

St Francis of Assisi, Baddesley Clinton

[Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216]

Fr John Sharp

www.sfachurch.org.uk

01564 782498

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

9th August 2020

PARISH LITURGY – MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS

Saturday **No Saturday evening Mass at present**
Sunday 9.30 am People of the Parish

Monday [St Lawrence, deacon and martyr]
9.00 am Lawrence Murray

Tuesday [St Clare, virgin]
9.00 am Rod Crossley

Wednesday [St Jane Frances de Chantal, religious]
9.00 am Private Intention

Thursday [Blessed William Freeman, priest and martyr]
9.00 am Celebrant's Intentions

Friday [St Maximilian Kolbe, priest and martyr]
9.00 am Private Intention

Saturday [Feria]
9.00 am Private Intention

Confessions: Saturday, 4.30-5.00 pm

Please pray for the sick in our parish and those who have died: **Anthony William Mawby; Agnes Spencer; Mollie Ereaut; Patrick Kevin Corcoran** (anniversaries).

The numbers coming to Mass at present do not justify the resumption of the Saturday evening Mass. We will review the situation again at the end of the month.

Although we are more familiar with our two local martyrs, Blessed John Sugar and Blessed Robert Grissold, another Catholic was martyred in Warwick during the Reformation and this week is the 425th anniversary of his martyrdom on 13th August 1595. William Freeman became a martyr almost by accident. Born in Yorkshire, he was educated at Madgalen College, Oxford, and converted to Catholicism in 1596 and went to Douai College, then in residence at Rheims in France. Ordained just a year later, he came to England at the beginning of 1589 and worked in Warwickshire and Worcestershire. In January 1595, hearing that the local justices of the peace were in search of priests, he crossed the county border to evade their jurisdiction, only to fall into the hands of other justices in a neighbouring jurisdiction, and he was imprisoned in Warwick. Although a breviary was discovered under his hat when

he was arrested, there was no evidence that he was a priest when he appeared before the magistrates at the Lent assizes. He was betrayed by a fellow prisoner and condemned on account of his priesthood at the assizes held on 11th and 12th August. Drawn to his death the following day, he carried a crucifix on his breast and is reported to have exclaimed that if he had many lives, he would most willingly lay them down for the sake of Him who had been pleased to die upon a cross for His Redemption. Refusing a last minute offer of reprieve if he would deny his faith, he was hanged, drawn and quartered.

Blessed William Freeman, pray for us, that we may keep the faith in whatever circumstances we find ourselves.