monica also had to bear with a cantankerous mother-in-law who lived in her home. Patricius criticized his wife because of her charity and piety, but always respected her. Monica's prayers and example finally won her husband and mother-in-law to Christianity. Her husband died in 371, one year after his baptism.

Monica had at least three children who survived infancy. The oldest, Augustine, is the most famous. At the time of his father's death, Augustine was 17 and a rhetoric student in Carthage. Monica was distressed to learn that her son had accepted the Manichean heresy—"all flesh is evil"—and was living an immoral life. For a while, she refused to let him eat or sleep in her house. Then one night she had a vision that assured her Augustine would return to the faith. From that time on, she stayed close to her son, praying and fasting for him. In fact she often stayed much closer than Augustine wanted.

When he was 29, Augustine decided to go to Rome to teach rhetoric. Monica was determined to go along. One night he told his mother that he was going to the dock to say goodbye to a friend. Instead he set sail for Rome. Monica was heartbroken when she learned of Augustine's trick, but she still followed him. She arrived in Rome only to find that he had left for Milan. Although travel was difficult, Monica pursued him to Milan.

In Milan, Augustine came under the influence of the bishop, Saint Ambrose, who also became Monica's spiritual director. She accepted his advice in everything and had the humility to give up some practices that had become second nature to her. Monica became a leader of the devout women in Milan as she had been in Tagaste.

She continued her prayers for Augustine during his years of instruction. At Easter 387, Saint Ambrose baptized Augustine and several of his friends. Soon after, his party left for Africa. Although no one else was aware of it, Monica knew her life was near the end. She told Augustine, "Son, nothing in this world now affords me delight. I do not know what there is now left for me to do or why I am still here, all my hopes in this world being now fulfilled." She became ill shortly after and suffered severely for nine days before her death.

Almost all we know about St. Monica is in the writings of Saint Augustine, especially his *Confessions*.

Reflection: Today, with Google searches, online shopping, text messages, tweets, and instant credit, we have little patience for things that take time. Likewise, we want instant answers to our prayers. Monica is a model of patience. Her long years of prayer, coupled with a strong, well-disciplined character, finally led to the conversion of her hot-tempered husband, her cantankerous mother-in-law and her brilliant but wayward son, Augustine.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-monica/>

Saint Augustine of Hippo (Nov 13, 354 – Aug. 28, 430): A Christian at 33, a priest at 36, a bishop at 41: Many people are familiar with the biographical sketch of Augustine of Hippo, sinner turned saint. But really to get to know the man is a rewarding experience.

There quickly surfaces the intensity with which he lived his life, whether his path led away from or toward God. The

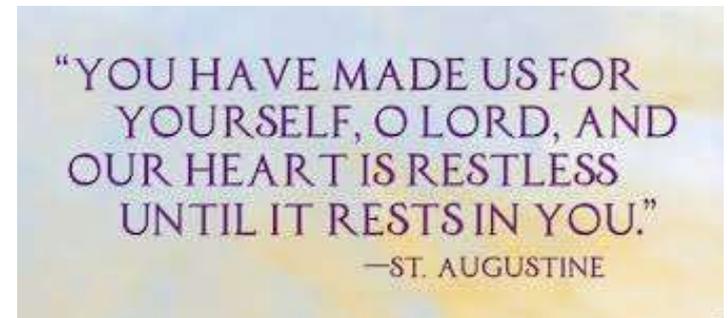
tears of his mother, the instructions of Ambrose and, most of all, God himself speaking to him in the Scriptures, redirected Augustine's love of life to a life of love.

Having been so deeply immersed in creature-pride of life in his early days and having drunk deeply of its bitter dregs, it is not surprising that Augustine should have turned, with a holy fierceness, against the many demon-thrusts rampant in his day. His times were truly decadent: politically, socially, morally. He was both feared and loved, like the Master. The perennial criticism leveled against him: a fundamental rigorism.

In his day, Augustine providentially fulfilled the office of prophet. Like Jeremiah and other greats, he was hard-pressed but could not keep quiet. "I say to myself, I will not mention him/I will speak in his name no more/But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart/imprisoned in my bones/I grow weary holding it in/I cannot endure it" (Jeremiah 20:9).

Reflection: Augustine is still acclaimed and condemned in our day. He is a prophet for today, trumpeting the need to scrap escapisms and stand face-to-face with personal responsibility and dignity.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-augustine-of-Hippo>



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)

Prayer for Year of the Word

*Living God,
you walk alongside us
and speak to us throughout the Scriptures.
Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears
and shows us how to live for one another.
Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds
so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world.
Amen*

V/ Your word is our path and your truth is our light.

R/ This day and every day.

*Our Lady of the Annunciation
Pray for us.*

*St Matthew
Pray for us.*

*St Jerome
Pray for us.*

