



## THE PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST. WULSTAN

WOOD STREET, SOUTHAM CV47 1PP

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The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No 234216



### 06.09.2020 – Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome to guests visitors and parishioners.

#### Christ who paid the debt of Love

Christ became our brother and made himself responsible for us, his brothers and sisters. He contracted the debt of mutual love. All he asks of us is that we should do the same.

#### Masses & Intentions

<b>Sunday 06</b> 9.30am	<b><i>Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></b> Selvanayagam & Arockiammal (RIP)
<b>Monday 07</b>	<b><i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i></b> People of the Parish
<b>Tuesday 08</b>	<b><i>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i></b> Valorie Scully (Birthday)
<b>Wednesday 09</b> 6.30pm 7.00pm	<b><i>St. Osburg, Abbess</i></b> <b>Eucharistic Adoration &amp; Individual Prayers</b> Alice Coomey (Birthday) Intentions
<b>Thursday 10</b>	<b><i>Blessed Agnellus of Pisa, St. Egwin, Bishop</i></b> Cath Stewart RIP (Birthday)
<b>Friday 11</b>	<b><i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i></b> Mass
<b>Saturday 12</b>	<b><i>The Most Holy Name of Mary</i></b> Mass
<b>Sunday 13</b>	<b><i>Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></b> People of the Parish

Dear Parishioners,

Hope you are all keeping well and safe. The month of September has seen the reopening of schools. It is nice to see children back in the schools with their friends. We hope and pray that the school community will be safe, and that parents and families will be free from anxiety and worry over their children's health and well being.

From this week parishioners attending Sunday Mass will be provided with a copy of the Readings at Mass and the Sunday Plus combined. At the moment there are only fifty copies of them available. Depending on the increase in the Mass attendance we'll increase the numbers of these sheets.

Please be reminded that this must not be left behind either in your seats or at the back of the church, but must be taken with you to be safely disposed of at your convenience.

There will be a brief meeting with the volunteers / stewards after Mass this weekend to discuss the next step possible to increase the number of Masses if possible. We will be delighted to have more volunteers / stewards. If anyone is able and is interested, please let us know.  
– Fr. Arul

**Reconciliation (Matthew 18:15-20):** The Church has had to be selective as we work through the Gospel of Matthew for this year's readings. In this eighteenth chapter of Matthew on relationships within the community it is striking that the Church has chosen this passage to put before us. The first part is all about sorting out disputes and about forgiveness. Despite the presence of Christ in the Christian community there are going to be disagreements and misunderstandings in every church and every family. The vital thing is to sort them out and not to let them fester. So here we are given a safe process to do this. Just after today's passage, Jesus underlines his teaching here when he says that we have to forgive not just seven times (the perfect number) but seventy-seven times. That means again and again and again, without limit. Christ also reminds us that he is present always in his community. The same promise is given at the beginning (the name Emmanuel means 'God with us') and at the end of the gospel ('I am with you to the end of time'). Therefore the decisions of the community will be considered binding in the sight of God. It is especially striking that the same pledge (of binding and loosing) is made with the Church here as had earlier been made with Peter himself; Peter on his own exercises the authority of the Church.

**How may we best put this process of reconciliation described by Jesus into practice?** Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

**Pope's Prayer Intention for September - (Respect for the Planet's Resources):** We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.

**Sick:** Please pray for all those who are unwell at this time, especially all those who are affected by Covid-19, those who are in isolation and all who help / take care of them as well as all those who serve our communities in frontline jobs.

**RIP:** Please pray for **Deacon Peter Kilgallon** (retired deacon from Rugeley Parish) all those who died recently and for all the faithful departed. *May they all, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

**Telephone support:** Some of our parishioners are supporting each other by telephone. Please phone 811703 (Shirley) or email ([shirley@shirleyrush8.plus.com](mailto:shirley@shirleyrush8.plus.com)) if you want a chat or to receive calls or if you would like to join those who are calling others.

**Sanctuary Lamp:** The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for **Chris, Philip Burnell**. May God be gracious to them and bless them.

#### **BIRMINGHAM JUSTICE & PEACE ASSEMBLY 2020: THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY: LISTENING TO THE 'CRY OF THE EARTH AND THE CRY OF THE POOR'.**

This year the Assembly will take place ONLINE, with one-hour sessions over three evenings at 7.30pm: Monday 28 September, Wednesday 30 September, Friday 2 October and culminating with an Evening Prayer with the participation of Archbishop Bernard on Sunday 4 October at 7pm.

Sessions include: Ecological Conversion – an 'examination of conscience' on our care for our common home; Prepare the Future – building back better to address the climate emergency; and Local Government Responsibilities – planning for the West Midlands.

For more information and to book go to <https://bit.ly/JPasssembly2020> or email [bham.jandp@gmail.com](mailto:bham.jandp@gmail.com)

**Father Hudson's Care:** On 26-27 September the second collection will be for Father Hudson's Care to support their mission of supporting vulnerable people across the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Father Hudson's reaches out to people of all ages who need support at times of adversity. Please Call 01675 434000 if you would like to donate outside of Mass this year. Please give generously to this worthy cause.

**Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8):** The Church has celebrated Mary's birth since at least the sixth century. A September birth was chosen because the Eastern Church begins its Church year with September. The September 8 date helped determine the date for the feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8.

Scripture does not give an account of Mary's birth. However, the apocryphal *Protoevangelium of James* fills in the gap. This work has no historical value, but it does reflect the development of Christian piety. According to this account, Anna and Joachim are infertile but pray for a child. They receive the promise of a child who will advance God's plan of salvation for the world. Such a story, like many biblical counterparts, stresses the special presence of God in Mary's life from the beginning.

Saint Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley. Through her birth the nature inherited from our first parents is changed." The opening prayer at Mass speaks of the birth of Mary's Son as the dawn of our salvation, and asks for an increase of peace.

**Reflection:** We can see every human birth as a call for new hope in the world. The love of two human beings has joined with God in his creative work. The loving parents have shown hope in a world filled with travail. The new child has the potential to be a channel of God's love and peace to the world.

This is all true in a magnificent way in Mary. If Jesus is the perfect expression of God's love, Mary is the foreshadowing of that love. If Jesus has brought the fullness of salvation, Mary is its dawning.

Birthday celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant as well as to family and friends. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world. Each time we celebrate her birth, we can confidently hope for an increase of peace in our hearts and in the world at large.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/nativity-of-the-blessed-virgin-mary/>

#### **PRAYERS FOR THE PANDEMIC: FOR THOSE WHO ARE ANXIOUS**

God of Gethsemane, who knew deep anxiety, the desire for the cup to be taken away, your sweat dropping onto the clay of earth like blood, be with those who suffer at this time from anxiety, the fear of their world running out of control.

The facts alone fan the embers of anxiety in all of us: the grim daily numbers, the fear of falling ill, of facing our end. In our loneliest darkness, in the night of our Gethsemane, may we find you there. Amen



(Raymond Friel)

**CAFOD - DEC CORONAVIRUS APPEAL:** The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) launched a nationwide Coronavirus appeal on Tuesday 14 July. CAFOD is an active member of the Committee and are currently giving support to

communities in 26 countries with the £1.6 million they have raised so far, to help prevent the spread of the virus and limit the impact of hunger that lockdowns have caused.

The need is immense, particularly in countries where there is conflict and displacement of whole communities

#### **Prayer for Year of the Word**

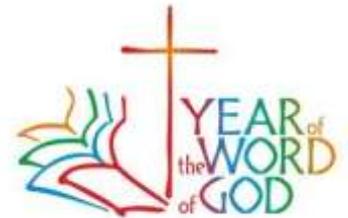
*Living God,  
you walk alongside us  
and speak to us throughout the Scriptures.  
Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears  
and shows us how to live for one another.  
Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds  
so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world.  
Amen*

*V/ Your word is our path and your truth is our light.  
R/ This day and every day.*

*Our Lady of the Annunciation  
Pray for us*

*St Matthew  
Pray for us*

*St Jerome  
Pray for us*



**St. Osburg (c1016)** was the first abbess of the nunnery founded by King Canute at Coventry. She worked to care for the poor and vulnerable of the city. Her cult was confirmed in the fifteenth century, but she may be a saint of much earlier date.

**Blessed Agnellus of Pisa (1194 – 1236)** was born at Pisa, and received by St. Francis himself among the Friars Minor and sent by him to open a house in Paris. He was later appointed by St. Francis the first Provincial of the Order in England. Agnellus arrived at Dover in 1224 and founded houses at Canterbury and Oxford. He worked also for some time in London. At Oxford he established a school which became famous, and it was in this city he died.

***"The Church [is] a community of people, animated by the Holy Spirit, who have lived and are living the wonder of the encounter with Jesus Christ and want to share this experience of deep joy, the message of salvation that the Lord gave us."* – Pope Francis**

It's wrong to deprive someone else of a pleasure so that you can enjoy one yourself, but to deprive yourself of a pleasure so that you can add to someone else's enjoyment is an act of humanity by which you always gain more than you lose.

– St. Thomas More

Because the soul has such deep roots in personal and social life and its values run so contrary to modern concerns, caring for the soul may well turn out to be a radical act, a challenge to accepted norms.

– St. Thomas More

Every tribulation which ever comes our way either is sent to be medicinal, if we will take it as such, or may become medicinal, if we will make it such, or is better than medicinal, unless we forsake it.

– St. Thomas More

*'In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let not her name depart from your lips, never suffer it to leave your heart. And that you may obtain the assistance of her prayer, neglect not to walk in her footsteps. With her for guide, you shall never go astray; while invoking her, you shall never lose heart; so long as she is in your mind, you are safe from deception; while she holds your hand, you cannot fall; under her protection you have nothing to fear; if she walks before you, you shall not grow weary; if she shows you favour, you shall reach the goal.'*

St. Bernard Of Clairvaux