

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

18 October 2020

Twenty Ninth 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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“Ask and you shall receive” (Jesus) or “Prayer is nothing but a powerful placebo”.

On 13 September 2020, planning permission was granted for the erection of a 51m high monument to be built on a 10m green belt site on the outskirts of Birmingham at a cost of £9.3m. The monument, entitled **The Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer**, and due for completion in 2022, will be constructed from 1 million bricks, each to hold the story of one million answered prayers. It will take the shape of a Möbius Strip, often known as a twisted cylinder, a one sided surface with no boundaries. Some refer to it as *The Mathematical Madness of a Möbius Strip*.

In a country that is fast becoming less religious (apparently) and where building on green-belt land is extremely difficult and very often opposed, we might wonder how this happened because, in 1983, the proportion of people who identify as Christian has fallen from 66 per cent to 38 per cent. And the numbers attending church regularly has similarly fallen.



Yet in this small parish in remote Warwickshire, requests for prayer come in each week, sometimes daily, and currently fill two A4 pages. So, is Jesus to be believed and trusted or has Hemant Mehta (*The Young Atheist's Survival Guide*) right in his assertion that “*prayer is nothing but a placebo*”. On the other hand, recent surveys tell us that numbers tuning in to religious services on line have dramatically increased since Covid-19. A quarter of adults in the UK have watched or listened to a religious service since the coronavirus lock down began, and 1 in 20 have started praying during the crisis, according to a new survey.

A separate poll found that the public's choice of screen priest to lead the UK through the coronavirus crisis would be the Rev Geraldine Granger (*The Vicar of Dibley*), followed in second place by Pam Ferris (*Sister Evangelina*) with Dermot Morgan (*Father Ted Crilly*) taking third place.

Religious expression is often perceived as somewhat stale, dated and unreal. Soaps touch on human experience which religious practice often fails to do. There may be a placebo content in prayer, a ‘feel good factor’, that enables a person just to get on with life at times of great difficulty and puzzlement and surely there is nothing wrong with that. A loving God and great universal pain and trouble can be difficult to reconcile. Jesus understood this perfectly. His methodology was to use pictures, images that would be familiar to his audience. We call them parables.

In our present multi-media culture, perhaps the soaps occupy this part of people's attention. We like the vicar of Dibley, Sr Evangelina and Fr Ted because they display a reality of real life and religious practice with which people can identify. Remember the Vicar and her Christmas lunches, Fr Ted coping with Fr Jack and bishops – and then Sr Evangelina!

The **Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer** will be a parable of God's sustaining involvement in our world. Just as the prayers and cards of gratitude from so many of our parishioner and others who write to me to thank you for your prayers are the modern parables of 2020.

We know that prayer works because people tell us the effect prayer has had on their lives. We have our own *Wall of Answered Prayer* – at 9.30am Mass via Facebook each morning. You are most welcome to join if you can any day. See main newsletter for details.

So what about you and prayer? Jesus or Hemant Mehta?

Go online to see how you can submit your Answered Prayer for inclusion in the Wall
<https://www.eternalwall.org.uk/>

**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 18 October	9.30am 11.00am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>) Princethorpe	Remember Covid-19 rules – arrival by 10.50am with a face mask – DO NOT COME IF YOU HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS OF ANY TYPE St Wilfred, Bishop
Monday 19 October	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	Ss John de Brebeuf and Isaac Jogues, priests and their companions, martyrs; St Paul of the Cross, priest
Tuesday 20 October	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	
Wednesday 21 October	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	
Thursday 22 October	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	St John Paul II, Pope
Friday 23 October	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	St John of Capestrano, priest
Saturday 24 October	9.30am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	St Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop
Sunday 25 October	9.30am 11.00am	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>) Princethorpe	Remember Covid-19 rules – arrival by 10.50am with a face mask – DO NOT COME IF YOU HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS OF ANY TYPE

Forward Dates For Your Diary

Sunday 18 October (Second Collection)	11.00am	Princethorpe	Archdiocese request collections for CAFOD/APF/Peter's Pence . The collections will be divided between the three charities. If you are not attending Mass then please leave a donation at the Presbytery with Fr Teddy. Please do not use any bank details you have for the parish to donate to these causes.
Tuesday 20 October	10.00am– 5.00pm 7.00pm	Wappenbury Wappenbury via <i>Zoom</i>	Fr Teddy - Retreat Day Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday 21 October	10.00am– 5.00pm	Wappenbury	Fr Teddy - Retreat Day
Monday 2 November	7.30pm	Wappenbury (<i>live stream</i>)	Mass of the Day for All Souls
Wednesday 4 November	7.00pm	Wappenbury via <i>Zoom</i>	Evening Prayer for Month of November
Wednesday 11 November	7.00pm	Wappenbury via <i>Zoom</i>	Evening Prayer for Month of November
Wednesday 18 November	7.00pm	Wappenbury via <i>Zoom</i>	Evening Prayer for Month of November
Wednesday 25 November	7.00pm	Wappenbury via <i>Zoom</i>	Evening Prayer for Month of November
NOTE: The ID and Passcode for the Zoom sessions in November will be issued on Sunday 1 November			

Parish Finances

The Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday 20 October to review the current situation of the parish finances. As you can imagine this year has been particularly difficult and will continue to be so for some time to come.

