



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



08.11.2020 – Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Remembrance Day

Welcome to guests visitors and parishioners.

The Bridegroom is here!

The whole of the Christian life, our response to the love of Christ, our waiting with joyful hope for his coming, is summed up in today's celebration in a single word: Wisdom.

Masses & Intentions

Saturday	07	In Thanksgiving (Stewards & Volunteers)
Sunday	08	People of the Parish
Monday	09	<i>Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</i> Sarah & Max Rayner (Ints.)
Tuesday	10	<i>St. Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor</i> Tim Everitt & Family
Wednesday	11	<i>St. Martin of Tours, Bishop</i> Private Intentions (F.Y.L. Family)
Thursday	12	<i>St. Josaphat, Bishop, Martyr</i> Tom, Edith & Kathleen Dunn RIP
Friday	13	Helen Hudson (Birthday)
Saturday	14	Luke Elwes (14 th Birthday)
Sunday	15	<i>Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> People of the Parish

The Second Lockdown

With the second lockdown with effect from Thursday 5th November, the places of worship will close, unless they are being used for funerals, to broadcast acts of worship, individual prayer...

In compliance with the government's current restrictions, our church will remain closed except for individual prayer on:

Saturday between 5.30pm and 6.00pm

Sunday between 10.00am and 10.30am

Wednesdays between 6.30pm and 7.00pm

Depending on parishioners' response and the availability of volunteers / stewards, longer duration for church to remain open will be considered.

Priests will be celebrating Masses regularly in private for the particular and general intentions. These will be updated weekly, and parishioners can access the parish newsletter through the parish website.

The Ten Wedding-Attendants (Matthew 25:1-13):

Of course they weren't bridesmaids! According to the custom of the time the girls were attendant on the bridegroom, to greet him with their lamps as he arrived at the wedding-reception. Anyway, half of them weren't ready, let him down, and then found themselves shut out. There is a subtle difference between the parables given in Mark's and Matthew's gospels. In Mark they are all about the sudden coming of God's Kingship in history, at the time of Jesus. Jesus proclaimed that the crisis was now. In him God's reign had arrived: it was time to take drastic action. Matthew's parables take a longer-term view: there will be a final judgment at the end of time, for which we, in the Church and in the course of history, must prepare. Some will and some won't. Some will be found to be wheat, others to be weeds. When the catch of fish comes in, some fish will be thrown away, some kept. Some will be sheep and others goats. Each year, as the liturgical year draws to a close, the Church reminds us of this. And the End will be sudden and unpredictable, like a burglar on the one night I forgot to lock the door, or like a mouse-trap snapping shut, or like the unpredictable moment of birth pangs.

Am I ready for the coming of Christ? What does it mean to be like the wise bridesmaids and have oil in my lamp?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

Pope's Prayer Intention for November – Artificial

Intelligence: We pray that by the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

RIP: Please pray for **Rev Fr Thomas Edward Williams** and all those who died recently and for all the faithful departed. *May they all, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

If you want peace, work for justice.

If you want justice, defend life.

If you want life, embrace truth. **Pope John Paul II**

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.

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.

Just a Reminder: 'Thank you' to parishioners for complying with safety measures such as, hand-wash, wearing face mask and social distancing expected during Covid 19 pandemic in the Church. While having to communicate or catch up with friends after Mass, if parishioners could remember to observe social distancing, it will be much appreciated.

Christmas Cards Sales: Sale of Christmas cards remind suspended until further notice.

Catholic Universe: TO OUR CATHOLIC UNIVERSE AND CATHOLIC TIMES READERS IN THE PARISH: You may be unable to collect your paper at Mass, but you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you. SPECIAL OFFER 3 MONTHS - £22.00 or 12 Months:- £80.00

Prayers for & Solidarity with Fr. Stan Swamy sj

Your prayers and support will be very much appreciated for the 83 year old Jesuit Priest Stan Swamy based in Ranchi, India. He has spent his ministry for nearly half a century among the society's most disadvantaged people. Amidst this global pandemic he has been arrested and imprisoned in Mumbai. Let

us remember him and the cause he was living for, in our prayers. More information is available online.

The dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran

This feast commemorates the first dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran which took place in Rome on November 9, 324. Pope Sylvester I (314-335) presided.

St. John Lateran's original name was the Church of the Savior, and its official complete name is the Patriarchal Basilica of the Most Holy Savior and St. John the Baptist at the Lateran. The church is under the dual patronage of St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist.

It is the oldest of the four principal pilgrimage churches in Rome. The other three are St. Peter's Vatican Basilica, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul Outside the Walls. The Emperor Constantine (280-337) legalized Christianity through his historic Edict of Milan in 313, and shortly thereafter, he gave Pope Melchiodorus (311-314) a beautiful ancient palace that stood on the Celian Hill that had belonged to the Laterani family, and it was converted into an enormous basilica.

