

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

9 August 2020

Nineteenth 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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A Post Covid-19 Church

It is generally acknowledged now that UK got it wrong in its initial and crucial response to Covid -19. It locked down too late. It left borders unchecked. It permitted certain sporting events to take place. Each contributed to compounding the effect and the spread of the virus with the drastic consequences of many thousands of (avoidable) deaths. One hopes that UK would not make a similar mistake again should there be a second spike.

It is also widely acknowledged that the 'church', aka "church leadership", failed in its duty to understand and to implement the profound teachings of VATICAN II, a worldwide multi faith 'conference' assembled by the then Pope (now saint) John XXIII. (Most people 65 years and under may not ever have heard of the Second Vatican Council). It is also acknowledged that resistance to the conciliar insights of VATICAN II is openly resisted in some of the higher echelons of the present day Catholic Church, in Rome and elsewhere.

You may be familiar with the quotation: "insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results" (anon). And here is the danger I see in a post Covid-19 Catholic (Christian) Church as it seems to be emerging. Churches are 'opening' now for people to 'return' for prayer, to 'come to Mass' and to 'receive Communion'. Schools are preparing to open, as they must for the sake of our children and young people, including our 'Catholic' schools. I expect that our Head Teachers will soon request that Mass be 'said' in the school. Return to work is an imperative for human development.

As well, some parents will come again requesting Baptism for their child(ren) as will other parents come inquiring "when is First Holy Communion" or "when is Confirmation". Youngish couples will come requesting to be married in our beautiful churches. The hard question is whether we continue to respond affirmatively and without really engaging with them as we have been wont to do or will we require/expect/encourage parents and couples to be 'evangelised' prior to saying 'yes' to them. Tough love demands that we do what we judge to be right not what is expedient nor 'what we have always done'. There is no assurance that any change implemented after prayerful reflection and training will bring about the desired effect of people establishing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We can rest assured, however, that without evangelisation, the effect will remain the same, namely, good people, doing their very best to live good upright lives, at times under very difficult circumstances, but without that personal relationship demanded of Christians by Jesus Christ and which we believe could change their lives for the better.

If that is the desired outcome, we should continue to do what we have always done. A "post Covid-19 church" will be the same as the "pre Covid-19 church". It is our comfort zone. We know where we stand. We 'do', and then rest that we have 'done' what was expected. We give whatever we are asked to give without question. Instead, VAT II – and Pope Francis - emphasise the indispensable role of all baptised people in the mission of the church, local and international, flowing from their relationship with Jesus. Pope Francis is refreshingly constant in his emphasis on this.

Yet quite recently on 20 July, a further document from Rome - "The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community in the Service of the Evangelizing Mission of the Church"; a set of 'instructions' (why must they always be lengthy complicated titles!) - asks us to "abandon outdated models of parish" and give due place to all baptised people, especially women. A similar question was asked in 1966, at the end of VATICAN II.

My question, one that I have often asked, is do you want a 'new' model of parish life or are you content with the way it 'has always been'? And whichever way you answer, I invite a reply against the text often attributed erroneously to Nelson Mandela: "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually, who are you **not** to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world". Your parish, St Anne's, in Wappenbury, needs your very best – and it needs that now in our post Covid-19 church. Your parish especially needs you, young adults – single and married – and the time is now!

**Mass streamed live from St Anne's using [fb.me/stanneswappenbury](https://www.facebook.com/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 9 August	9.30am	Wappenbury (live stream)	See 'Re-opening'... below St Lawrence St Clare
	11.00am	Princethorpe Chapel	
Monday 10 August	9.30am	Wappenbury (live stream)	
Tuesday 11 August	9.30am	Wappenbury (live stream)	St Maximilian Kolbe
Wednesday 12 August	9.30am	Wappenbury (live stream)	
	7.00pm	Prayer Meeting via Zoom- see information below	
Thursday 13 August	9.30am	Wappenbury (live stream)	
Friday 14 August	9.30am	Wappenbury (live stream)	Feast of the Assumption See 'Re-opening'... below
	7.00pm	Prayer Meeting via Zoom- see information below	
Saturday 15 August	9.30am	Wappenbury (live stream)	
Sunday 16 August	9.30am	Wappenbury (live stream)	
	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.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**

Re-Opening of Churches

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

Mass will be celebrated at Princethorpe at 11.00am until further notice. 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.

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.

Archdiocese of Birmingham Employment Opportunity

SAFEGUARDING ADVISOR - 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.

Congratulations to new arrivals during Covid-19

Loretta and Paul Curtis on the birth of their grandson **Reuben Robert**

Marie and Sean Kerrigan on the birth of their grand-daughter **Astrid Amelia**.

Katie and James Noakes on the birth of their daughter **Lily Sienna Grace**.

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

Fr Dan O'Connor MSC RIP who died peacefully in Cork recently. 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.

Glen (68) who died recently. Hold his family together with Sue, Jo and Maddie in your prayers.

Fr Jose Dore Chicas MSC (45) RIP 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 recently. Please pray for his wife Susan and young children Alice and Joe

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

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

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 settles in her new home up north.

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.

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

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.

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. Happy birthday, Alice.

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

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.

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.

Louise, suffering from various cancers.

Lucy (29), who is suffering from bacterial meningitis and is unable to digest food.

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.

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

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