



## THE PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST. WULSTAN

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The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No 234216



### 24.01.2021 – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sunday of the Word of God

Welcome to guests visitors and parishioners.

#### The Lord Who Teaches Us His Ways

Like Jonah, Christ was sent to preach repentance. He calls us to change our ways. We are not to become engrossed in the world, but to believe the good news and live for the Kingdom of God.

#### Masses & Intentions

<b>Saturday 23</b>	Maureen Stewart & Family (Intentions)
<b>Sunday 24</b>	<b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Kay Griffin RIP
<b>Monday 25</b>	<b>Conversion of St. Paul</b> Maureen Stewart & Family (Intentions)
<b>Tuesday 26</b>	<b>Ss Timothy &amp; Titus, Bishops.</b> Kay Griffin RIP
<b>Wednesday 27</b>	<b>Feria in Ordinary Time</b> Kay Griffin RIP
<b>Thursday 28</b>	<b>St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor of the Church</b> Kay Griffin RIP
<b>Friday 29</b>	<b>Feria in Ordinary Time</b> Angela Lyons & Family
<b>Saturday 30</b>	<b>Feria in Ordinary Time</b> People of the Parish
<b>Sunday 31</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> Sr. Sharon Peters (Intentions)

#### Mass in our Church

You will be aware that sadly, due to increase in the number of infections it was decided to suspend all the public Masses in our parish. However, efforts are being made if the Mass from our church could be reached to our parishioners by the various means available these days.

As soon as this is organised, parishioners will be informed with the details to access the Mass. In the meanwhile, please do continue to access Mass from around the deanery / across the country and beyond.

As this might be an opportunity to start / restart and cultivate the habit of personal prayer / family prayer, scripture reading & meditation, grace before and after meals and similar private devotions, parishioners are encouraged to consider them positively.

#### Sunday of the Word of God

In his Apostolic Letter of 30 September 2019, *Aperuit illis* ("He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures" Lk 24:45) Pope Francis established that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be the Sunday of the Word of God. He had already proposed something similar at the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. Sunday of the Word of God is a day to be devoted to the celebration, study, and spreading of the Word of God. Pope Francis is clear from the very first paragraph of this letter that the relationship between the Risen Lord, a community of believers, and sacred Scripture is essential to who we are as Christians.

The Sunday assembly gathering to celebrate the Eucharist is the unique moment in the week where a community gathers in a particular place and when their communal identity is nourished by Word and Sacrament. An important advance in 20th century theological reflection is that every sacramental celebration is founded and constructed upon the Word of God, and that every proclamation of the Word of God is sacramental.

Sunday of the Word of God is not a new feast! After all, the Word of God is proclaimed at every Sunday Eucharist, and one of the great blessings of the liturgical reform and renewal flowing from the Second Vatican Council is a greater appreciation of the foundational role of the Word of God in every liturgical celebration. The reform of the lectionary has led to much more scripture being proclaimed during our liturgical gatherings and a greater awareness of the role of the Word of God in the life of faith.

This Sunday builds on the texts and prayers of the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time and is conscious that it comes just after the celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. While we are not yet united around the table of the

**The Call of the Disciples (Mark 1:14-20):** What is going on? We had last Sunday the story of the first two disciples joining Jesus. One of them was Andrew, the other unnamed. Now we get another story, in another place, of other first disciples being called. So the Church underlines, two weeks running, the importance of Jesus' new community. The first thing he does is call disciples. He can't do everything on his own, and that is the point of the Church. He calls disciples to make a new people, a new Israel - old, young, middle-aged: we all have our part to fill in Jesus' play. Tired old people, busy parents, lively youngsters - each of us can make a unique contribution, especially since Jesus has chosen us himself. An odd choice, some of us! What did he want ME to do in the new family of Jesus? The two different versions of the calling of the disciples show that at least two different people told this story. When two people tell the same story, there are bound to be variations. The place didn't matter, or the order in which the disciples were called. The point of the story was the call, the response and the companionship, the working together with the Lord.