This feast is not so much about the building itself, even though it is magnificent architecturally and artistically, but about what the building represents spiritually. St. John Lateran is the first major church in Rome, and because it served as the headquarters of the Church from 313 to 1309, it is known as "the Mother Church." Pope Clement XII (1730-1740) stated this explicitly when he had this Latin verse etched into the front façade, "omnium ecclesiarum Urbis et Orbis mater et caput," "the mother and head of all churches of the city [Rome] and the world." It is the one from which all other churches find their origins.

For nearly one thousand years it served as the official residence of the Pope, as well as the place where new popes were elected and installed in office. Ecumenical councils were held at the Lateran Basilica in 1123, 1139, 1179, 1215, and 1512. St. John Lateran remains the cathedral church of Rome, the place where the Pope acts as chief shepherd of the local archdiocese.

The church building has suffered many setbacks as the object of two barbarian attacks (408 and 455), an earthquake (896), two fires (1308 and 1361), and a bomb blast (1993). The building has been repaired, rebuilt, and restored numerous times over the centuries. Reconstructions took place under Popes Leo the Great (440-461), Hadrian I (772-795), Sergius III (904-911), and Clement VIII (1592-1605). The most comprehensive renovation took place in the Seventeenth Century under Pope Innocent X (1644-1655). A new floor was installed in 1938.

The basilica is adorned with beautiful art. The roof above the entrance has 13 statues with the Risen Christ in the center flanked by its patrons, St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist. There is a massive statue to Constantine in the vestibule. The nave has marble statues of the twelve apostles, while the walls have reliefs with scenes from the Old and New Testaments and paintings of the prophets. The dome of the apse has a mosaic of Christ with his angels above a glorious Cross. The left side has full size images of Sts. Paul, Peter, and the Blessed Mother Mary, and a smaller image of St. Francis of Assisi, while the right has full size images of Saints John the Baptist, John the Evangelist, and Andrew, and a smaller image of St. Anthony of Padua.

The Lateran Basilica represents the unity of the universal Church. The basis of our unity is Jesus and our common Baptism. It was Jesus' fervent prayer that his disciples be one (Jn 17:21). There are many churches throughout the world, but all are one body in Christ, individually parts of one another

(Rom 12:5), all united under the symbolic headship of St. John Lateran.

- Fr Michael Van Sloun

Saint Leo the Great

With apparent strong conviction of the importance of the Bishop of Rome in the Church, and of the Church as the ongoing sign of Christ's presence in the world, Leo the Great displayed endless dedication as pope. Elected in 440, he worked tirelessly as "Peter's successor," guiding his fellow bishops as "equals in the episcopacy and infirmities."

Leo is known as one of the best administrative popes of the ancient Church. His work branched into four main areas, indicative of his notion of the pope's total responsibility for the flock of Christ. He worked at length to control the heresies of Pelagianism—overemphasizing human freedom—Manichaeism—seeing everything material as evil—and others, placing demands on their followers so as to secure true Christian beliefs.

A second major area of his concern was doctrinal controversy in the Church in the East, to which he responded with a classic letter setting down the Church's teaching on the two natures of Christ. With strong faith, he also led the defense of Rome against barbarian attack, taking the role of peacemaker.

In these three areas, Leo's work has been highly regarded. His growth to sainthood has its basis in the spiritual depth with which he approached the pastoral care of his people, which was the fourth focus of his work. He is known for his spiritually profound sermons. An instrument of the call to holiness, well-versed in Scripture and ecclesiastical awareness, Leo had the ability to reach the everyday needs and interests of his people. One of his sermons is used in the Office of Readings on Christmas.

It is said of Leo that his true significance rests in his doctrinal insistence on the mysteries of Christ and the Church and in the supernatural charisms of the spiritual life given to humanity in Christ and in his Body, the Church. Thus Leo held firmly that everything he did and said as pope for the administration of the Church represented Christ, the head of the Mystical Body, and Saint Peter, in whose place Leo acted.

Reflection: At a time when there is widespread criticism of Church structures, we also hear criticism that bishops and priests—indeed, all of us—are too preoccupied with administration of temporal matters. Pope Leo is an example of a great administrator who used his talents in areas where spirit and structure are inseparably combined: doctrine, peace, and pastoral care. He avoided an "angelism" that tries to live without the body, as well as the "practicality" that deals only in externals.

"Our sharing in the Body and Blood of Christ has no other purpose than to transform us into that which we receive."

— Pope St. Leo the Great

PRAYERS DURING THE PANDEMIC

Almighty ever-living God,
only support of our human weakness,
look with compassion upon
the sorrowful condition of your children
who suffer because of this pandemic;
relieve the pain of the sick,
give strength to those who care for them,
welcome into your peace those who have died
and, throughout this time of tribulation,
grant that we may all find
comfort in your merciful love.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pope Francis Good Friday 2020