



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



20.09.2020 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Home Mission Sunday)

Welcome to guests visitors and parishioners.

The Generous Love of God

The love of God cannot be measured by any human standard. It is incalculable. By human reckoning it must ever appear foolish. What sensibly employer would behave like the man in the Gospel parable? We see a reflection of that love in St. Paul's dilemmas. He loved so much that he could not decide whether it was better to live or die.

Masses & Intentions

Sunday 20 9.30am	<i>Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> People of the Parish
Monday 21	<i>Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist</i> Michael Kelleher RIP
Tuesday 22	<i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i> Mass
Wednesday 23 6.30pm 7.00pm	<i>St. Pio of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)</i> Eucharistic Adoration & Individual Prayers Mass
Thursday 24	<i>Our Lady of Walsingham</i> Mass
Friday 25	<i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i> Mass
Saturday 26	<i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i> Mass
Sunday 27 9.30am 11.00am	<i>Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> People of the Parish Baptism: Edward Thomas Higg

Dear Parishioners,

Hope you enjoyed the lovely weather during this past week and that you are all keeping well and staying safe.

With the permission and guidelines given to visit the housebound, attempts are being made to visit them. Please be reminded that it will take some time to get to a rhythm of some sort and that it will be done with the prior consent of the family or individual concerned.

The Archbishop and the Vicar General have spoken and written expressing their profound sadness on hearing about the break in at our church last week and have offered their support and guidance. We are very grateful to them!

Thankfully the damages caused have been repaired for the time being and we are very grateful to Bernard Cadogan and Peter Guy for their help. The broken window has to be repaired by professionals and to the standard expected. Efforts are being made in this regard. 'Thank you' to parishioners for your willingness to help repair the damage and make our church secure.

Please be reminded that the weekend Masses **from the beginning of October** will be:

- **The Sunday Mass will be at 10.00am.**
- **The Vigil Mass on Saturday will be at 5.30pm.**
- **The Eucharistic Adoration followed by Mass on Wednesdays will continue as normal at 6.30pm.**

May I request that **Readers and Eucharistic Ministers** attending these Masses contact Sr. Sharon, so that a workable rota could be made and followed? Thank you.

Have a very good week ahead.

- Fr. Arul

The Generosity of God (Matthew 20:1-16): It is hard not to sympathize with the workers who have sweated it out right through the day in the hot sun. The idlers who have hardly got earth on their spades or grease on their hands get a great bonus and I get no bonus at all! Is this fair? No. God is not fair. You can't apply the concept of "fairness" to God at all. We can't enter into a reckoning with God. God does not calculate as we do. In the terms of this world, this is obvious enough. The wicked do prosper, while honesty and high moral standards, instead of being rewarded are often simply mocked. Can we go deeper and say that the reward is in heaven? This hardly fits with the way Jesus worked here on earth. He did not reward the virtuous. He said he was the doctor who had come to the sick. His favourites were the worst of society, tax-collectors and prostitutes, not even amiable rascals. Heaven was open to anyone who accepted him. It is no good looking for fairness in God, for this implies that we deserve something. We cannot claim to 'deserve' anything; we are simply called into a loving relationship and to put our trust in Jesus.

What does this Sunday's Gospel say about the generosity of God? When have you experienced God's generosity, his kindness and forgiveness in your own life?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

The Second Collection this weekend is for the **Catholic Evangelisation**.

Next Sunday the Second Collection will be for **Fr. Hudson's Society**

This Sunday is also the World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

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 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) if you want a chat or to receive calls or if you would like to join those who are calling others.

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.

 **Sanctuary Lamp:** The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for **the Ryan Family**. May God be gracious to them and bless them.



This year **the Harvest Family Fast Day is on Friday 2nd October**. Please help Cafod reach out to communities overseas who are incredibly vulnerable to the threat of the

coronavirus. May your generosity and goodwill help our sisters and brothers survive, rebuild and heal. For more information, and to donate on line, please visit:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Family-Fast-Day>

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

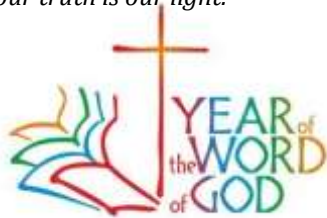
Pray for us

St Matthew

Pray for us

St Jerome

Pray for us



Saint Matthew (September 21): Matthew was a Jew who worked for the occupying Roman forces, collecting taxes from other Jews. The Romans were not scrupulous about what the “tax farmers” got for themselves. Hence the latter, known as “publicans,” were generally hated as traitors by their fellow Jews. The Pharisees lumped them with “sinners” (see Matthew 9:11-13). So it was shocking to them to hear Jesus call such a man to be one of his intimate followers.