**Do you enjoy more being on your own or linking up with others? What is Jesus calling you to do?**

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

**Pope's Prayer Intention for January (Human Fraternity):** May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

**Racial Justice:** Next Sunday is Racial Justice Sunday. There will be a voluntary Second Collection.

Eucharist, we do share on many Sundays of the year the same scriptural readings in our different Christian assemblies. Pope Francis urges us to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to continue our prayer for Christian unity.

This Sunday is a time when the community is called to give greater attention not just to the Word of God. It is also urged to reflect on how we honour that Word in our celebrations, the books that we proclaim the Word from. Is the Gospel book carried in procession? Is it a well-made book that shows forth its life-giving content? Is it honoured with incense, and do we sing during the Gospel procession? Are the readers who proclaim the Word formed in the art of proclamation, and the knowledge of what they are announcing?

Pope Francis suggests in his letter that this Sunday is an ideal time to reflect on these issues. For presiders, it is also a call to reflect once again on their preaching of the Word of God. This Sunday has in the past offered an appropriate opportunity to commission and bless those who serve the community as readers, and initiate new ones to this essential ministry. If the parish community does not enthrone the Word of God every Sunday, maybe today is an opportunity to start. Another way of nourishing the role of scripture is praying quietly together in a *lectio divina* style of prayer.

[www.catholicbishops.ie](http://www.catholicbishops.ie)

**RIP:** Please pray for **George Derek Watson, Stacy Reed, Kay Griffin, Kathleen Healy** and all those who died recently and for all the faithful departed. *May they all, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

**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](mailto: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

#### **Worldwide Marriage Encounter**

Online Marriage Enrichment Experience with Bishop David Evans on January 30th-31st 2021

An opportunity for couples to enrich their relationship, regardless of the length of time they have been together. Couples can explore their relationship and gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage.

Other dates for 2021 - 20th-21st March & 15th-16th May

To find out more visit <https://wwme.org.uk/> or call 0845 2602016

**Marriage and Family Life:** Alliance of Catholic Marriage Organizations is formed of many organizations that support couples at all stages of their relationship from marriage preparation to marriage enrichment as well as when marriages experience difficulties.

All of these organizations have adapted how they support couples and are now able to remotely provide their services online.

Couples preparing for marriage, please be assured that Marriage Care & Engaged Encounter are still providing marriage preparation courses online during the pandemic.

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021:** *The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18 - 25 January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul.*

*However, some areas observe it at Pentecost or some other time.*

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2021 has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen, “Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit”, is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community’s vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

Today the community has fifty sisters, all women from different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion. They remain faithful to a life of prayer, life in community and the welcoming of guests. The sisters share the grace of their monastic life with visitors and volunteers who go to Grandchamp for a time of retreat, silence, healing or in search of meaning.

For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic.

**Office administrator vacancy:** **Friends of The Holy Land**, a Christian Charity, is seeking an Office Administrator. This salaried position is important for our future growth and directly supports the Office Manager. Duties include maintaining the database, responding to enquiries, managing post/emails and sending out materials. The successful candidate will have good verbal and written communication skills, a strong ability to multi-task and be comfortable with the use of IT (particularly MS Office). The hours/days are negotiable – min. 20 hrs per week Mon-Fri. In the current pandemic, some work can be done at home. Normally, the work is conducted from our Kenilworth office. Please contact Jen Hill with your CV and covering letter by 25<sup>th</sup> Jan at: [office@friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk](mailto:office@friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk)

#### **Prayer of Spiritual Communion** **(St Alphonsus Liguori)**

My Jesus,  
I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.  
I love you above all things  
and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my soul  
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.  
Amen.

#### **A Prayer of Spiritual Communion** **for Vocations to the Priesthood**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Eternal High Priest,  
offered as a Sacrifice on the Cross  
to take away the sins of the world:  
I unite myself with your sacrifice on the altar,  
with the Eucharist which I cannot receive.  
You have given to your Church the Sacrament of  
Baptism  
through which your people are made holy.  
You have given to your Church the Sacrament of the  
Priesthood  
by which the banquet of the Eucharist is set before us.  
I pray today for all priests,  
who through their consecration  
make present in your Church  
your real and abiding presence.  
I thank you for the gift of the Priesthood.  
I praise your wonderful presence in the Eucharist.  
Amen.