If you would like to discuss how you can help in any way with the parish finances please email Fr Teddy directly at fr.teddy.obrien@rcaob.org.uk or phone any time. Thank you to everyone who is managing to continue with financial support to the parish. It is hugely appreciated.

Transport Costs For Shoe-Box Appeal And Help Lifting and Shifting – Please?

Pam Hopwood and the team are asking if you would be able to spare £2.50 to cover the cost of the transport of one box. Pam currently has received about £1000 in donations from friends and contacts in Stretton on Dunsmore. There are approximately 2000 boxes to be transported. If you can help at all please put your money in an envelope marked for 'Pam Hopwood' and either give to Fr Teddy, Loretta or leave in the presbytery porch at St Anne's.

Tuesday 27 October - can you help move the boxes from Pam's house into the Princethorpe College van which will be parked outside Pam's house? From there Princethorpe College will move the boxes to the Evesham depot - time yet to be confirmed but probably in the morning. It should only take an hour at the most with enough bodies. The boxes are quite heavy so muscle power required! If you are free please call Loretta on 07951 256796. Masks and Social Distancing requirements will be in place. Thank you

Prayer List – Would You Like Any Amendments Or Additions?

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.

St Anne's Church

I am working hard to see if it would be at all possible to re-open St Anne's with limited numbers and how that could be managed in a very safe way. The limitation we have is the size of the Chapel to accommodate safe social distancing. Please be assured that if there is anything that can be arranged I will let you know as soon as possible.

Holy Communion For Those Who Cannot Attend Mass

Are you healthy and without any health issues or living with someone with health issues, drive and would be willing to take Communion to someone who cannot come to Mass, please contact Fr Teddy for more information.

Re-Opening Of Our Churches – Currently No Parish Mass Available At St Anne's – Live Stream From St Anne's Via Facebook – See Diary For Weekly Information

Mass will be celebrated at Princethorpe at 11.00am until further notice. There are strict instructions for attendance at Mass in place – they MUST be observed at all times. See website for information. **Wear warm clothes when you come to Princethorpe! With having the inner corridor doors open during Mass because of Covid-19, the College Chapel is likely to be cold. Please, please wear adequate clothing – bring a rug for your knees if necessary!**

It is so uplifting to see you back with me 'in the flesh' to celebrate Mass and receive communion together; we must ensure we are warm.

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.

The Parish Is On Facebook! Yes Really! Come On Check It Out! - Thank you Sebastien Buhour

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>

Headline news – We have reached 100 'followers'!

Please Remember Especially In Your Prayers This Week – Let Us Not Tire Of Praying

Stuart Cartwright (76), brother of Sandra Waddoups who is very ill. Hold Stuart and wife and Sandra in your prayers.

Joseph 14, who has a long standing illness.

Sue, as she recovers from her operation. Sue is waiting for further treatment. Hold Sue and family in your prayers.

Jo who is waiting for treatment

Marlene who is awaiting the results of recent tests and waiting for a course of treatment.

Anne, Denis and Karen as they cope with health difficulties.

Tom who thanks you for your prayers. His treatment is ended at this time.

Bill and Yvonne thank you all for your constant prayers. Bill's scan last week showed that his cancer has not spread and that his treatment was most successful. For this, we must praise God today.

Alice whose Lupus has returned.

John Deery's (RIP) family. John was a faithful member of the parish community who regularly attended St Anne's.

Augustine (19 years old) who has died following a 10m fall from a tree in Northern France. Sebastien, Carolina and family ask for your prayers for Augustine's family.

Marie, long standing friend of Mary Gould who has died.

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.

Linda, who is receiving further attention after her cancer treatment.

Colette Jones, sister-in-law of Keren Andrews, member of staff at Princethorpe College, who is waiting an operation in mid October.

Anne who is very anxious at present.

Mary and Brian Gould's niece, Elaine, whose lung cancer has reached stage four and has spread to her bones.

Tom, Fr Teddy's brother-in-law, whose sister died recently in Ireland

Norman, very dear friend of Paul and Fen Whittle, whose funeral service was held last Thursday. Keep Paul and Norman's family in your prayers.

Stephen, friend of Milena's, who has had some setbacks in his preparation for treatment.

John and Veronica as they cope with John's health.

Denis and Kate McDaid as they mourn the recent death of Bridie Gallagher, Denis's aunt in Ireland. One of eleven children – Bridie is the last member of the maternal side of the family.

Members of the medical profession as they manage the current 'spike' in Covid-19 cases, and those who have died.

David Ratcliffe whose father in law, Tony, died recently

Fr David Bazen, Kenilworth, who is improving at home after an accident.

Melanie, a young girl who struggles with identity. Pray for her family and friends as they present support.

Young people as they struggle with the lockdown while at university.

Margaret Patrick, former headteacher at Our Lady's School, whose husband died suddenly recently

Parishioners who have been diagnosed with coronavirus.

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

Peter Power and family.

School and College leadership for all the hard work in keeping their students safe.

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.

Sean who is unwell at present.

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 has recovered well from her operation and is now at home.

Liz's mum who is unwell.

Alice, sister to Jimmy Murray, who has been ill and is now recovering at home.

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.

Di, waiting for further investigations

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 John, 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.

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

Thomas Duffy RIP

Pauline RIP.

Chris Smart (77) RIP

Con McCorrison (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