Matthew got Jesus in further trouble by having a sort of going-away party at his house. The Gospel tells us that many tax collectors and “those known as sinners” came to the dinner. The Pharisees were still more badly shocked. What business did the supposedly great teacher have associating with such immoral people? Jesus’ answer was, “Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ I did not come to call the righteous but sinners” (Matthew 9:12b-13). Jesus is not setting aside ritual and worship; he is saying that loving others is even more important.

No other particular incidents about Matthew are found in the New Testament.

Reflection: From such an unlikely situation, Jesus chose one of the foundations of the Church, a man others, judging from his job, thought was not holy enough for the position. But Matthew was honest enough to admit that he was one of the sinners Jesus came to call. He was open enough to recognize truth when he saw him. “And he got up and followed him” (Matthew 9:9b).

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina (May 25, 1887 – Sept. 23, 1968): In one of the largest such ceremonies in history, Pope John Paul II canonized Padre Pio of Pietrelcina on June 16, 2002. It was the 45th canonization ceremony in Pope John Paul’s pontificate. More than 300,000 people braved blistering heat as they filled St. Peter’s Square and nearby streets. They heard the Holy Father praise the new saint for his prayer and charity. “This is the most concrete synthesis of Padre

Pio’s teaching,” said the pope. He also stressed Padre Pio’s witness to the power of suffering. If accepted with love, the Holy Father stressed, such suffering can lead to “a privileged path of sanctity.”

Many people have turned to the Italian Capuchin Franciscan to intercede with God on their behalf; among them was the future Pope John Paul II. In 1962, when he was still an archbishop in Poland, he wrote to Padre Pio and asked him to pray for a Polish woman with throat cancer. Within two weeks, she had been cured of her life-threatening disease.

Born Francesco Forgione, Padre Pio grew up in a family of farmers in southern Italy. Twice his father worked in Jamaica, New York, to provide the family income.

At the age of 15, Francesco joined the Capuchins and took the name of Pio. He was ordained in 1910 and was drafted during World War I. After he was discovered to have tuberculosis, he was discharged. In 1917, he was assigned to the friary in San Giovanni Rotondo, 75 miles from the city of Bari on the Adriatic.

On September 20, 1918, as he was making his thanksgiving after Mass, Padre Pio had a vision of Jesus. When the vision ended, he had the stigmata in his hands, feet, and side.

Life became more complicated after that. Medical doctors, Church authorities, and curiosity seekers came to see Padre Pio. In 1924, and again in 1931, the authenticity of the stigmata was questioned; Padre Pio was not permitted to celebrate Mass publicly or to hear confessions. He did not complain of these decisions, which were soon reversed. However, he wrote no letters after 1924. His only other writing, a pamphlet on the agony of Jesus, was done before 1924.

Padre Pio rarely left the friary after he received the stigmata, but busloads of people soon began coming to see him. Each morning after a 5 a.m. Mass in a crowded church, he heard confessions until noon. He took a mid-morning break to bless the sick and all who came to see him. Every afternoon he also heard confessions. In time his confessional ministry would take 10 hours a day; penitents had to take a number so that the situation could be handled. Many of them have said that Padre Pio knew details of their lives that they had never mentioned.

Padre Pio saw Jesus in all the sick and suffering. At his urging, a fine hospital was built on nearby Mount Gargano. The idea arose in 1940; a committee began to collect money. Ground was broken in 1946. Building the hospital was a technical wonder because of the difficulty of getting water there and of hauling up the building supplies. This “House for the Alleviation of Suffering” has 350 beds.

A number of people have reported cures they believe were received through the intercession of Padre Pio. Those who assisted at his Masses came away edified; several curiosity seekers were deeply moved. Like Saint Francis, Padre Pio sometimes had his habit torn or cut by souvenir hunters.

One of Padre Pio’s sufferings was that unscrupulous people several times circulated prophecies that they claimed originated from him. He never made prophecies about world events and never gave an opinion on matters that he felt belonged to Church authorities to decide. He died on September 23, 1968, and was beatified in 1999.

Reflection: Referring to that day’s Gospel (Matthew 11:25-30) at Padre Pio’s canonization Mass in 2002, Saint John Paul II said: “The Gospel image of ‘yoke’ evokes the many trials that the humble Capuchin of San Giovanni Rotondo endured. Today we contemplate in him how sweet is the ‘yoke’ of Christ and indeed how light the burdens are whenever someone carries these with faithful love. The life and mission of Padre Pio testify that difficulties and sorrows, if accepted with love, transform themselves into a privileged journey of holiness, which opens the person toward a greater good, known only to the Lord.”