

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

**30 August 2020**

**Twenty Second 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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**"As shaky as a fiddler on the roof"**

Tevya, in the first song in Fiddler on the Roof, espouses the virtues of tradition and ends this first number with the reflective phrase: *"Tradition. Without our traditions, our lives would be as shaky as.... as a fiddler on the roof!"*

Which is how our lives have been, to a great extent, since the visitation of Covid 19 earlier this year. There was a certain initial 'novelty' in the early lock down. We were afraid, rightly so. We were unsure, uncertain, and the guidance was 'stay at home.....'. Rightly so at the time, I suggest. Gradually now, with increasing urgency, there is a need for greater 'normality' and this will, and must, embrace much of the 'old normal' because we are creatures of habit. We like, and feel comfortable with, what is familiar. Which is why, apart from obvious economic reasons, a return to work, as previously experienced in offices etc., is encouraged.

We are social animals. We crave, need and flourish in the company of other humans. This retains its limitations during Covid 19 in that we cannot see the face of 'the other'. For this reason, our communication is anything but 'traditional' and why, in many instances, our lives remain 'shaky'. Returning to church during Covid 19 highlights this anomaly – a 'community' that cannot communicate as tradition invited! Which continues to leave a return to church 'shaky' for some.

This however, together with the suspension of the Sunday obligation to attend Mass, should not be the yardstick against which we decide whether to come to church or not. Sunday Mass is one of the great traditions of Catholic communities without which the community becomes 'shaky' - as shaky, indeed, *"as a fiddler on the roof"*.

Covid 19 invites reliance on tradition and faith in times of change and turbulence. The Fiddler is a metaphor for survival in a life of uncertainty, precarious as a fiddler on a roof "trying to scratch out a pleasant, simple tune without breaking his neck". It is also a more sombre take on the hero's struggle (Tevya) to accept a rapidly-changing world while his beloved daughters leave home one by one, usually against the "traditions" of the community. Fiddler is about "the dissolution of a way of life", as we are currently experiencing it, and the struggle to resist (or to pretend) that this change will not continue and that we can go back to 'an old normal' which, deep down, we really know we cannot. The 'old normal' cannot, will not, and must not survive!

It is tradition(s) that provide the support we need when uncertainty abounds. It is memory of what supported us during darker times that supports us now. We 'say our prayers' when we feel unable 'to pray', so we teach our children the 'Our Father' and the 'Hail Mary' even though they probably do not understand what they are saying. We pretend that, if we wait long enough, 'normal' will return. A waiting in vain.

And then we suddenly realise that there is no such thing as 'normal'. We realise that 'normal' is our own creation of that which we expect will support us when the fragility of our human nature is revealed to us. As we age and/or mature, we become humble enough to acknowledge the reality of our humanity – finite, fragile and yet wonderful. And powerful. That faith alone becomes our support. A 'God' who claims to be among us (Emmanuel) at last becomes relevant and real. We know eventually that we are not alone – ever.

Those who can, then, should strengthen the community, insofar as they can, by returning to church and not waiting until the tradition of the familiar 'where' and 'when' is available to them. Time and place were never part of the tradition of Sunday Mass in the Catholic tradition, witnessed to by the many and varied places where Sunday Mass was celebrated through the centuries, including the 'Mass Rocks' of persecution times. I wait to welcome you back to church in all your physicality so that, together, we can support those who, because of this same humanity, are unable to join us. In this we, create a 'new normal' community.

Are you with me in this?

**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 30 August	9.30am	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	
	11.00am	Princethorpe Chapel	
Monday 31 August	9.30am	Wappenbury( <i>live stream</i> )	See 'Re-opening'... below St Aidan, Bishop, and Saints of Lindisfarne
Tuesday 1 September	9.30am	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	
	7.00pm	Zoom Finance Meeting	
Wednesday 2 September	9.30am	Wappenbury( <i>live stream</i> )	
	7.00pm	Prayer Meeting via Zoom- see information below	
Thursday 3 September	9.30am	Wappenbury( <i>live stream</i> )	St Gregory the Great, Pope, Doctor of the Church
Friday 4 September	9.30am	Wappenbury( <i>live stream</i> )	St Cuthbert, Bishop
Saturday 5 September	9.30am	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	
Sunday 6 September	9.30am	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	
	11.00am	Princethorpe Chapel	See 'Re-opening'... below

**New on Facebook – thank you Sebastien Buhour**

Not only are we streaming live for daily Mass we are now using Facebook for news about the parish.

Sebastien has kindly taken time to profile the parish in a more public domain. Please take time to 'like' and 'share' or indeed 'comment' the page so that as many of the wider community can enjoy the delights of our wonderful St Anne's and Princethorpe College.

The link to use is <http://www.facebook.com/stanneswappenbury>

**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 until further notice. ***You MUST refer to the "Conditions for Attendance at Mass" on the website (and sent to all recently). There is no need to return a completed form prior to attending Mass because 'Track and Trace' sign in will operate when you arrive.*** 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.

**Do You know Any 'Old Girls' From St Mary's Priory - Now Princethorpe College?**

On Saturday 12 September between 11.00am and 1.00pm the Development Office at Princethorpe will be holding a virtual reunion for any of the VSOPs (Very Special Old Princethorpians) via Zoom. Fr Teddy will be celebrating a Mass at 11.00am to begin the Zoom session from the Chapel at College. Due to COVID 19 unfortunately this year the reunion will not be able to take place in person as planned.

If you know of any of the VSOPs who would like to take part please ask them to contact Loretta at school on 01926 634200 x 326 or by email to [lorettacurtis@princethorpe.co.uk](mailto:lorettacurtis@princethorpe.co.uk) – Thank you

**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.

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

**Margaret Patrick**, former headteacher at Our Lady's School, whose husband died suddenly on Wednesday.

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

**Young people** as they begin their return to school, college and university.

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

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

**David**, a young father struggling at the moment.

**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 this week.

**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.

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

**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

**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 and her mother who is recovering in hospital.

**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.

**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)**

**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.

**Antonio (80) RIP** who died recently.

**Thomas Duffy RIP**

**Pauline RIP.**

**Chris Smart (77) RIP**

**Con McCorriston (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**