



## 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



### 13.09.2020 – Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Education Day)

Welcome to guests visitors and parishioners.

#### Our Forgiving Lord

We cannot celebrate today the Lord of compassion and love, the Lord who died for us and who lives to intercede for us, unless each of us has forgiven his / her brother / sister from his / her heart.

#### Masses & Intentions

<b>Sunday 13</b> 9.30am	<i>Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> People of the Parish
<b>Monday 14</b>	<i>Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross</i> Fr. Siluvai Nathan (Intentions)
<b>Tuesday 15</b>	<i>Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows</i> Evelyn Lyden RIP
<b>Wednesday 16</b> 6.30pm 7.00pm	<i>St. Conrnelius, Pope &amp; Cyprian, Bishop, MM</i> <b>Eucharistic Adoration &amp; Individual Prayers</b> Mary (Honorina) Organ RIP
<b>Thursday 17</b>	<i>St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop, Doctor</i> Margaret Gillard (Intentions)
<b>Friday 18</b>	<i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i> Les & Judy Perry (Intentions)
<b>Saturday 19</b>	<i>St. Theodore of Canterbury, Bishop</i> Seniors Club Members (Intentions)
<b>Sunday 20</b>	<i>Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> People of the Parish

**The Unforgiving Debtor (Matthew 18:21-35):** This is a favourite theme of Matthew, continuing and concluding Jesus' teaching that forgiveness is the life's-blood of any Christian community. We cannot live together without upsetting one another, unwittingly, or even deliberately. So forgiveness is the vital step. So important is this matter of forgiveness that two consecutive Sunday gospels are devoted to it. It expands and stresses our petition in the Lord's Prayer, 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others.' The importance of this petition was already underlined by Matthew; it is the only petition of the Lord's Prayer to which he adds at the end a confirmatory saying of Jesus. Like so many of Matthew's parables, this one about a king and his servants revolves round contrasting characters, the 'goodie' and the 'baddie' (wedding-guests and guest without a wedding-garment; the two who use their talents and the one who hides it; the girls with and without oil for their lamps; the sheep and the goats; and here, the generous king and the ungenerous servant). There is also a contrast between the two sums of money which is deliberately fantastic: the first slave owes the equivalent of millions of dollars, a sum no private person could ever repay, let alone a slave; it is more than a year's tax for a whole province. The second owes the couple of months' wages of a casual labourer.

**Is there anyone you cannot forgive? Do you start the forgiveness-process, or wait for the other party? What is the best way to show forgiveness?** Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

**"Whoever FINDS God finds everything, whoever LOSES God, loses everything".**  
– St. Robert Bellarmine

**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.

Dear Parishioners,

Hope you are all keeping well and safe. You would remember that when after the lockdown public worship resumed in our parish, began celebrating Mass on Sunday at 9.30am. This was mainly to help the volunteers having sufficient time to do the cleaning after the Mass, as expected by the Government's Health & Safety guidelines.

We had meeting last Sunday with the volunteers / stewards. Parishioners will be pleased to know that from **the beginning of October:**

- **The Sunday Mass will revert to 10.00am.**
- **The Vigil Mass on Saturday at 5.30pm will resume**

The Bishops' Conference has written to say that home visits can now take place by priests, deacons and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. It has reminded that extreme caution should be taken to avoid any possibility of passing infection between the visitor and the housebound parishioner. For detailed information on this matter, please speak to me.

– Fr. Arul

The Second Collection this weekend will be for the **Catholic Education Service.**

Next Sunday the Second Collection will be for **Catholic Evangelisation.**

**Next Sunday is the World Day of Migrants and Refugees.**

**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 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 the **Maguire Family.** May God be gracious to them and bless them.

**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.

**Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14):** The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated every year on September 14, recalls three events:

1. The finding of the True Cross by Saint Helena.
2. The dedication of churches built by Constantine on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and Mount Calvary.
3. The restoration of the True Cross to Jerusalem in AD 629 by the Byzantine emperor Heraclius, after it had fallen into the hands of the Persian Emperor Chosroes II in the AD 614 Sasanian conquest of Jerusalem.

### The Story of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Early in the fourth century, Saint Helena, mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. She razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite, which tradition held was built over the Savior's tomb, and her son built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher on that spot. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. Legend has it that the one on which Jesus died was identified when its touch healed a dying woman.

The cross immediately became an object of veneration. At a Good Friday celebration in Jerusalem toward the end of the fourth century, according to an eyewitness, the wood was taken out of its silver container and placed on a table together with the inscription Pilate ordered placed above Jesus' head: Then "all the people pass through one by one; all of them bow down, touching the cross and the inscription, first with their foreheads, then with their eyes; and, after kissing the cross, they move on."

To this day, the Eastern Churches, Catholic and Orthodox alike, celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on the September anniversary of the basilica's dedication. The feast entered the Western calendar in the seventh century after Emperor Heraclius recovered the cross from the Persians, who had carried it off in 614, 15 years earlier. According to the story, the emperor intended to carry the cross back into Jerusalem himself, but was unable to move forward until he took off his imperial garb and became a barefoot pilgrim.

**Reflection:** The cross is today the universal image of Christian belief. Countless generations of artists have turned it into a thing of beauty to be carried in procession or worn as jewelry. To the eyes of the first Christians, it had no beauty. It stood outside too many city walls, decorated only with decaying corpses, as a threat to anyone who defied Rome's authority—including Christians who refused sacrifice to Roman gods. Although believers spoke of the cross as the instrument of salvation, it seldom appeared in Christian art unless disguised as an anchor or the Chi-Rho until after Constantine's edict of toleration.

<https://www.franciscanmedia.org/exaltation-of-the-holy-cross/>

### **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)

**Lay Chaplain:** Cardinal Griffin Catholic College, Cannock, is seeking to appoint a Lay Chaplain. Details are on the College website.

**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. Cornelius** (3rd century) defended the faith against the Novatian heretics and helped by St. Cyprian, confirmed his authority. He died in exile.

**St. Cyprian** was born in Carthage and became its bishop. He was a staunch defender of the faith and ecclesiastical discipline. He suffered martyrdom during the persecution of Valerian. Their names are included in the Roman Canon (The First Eucharistic Prayer).

**St. Robert Bellarmine** (1542 – 1621) was born at Montepulciano, Italy, and joined the Society of Jesus. He was later created a Cardinal and was briefly Archbishop of Capua, although his greatest legacy is as a theologian and controversialist, especially in defending the Church from its protestant critics. He was canonised only in 1930, and declared a Doctor of the Church the following year.

**St. Theodore of Canterbury:** He was born at Tarsus, Turkey, about 601 and died in Canterbury on 19<sup>th</sup> September 690. He was a monk in Italy who was not ordained priest until he was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury by Pope Vitalian in 666 at the age of 65. He arrived in England in 669, and for the rest of his life reorganized and reformed the life of the Church throughout the country, holding visitations and synods, establishing new dioceses and a great school at Canterbury, and reconciling divisions between those of the Celtic and those of the Roman tradition. He is remembered for his scholarship and for his bringing unity and organization to a divided church.

***“Charity is that, with which no man is lost  
and without which, no man is saved.”*** - St Robert Bellarmine (1542-1621)

***When we appeal to the throne of grace we do so  
through Mary, honouring God by honouring His  
Mother, imitating Him by exalting her, touching the  
most responsive chord in the sacred heart of Christ  
with the sweet name of Mary.*** - St Robert Bellarmine (1542-1621) Doctor of the Church