

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-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

20th September 2020

PARISH LITURGY – MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS

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

Monday [St Matthew, apostle and evangelist]
9.00 am Michael Bird

Tuesday [Feria]
9.00 am Well-being of Aeneas Quinn

Wednesday [St Pio of Pietrelcina, priest]
9.00 am Br Bernard

Thursday [Our Lady of Walsingham]
9.00 am Morwenna Bowen

Friday [Feria]
9.00 am Isobel Eustace

Saturday [Feria]
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: **Oswald Mainwright; Jayne Barton; Morwenna Bowen** (anniversaries)

The floors in the church were repaired this week, so that if the workmen turn up to do the last few jobs that are scheduled in the next two weeks, it is hoped that we will be back in the church for the feast of St Francis on 4th October. Even if everything is not complete, we may just start to re-use the church for Mass, at least on Sundays.

More information next week, when there may be an appeal for volunteers to help clean the church in the week beginning 28th September.

When we have been wounded by the Church, our temptation is to reject it. But when we reject the Church it becomes very hard for us to keep in touch with the living Christ. When we say: 'I love Jesus, but I hate the Church', we end up losing not only the Church but Jesus too. The challenge is to forgive the Church. This challenge is especially great because the Church seldom asks us for forgiveness, at least not officially. But the Church as an often

fallible human organisation needs our forgiveness, while the Church as the living Christ among us continues to offer us forgiveness.

It is important to think of the Church not as 'over there' but as a community of struggling, weak people of whom we are part and in whom we meet our Lord and Redeemer.

The Church as the body of Christ has many faces. The Church prays and worships. It speaks words of instruction and healing, cleanses us from our sins, invites us to the table of the Lord, binds us together in a covenant of love, sends us out to minister, anoints us when we are sick or dying, and accompanies us in our search for meaning and our daily needs for support. All these faces might not come to us from those we look up to as our leaders. But when we live our lives with a simple trust that Jesus comes to us in the Church, we will see the Church's ministry in places and in faces where we least expect it.

If we truly love Jesus, Jesus will send us the people to give us what we most needs. And they are our spiritual leaders.

Henri J.M. Nouwen

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