

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

23 August 2020

Twenty First 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

God's "Algorithm"

Following on from the overuse of 'unprecedented' since Covid-19 arrived, during these past two weeks, we repeatedly hear words such as 'catastrophic', 'devastating' and 'depressing' in relation to A Level, GCSE and BTEch results. And the word 'algorithm' has become commonplace as well. It seems that eventually the algorithm was invoked "to avoid grade inflation and to standardise the scores, as well to assess students as accurately as possible in a way useful for university admissions". The hope proved ultimately to be unfounded. Perhaps it should have been acknowledged that, once exams were cancelled, no system to replace them was going to be perfect – and no system was. But then life can now go on – eventually.

I listened to the daily expressions of anxiety from A level and GCSE students and from some of their mentors, anxiety about their doubtful future in Sixth Form Colleges or their preferred chosen university course as their prelude to adult life and career.

And then last Thursday, I had reason to reflect on my own journey through life. I reflected that 60 years ago, on 20 August 1960, I boarded a bus in Cork City to head west to begin my life in the family of the MSCs, in our, now closed, training academy in Leap, by the sea. (Over)dressed in a fine tweed black suit and dog collar (I was 18!), I headed, with my twelve peers, into an unknown future which, in the years since then, has taken me along some motorways of life and often along the highways and byways, but a path (mainly unplanned) that has brought me to where I am today.

I acknowledge that there was not as much pressure then as there is now. Neither was there as much questioning or assessment. Certainly there was no algorithm deciding who or how many of the initial twelve would eventually proceed to priesthood. There were assessments and judgements by our formators but the overriding understanding was about vocation – call from God. Fortunately there as (is) no algorithm, even now, to discover God's call for any individual!

And here is the nub of the situation. Our faith informs us that God does have a unique call (vocation) for each and every human being. Our faith tells us that everything will be 'alright' but perhaps not as we would plan or wish it to be. Our faith – and, indeed, our experience - assures us that few, if any, will traverse through life in one vocation only. We make an initial informed choice with as much foresight and discernment as we can muster and, if we are wise, we prudently 'watch this space' and acquire, slowly, an increasing level of trust, in ourselves and in God.

To depend solely on human assessments, exams, teacher assessments, algorithms and so forth for a truly fulfilled life is to afford insufficient attention to our origin and our destiny. It is right that we work on the premise that 'a good start is half the battle'. Our young adults, in transition to mature adulthood, will live from a young adult maturing faith. We, as their formators and mentors, will be well minded to operate from a more mature and maturing faith and understanding of the human journey through life. I felt disappointment when I observed what seemed to be a perceived need in students to gather and to protest and I wondered just to what extent A level, GCSE and BTEch students had presented to them the picture of lives that would, one day, be fulfilled certainly, but perhaps not in what was their first choice of vocation.

There is no doubt that 'Government' made some ill-judged choices once Covid -19 determined the impossibility of end of year exams as the primary criteria for progressing to the next step in education. We, however, make some inappropriate choices, too, if we do not present another generation with the certainty that God has a unique vocation for each of them. And this is not an argument for 'converting' them to one faith or another or indeed to any religious faith. But I think it makes a case for placing 'success', judged as it might be on exam or career choice, as but one criterion, the principle one being the answer to the question: "am I following what I judge to be God's call to me at this time in my life?" And in answering this, our young adults will require, from us, a mature certainty about our origin and our destiny, a certainty that becomes evident in us as we display a truly balanced life, a life that prompts us to develop a listening ear to the voice of God speaking in the multitude of ways in which God communicates with us as we journey through life.

God does not invoke an algorithm in regard to us. We are, each one of us, unique. We must assure another generation of this. We celebrate with our youth in their well earned successes. We ache with them in their disappointments. In both situations, we journey with them and, where and when appropriate, encourage them with our own shared stories of God working in our lives.

What do you think?

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 23 August	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	
	11.00am	Princethorpe Chapel	See 'Re-opening'... below
Monday 24 August	9.30am	Wappenbury(<i>live stream</i>)	St Bartholomew, Apostle Colin Hitchin RIP (1 st ann)
Tuesday 25 August	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	
Wednesday 26 August	9.30am	Wappenbury(<i>live stream</i>)	
	7.00pm	Prayer Meeting via Zoom- see information below	St Monica
Thursday 27 August	9.30am	Wappenbury(<i>live stream</i>)	St Augustine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
Friday 28 August	9.30am	Wappenbury(<i>live stream</i>)	The Passion of St John the Baptist
Saturday 29 August	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	
Sunday 30 August	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	See 'Re-opening'... below
	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 evening 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 the meeting on all Wednesdays is **714 2754 0982** with the password **0(zero)YQRdf – note new ID**

Re-Opening of Churches

St Anne's will remain closed for the time being. The cleaning of the church is nearly completed and I wish to thank the professional team from Cornerstone which included Lee Ferris, Mark Ballinger, John Scarratt, Carol Stanton and Sue Kennedy. I am also grateful to Janet and Jimmy Murray who have offered to clean the chandeliers prior to them being re-installed. The porch will be redecorated in the next few weeks.

Mass will be celebrated at Princethorpe at 11.00am for a trial period of six weeks from 26 July. It will be for limited numbers and will be reviewed on 24 August and 1 September. ***You MUST refer to the "Conditions for Attendance at Mass" on the website (and sent to all recently).*** 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.

HELP, HELP, HELP, HELP - 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?

It is becoming increasingly obvious now that the closure of churches has impacted badly on very many churches and on some clergy. Very many churches depend heavily on Sunday cash collections. Your generosity has enabled St Anne's to manage throughout the closure.

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.

Princethorpe College - Vacancy

Cleaner – Princethorpe College is seeking to recruit a school cleaner, for an immediate start, to clean designated areas of the school premises to ensure that they are kept in a clean and hygienic condition. This is a part time post for three hours a day, from noon – 3.00pm, Monday to Friday, term time only. Other working patterns, casual or a fixed term contract will be considered.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 12noon Monday 24 August 2020.

Applications -<https://www.princethorpe.co.uk/?title=Join+Us&pid=1185&vacancyid=1723> or call the College on 01926 634200 for further information.

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

Fr David Bazen, Kenilworth, who fell down stairs last week and is being treated in hospital. Fr David's wife died recently.

Young adults who received their GCSE results last week.

Jim and Anne whose young baby is undergoing tests in hospital in Ireland. Hold their wider family in your prayers.

Fr Manus Ferry MSC who is receiving medical treatment in Dublin.

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

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

School and College leadership as they prepare to welcome pupils back to school soon.

Claire as she settles in her new home up north.

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 contracting 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

Di, awaiting results of tests.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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