

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

6 September 2020

Twenty Third 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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“To Be or Not To Be.....” (Hamlet)

While Hamlet's dilemma is ultimately resolved, its resolution is not the consequence of careful thought or personal introspection. Events bring about its resolution. I offer his dilemma as a prelude to a dilemma that may present itself to us in the months and years ahead.

In the race to develop a vaccine for coronavirus Covid -19. America has 20+ in the pipeline, UK has six, China has many more. We wait anxiously for such a ‘cure’ so that we are released from the resulting restrictions and the possibility and the fear of a future spike.

One would have thought that this was a straightforward matter – find a vaccine, test it and then inoculate a population and life will go back to ‘normal’. However, I am reminded of the MMR controversy, supported it is now realised, by false data. Yet the scare – and some of the consequences of that - is not to be minimised. Many parents agonised over the issue, all wishing the very best for their children. Some children may, indeed, have suffered because of confusion and misinformation.

Of the six research projects in Oxford, and subscribed to by the UK government, two are being developed using aborted foetus cell-lines [AFL] (admittedly from 40/50 years ago) while four use non-foetal methods. The situation in USA is somewhat similar. Moral issues emerging here have not gone unnoticed by secular and ecclesiastical authorities and have provoked much comment. The issue that may arise for some people is this: if the only (or the best or the government chosen) vaccine available resulted from AFL, would people be morally obliged to receive the vaccine for the greater benefit of the wider community? Or should receiving this vaccine be made legally enforceable, would conscientious objectors (‘pro life’ people) be tolerated or otherwise be bullied within the community? Or does it matter anyway?

AFL used are, it is stated, from abortions undertaken 40 or 50 years ago. There is no evidence that there would be an increase in abortions should AFL continue to be used in research. There is some evidence that, in any final vaccine, even using AFL in the initial stages of research, there would be no remnant of AFL in the final vaccine. Nevertheless, there are those who fear that, receiving such a vaccine, compromises their stand on abortion. I have no doubt that, should any abortion be undertaken to provide material for vaccine research or to provide material eventually for a vaccine, it would be morally reprehensible, however successful such a vaccine might be.

Should this concern us, then, Catholics in a remote part of England? I suggest that it must. Yet I suggest that a more important and more relevant issue presents itself: whether our consciences have been formed in a way that enables us to reflect in a balanced way on issues such as this or whether we have ‘blended’ with the values of our secular culture so that this issue becomes one of getting a vaccine for the virus at any cost and thus facilitating a return to physical and mental health and to a ‘healthy’ economy?

Our part surely is, at least to be well informed. In addition, perhaps our role here is to put “*pressure on the political authorities and health systems so that other vaccines without moral problems become available*” (Vatican document ‘Moral reflections on vaccines prepared from cells derived from aborted human foetuses’ - 2005). And where will we stand, as Christians in a Catholic Community, should vaccines, ethically acceptable to us, not be made available, and should we be expected to receive vaccines researched from AFL? One hopes that such a dilemma will not present itself to us. Yet should we not be prepared – as we were not so prepared for the arrival of this disease! And is this not an opportunity – and a requirement – to offer a moral education to our youth? Can we, unlike Hamlet, consciously resolve our dilemma?

One other moral issue presents itself to us. “It would be sad if, for the vaccine for COVID-19, priority were to be given to the richest! It would be sad if this vaccine were to become the property of this nation or another, rather than universal and for all,”. (Pope Francis 19 Aug. 2020). Would we (would you) be prepared to delay receiving the vaccine ourselves to enable poorer populations in Africa, South America and elsewhere to receive it first?

Mass streamed live from St Anne's using fb.me/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 6 September	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	Diane and Jonathan Downes 50th wedding anniversary See 'Re-opening'... below
Monday 7 September	11.00am	Princethorpe Chapel	
Tuesday 8 September	9.30am	Wappenbury(<i>live stream</i>)	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesday 9 September	9.30am	Wappenbury(<i>live stream</i>)	
	7.00pm	Prayer Meeting via Zoom- see information below (last in this series)	
Thursday 10 September	9.30am	Wappenbury(<i>live stream</i>)	St Deiniol, Most Holy Name of Mary
Friday 11 September	9.30am	Wappenbury(<i>live stream</i>)	
Saturday 12 September	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	
Sunday 13 September	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	See 'Re-opening'... below
	11.00am	Princethorpe Chapel	

Forward Dates For Your Diary

Saturday 19 September	10.30am	St Anne's Cemetery	Blessing of the Graves
Saturday 26 September	10.30am	Princethorpe Cemetery	Blessing of the Graves
Monday 2 November	7.30pm	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	Mass of the day for All Souls

Please note: The Blessing of the graves will be a short ten minute service and blessing followed by the opportunity to visit the graves as you wish. We must remember to be socially distanced at all times, or in your family 'bubble'. If the weather is inclement we will postpone for another time.

Both cemeteries are maintained via the parish finances and I wish to thank Mick, our gardener, for the excellent job he does on both areas. Should you wish to make a contribution, specifically towards the upkeep of the cemeteries, please get in touch.

We have been removing any dead flowers and Christmas arrangements that have deteriorated significantly in the last few weeks. All of the graves are treated with the utmost care and attention for those who are unable to visit on a regular basis.

Parish Finances

The Finance Committee meet regularly via Zoom to keep a close eye on the parish finances on behalf of you all. This year has been particularly difficult as we have been unable to have collections during the Sunday Masses. I would like to thank those of you who have managed to donate directly to me either by leaving money at the Presbytery or setting up Standing Orders or Direct Debits with the bank. 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.

Together with the members of the committee we wish to present the Parish Finances Report to you for the year 2019 (**attached to this email**). They have been produced, with detailed information and retrospective columns, for the last six years to enable comparisons.

If you would like to make any comments on the Parish Finances Report please email Fr Teddy directly at fr.teddy.obrien@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Community Evening Prayer

Over the last few weeks, as people return to work and children to school, the number of evening prayer participants has dwindled. Perhaps now is the time to pause this weekly Zoom meeting together and refresh for the month of November. **This Wednesday 9 September will be the final one in this series.**

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**

Prayer List

If you have any amendments to the Prayer List you would like me to make please do get in touch either with myself, by using the contact details at the top of the newsletter, or with Loretta at lkpcurtis@hotmail.com. It is important in these difficult times that we think and pray for those dear to us and allow our community to pray for them too. Please let me know of any wedding anniversaries or anniversaries of death if you wish them to be remembered.

Re-Opening Of Our Churches

St Anne's will remain closed for the time being. I am grateful to Janet and Jimmy Murray who have cleaned 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. It is important that you arrive no later than 10.50am to enable Mass to begin at 11.00am. *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.

New on Facebook – Thank you Sebastien Buhour – Please Take A Look

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>

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 – Thank you

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 recently and whose funeral will be in Nuneaton on Tuesday 8 September.

Fr David Bazan, Kenilworth, who fell down stairs recently and is being treated in hospital. Fr David's wife died recently. **Sue**, as she waits for further tests this week.

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.

David, a young father struggling at the moment.

Bill, as he continues his recovery from six weeks of treatment. Hold Bill and Yvonne in your prayers.

Di and Jonathan as they celebrate 50 years of married life this weekend.

Yvonne and Jade. Jade is quite unwell at present. Yvonne has recently retired from Our Lady's School.

School and College leadership for all the hard work they have undertaken in preparing schools and college for the return of the pupils and students.

Claire as she settles in her new home up north.

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

Remember also, and especially, those who have been shielding now for a long time

All those people who put the lives of others and their own lifestyles before their own in whatever branch of community life they work.

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