

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

2 August 2020

Eighteenth 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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“Waiting for Godot.....”

Twenty people joined me at Princethorpe last Sunday for 11.00am Mass. It was a different experience, one that I did not anticipate. I ‘saw’ no one during Mass. Social distancing and face masks kept us all far apart, with no facial expression to connect us in any way.

On Tuesday, I travelled to Derbyshire for a couple of nights, anticipating something ‘different’ (a sort of R and R), yet not knowing what that was likely to be. - and I came back to Wappenbury after one night. It was not as I expected – and I was alone, as I am at Wappenbury. No difference here.

As I drove north east, traffic was heavy and fast and, it seemed to me, furious. Tolerance and patience seemed absent. Negotiating roundabouts demanded caution – ‘why was everyone now in such a hurry’, I asked, when a couple of months ago they had time to applaud NHS workers, time to take the one exercise period permitted and to enjoy it, time to acknowledge neighbours.

As I made this one hour journey, I thought to myself: ‘when might I see my family and friends again?’ which brought a tear to my eye. We see images of each other on Skype and Zoom and ‘Whats app’ calls, but like church on Sunday, ‘contact’ is very strange indeed.

Then on my way home, I dropped into the Co-Op at Ryton. My bill was a modest twelve pounds; I had ten in my pocket. I went to my car to get some more. On entering the shop again, a voice thundered behind me, a voice that sounded aggressive: ‘Hi, mate, there’s a queue here’. He saw me leaving a moment earlier. What has happened to us, I asked myself?

Here, I reflected, is a world and a church I do not want to share. I want the world that displayed the best of human qualities when its inhabitants, for their own very survival, took time out (for some enforced, I admit) – time out to let humanity have space, time to enjoy contentment in the present moment, to ‘know’, and yet to accept an uncertain future (even an uncertain tomorrow), time even to ‘make do’.

I want a church..... – well I have given voice to this with you many times.

Why do I share this with you? Certainly not to ‘complain’ or to seek sympathy, not even empathy. I, you, we must learn to ‘wait’, to wait in a space in which we do not have any control. Our future now is uncertain, though we plan as if there was some certainty. Perhaps we must plan – to open schools, to revive businesses, to re-establish leisure time and leisure pursuits, to be free again to openly connect with loved ones, even to pray together.

Yet I am certain that the future for us will never be the same again (do we really believe this?) though we will try so hard to retain the ‘familiar’. We will want an economy, so caught up in buying and selling, to return – that’s familiar. We want to educate youth as we have ‘always’ done - that’s familiar. We’ll want a ‘church’ that we have known – a church that is familiar: pope, bishops, priests, ‘laity’, all doing their ‘familiar’ bits.

This is a world and a church I do not want. My question, invitation, challenge is: will you think with me, reflect with me, converse with me, pray with me – and with each other? Seeking the ‘familiar’ in society or church is to lock up God’s Spirit that is speaking loudly to us: ‘Oh that today, you would hear God’s voice, do not harden your hearts’ (Psalm 95). Any answer we reach without guidance in prayer from God’s Spirit will surely be tenuous indeed.

Mass streamed live from St Anne's using fb.me/stanneswappenbury
Please see diary below for this week's timings of Mass and Prayer Services

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

Sunday 2 August	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	See 'Re-opening'... below
	11.00am	Princethorpe Chapel	
Monday 3 August	9.30am	Wappenbury(<i>live stream</i>)	Florence and Gordon Thomas - 30 th Wedding anniversary
Tuesday 4 August	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	
Wednesday 5 August	9.30am	Wappenbury(<i>live stream</i>)	
	7.00pm	Prayer Meeting via Zoom- see information below	Feast of the Transfiguration
Thursday 6 August	9.30am	Wappenbury(<i>live stream</i>)	
Friday 7 August	9.30am	Wappenbury(<i>live stream</i>)	
	7.00pm	Prayer Meeting via Zoom- see information below	St Dominic See 'Re-opening'... below
Saturday 8 August	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	
Sunday 9 August	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	
	11.00am	Princethorpe Chapel	

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**

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 2 August. 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 sent to all last week) 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.

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?

Thank you to those of you, despite financial difficulties, who have continued your weekly Sunday collection offerings. In these trying times St Anne's parish still has outgoing expenses to cover.

DD and SO provide the advantage that you continue to contribute directly; for this, I remain grateful. 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>

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

Florence and Gordon Thomas on the occasion of the 30th wedding anniversary on Tuesday.

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