

St Francis of Assisi, Baddesley Clinton

[Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216]

Fr John Sharp

www.sfachurch.org.uk

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Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

13th September 2020

PARISH LITURGY – MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS

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

Monday [Exaltation of the Holy Cross]
9.00 am Tom Brosnan

Tuesday [Our Lady of Sorrows]
9.00 am Intentions of Betty and Jim Watruss

Wednesday [Ss Cornelius, pope, and Cyprian, bishop, martyrs]
9.00 am Isobel Eustace

Thursday [St Robert Bellarmine, bishop, doctor of the Church]
9.00 am Stella Quinn

Friday [Feria]
9.00 am John Morgan and Family

Saturday [St Theodore of Canterbury, bishop]
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.

*Please note that the new restrictions relating to maximum gatherings of six persons does **not** apply to churches. We are still allowed to have up to twenty people at Mass. Once the church re-opens, this number will increase.*

We are celebrating the feast of the cross, whereby darkness was dispelled and the light restored. We are celebrating the feast of the cross, and with the crucified one we are raised up, leaving behind us the earth and sin so that we may possess what is above. How great the cross! What blessings it holds! He who possesses it possesses a treasure. More noble, more precious than anything on earth, in fact and in name, it is indeed a treasure, for in it and through it all the riches of our salvation were stored away and restored to us.

If there had been no cross, Christ would not have been crucified. If there had been no cross, Life would not have been nailed to the tree. If he had not been nailed, the streams of everlasting life would not have welled from his side, blood and water, the cleansing of the world; the record of our sins would not have been cancelled, we would not have gained

freedom, we would not have enjoyed the tree of life, paradise would not have been opened. If there had been no cross, death would not have been trodden underfoot, the underworld would not have yielded up its spoils.

How great the cross, through which we have received a multitude of blessings, because, against all reckoning, the miracles and sufferings of Christ have been victorious! How precious, the means of God's suffering, and his trophy of victory! On it of his own will he suffered unto death. On it he won his victory, wounding the devil, and conquering death, and shattering the bars of the underworld. The cross has become the common salvation of the whole world.

The cross is called the glory of Christ, and his exaltation; it is the chalice for which he longed, the consummation of his sufferings on our behalf. It is the glory of Christ – listen to his words: 'Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in him, and God will glorify him at once.' And again: 'Glorify me, Father, with the glory which I had with you before the world was made.' And again: 'Father, glorify your name. So there came a voice from the heavens: I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' By this he means the glory which Christ received on the cross.

The cross is also Christ's exaltation – listen again to his own words: 'When I am lifted up, I will draw all men to myself.' You see then that the cross is the glory and the exaltation of Christ.

From a homily of St Andrew of Crete

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