

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

7 February 2021

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

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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Please note: my email address – [obrien633@btinternet.com](mailto:obrien633@btinternet.com) is no longer in use  
for personal or parish matters with immediate effect.

*A Dream or a Fantasy?*

The letter in this newsletter from Archbishop Bernard is depressing in its content. It makes public what may have gone unnoticed at parish level, expresses his empathy for those affected by the crimes of abuse and promises an independent assessment of archdiocesan management of this most recent exposure of clerical abuse of minors. I am pleased that Archbishop Bernard wanted you to read it and to know what is happening. Yet to be reminded again of the failure of another of our 'own' in such a devastating manner can stifle the very life within us. We are only too familiar in recent decades with reports of such devastating abuse of minors and the subsequent life-long trauma they experience as adults.

Lives are seriously and permanently damaged. In addition, the integrity of the church itself and church people is called into question. Even God comes under scrutiny. We can wonder whether God really meant that *'we are held in the palm of God's hand'*. As if the coronavirus was not enough to test our mettle, with its facility to mutate and thus to escape our notice and so to wreck havoc, the abuse of minors and vulnerable people by some of our 'respected' citizens continues to inflict similar untold damage on our innocent younger folk as well as on the faith and trust we all desire to own and to retain.

Yet we must not permit such behaviour to silence the voice of hope within us, though it possesses the potential to do just that. Nor must the continuing pandemic paralyse our dreams. *"A people without a vision perish"*, says the Book of proverbs. David, the psalmist in psalm 74, echoes our awakening fears, expressed centuries ago by a discouraged Jewish nation: *"We no longer see miraculous signs"*, they chanted. *"There are no prophets any more. No one knows how long this will last"*. And surely, it is true: there is no one who can show us a way out of our present troubles, neither can we be told just how long it will last.



Vaccines certainly offer hope. Perhaps you would agree that Captain Sir Tom is surely a prophet, someone who could see that *"tomorrow will be a better day"*. Is it not prophetic to see what is there before it is in fact there! Perhaps the cry for a statue to be erected in his memory - and to remind us also of the certainty of hope which he promoted - might be echoed in a clamour for his sainthood?! Is there not a need for such 'ordinary' folk to be 'canonised' - acknowledged as having already 'reached the pearly gates' and as portraying *'the glory of God in its full humanness'* (St Irenaeus)?

We all look for seeds of hope that arise in unexpected places, as in Brazil last Tuesday when Miguel Ibarra MSC (from Venezuela) and his fellow novices, Erik Bryan de Mattos MSC and Witalo Souza de Jesus MSC spoke their first vows as MSCs. This will, of course, not make international news anywhere. There is altogether too much 'news' in South America already. Yet Missionaries of the Sacred Heart within the Irish Province celebrated that occasion, since Miguel is a member of our MSC Region in Venezuela, a country of the Irish province, a country devastated by more than just coronavirus.

Reflect, then, if you will, that neither abuse of vulnerable people nor a pandemic, together with the devastation that each can and does inflict, must steal from us our certain hope that "God can do more for us that we can ask for or imagine" ( Paul to Ephesians 3:20). So, as we enter year two of pandemic and as we may hear of further abuse of people.....

**Is this Dream or Fantasy?**



**NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO CELEBRATION OF MASS AT 11.00am AT PRINCETHORPE  
UNTIL AT LEAST SUNDAY 28 FEBRUARY (subject to the restrictions at the time)  
Mass streamed live from St Anne's using [fb.me/stanneswappenbury](https://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.  
**Have you thought of inviting someone to join with you at one of the streamed Masses through the week?**

<b>Sunday 7 February</b>	9.30am	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
<b>Monday 8 February</b>	9.30am	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	
<b>Tuesday 9 February</b>	9.30am	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	
<b>Wednesday 10 February</b>	9.30am	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	Memorial of St Scholastica, Virgin
	5.00pm	Wappenbury	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>Thursday 11 February</b>		NO STREAMED MASS	
<b>Friday 12 February</b>	9.30am	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	Vincent Burns RIP
<b>Saturday 13 February</b>	9.30am	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	
<b>Sunday 14 February</b>	9.30am	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Forward Diary Dates For the Season of Lent

<b>Wednesday 17 February</b>	9.30am 7.00pm	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> ) Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	Ash Wednesday Mass Ash Wednesday Mass
<b>Wednesday 24 February</b>	9.30am 7.00pm – 8.00pm	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> ) Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>Wednesday 3 March</b>	9.30am 7.00pm – 8.00pm	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> ) Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>Wednesday 10 March</b>	9.30am 7.00pm – 8.00pm	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> ) Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>Wednesday 17 March</b>	9.30am 7.00pm – 8.00pm	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> ) Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>Wednesday 24 March</b>	9.30am 7.00pm – 8.00pm	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> ) Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>Wednesday 31 March</b>	9.30am 7.00pm – 8.00pm	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> ) Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
<b>Friday 2 April</b>	3.00pm	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	Good Friday Service
<b>Saturday 3 April</b>	7.00pm	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> )	Vigil Mass
<b>Sunday 4 April</b>	9.30am 11.00am	Wappenbury ( <i>live stream</i> ) Princethorpe (TBC)	Easter Sunday Mass Easter Sunday Mass

#### Sacraments During Pandemic

You are aware now that we are deprived of the sacraments during the pandemic. While this will continue for some time yet, we must nevertheless prepare for the reception of the sacraments. Preparation for each sacrament will be conducted on line. This pandemic can really be a new God-given invitation to approach our traditional practices in an altogether new and life-giving way.

**Baptism:** if you have a child/children for baptism, please contact Fr Teddy. Tentative plans can be put in place and preparations can be made for the baptism of your child/children.

**First Holy Communion:** If you have a child/children whom you consider to be ready to receive their First Holy Communion, please contact Fr Teddy. Neither age nor class in school determines an appropriate time for a child's First Holy Communion. Please contact Fr Teddy.

**Marriage:** If you are considering getting married, please contact Fr Teddy. There are some marriages already booked for this year.

### **For Baptisms between 2004 and 2020 – Last Call**

In January each year, I check up on those who have received the Sacrament of Baptism in this parish since 2004. If you have not, to date, received a Baptismal Certificate, please contact Fr Teddy. You will be asked to complete a form with all the appropriate details so that these can be checked against parish records. It is important that these be accurate as your child grows up and applies to receive further sacraments.

### **Burial Register - Update**

The Burial Register is a record of the interments that have been undertaken in both St Anne's and Princethorpe Cemeteries over the years. On revisiting the records it has come to light that the actual date of some of the burials has not been inserted. If you have had a relative buried in either of the cemeteries please let me know the date of the burial by emailing [fr.teddy.obrien@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.teddy.obrien@rcaob.org.uk) It will enable me to have fulsome records for future generations. Many thanks.

### **A Time To Sit With Your Friend This Week**

Since we cannot come to church, perhaps we can experience the church in our own homes during the week.

This Wednesday I will expose the Blessed Sacrament between 5.00pm and 6.00 pm in the Prayer Room at Wappenbury. I will use Facebook to stream this for you as I do for Mass. There will be no formal prayer. It is for you take as much time as you wish to be with the Lord and to converse with (and listen to) God.

A simple prayer at 5.55pm and a blessing will end this time in prayer

### **A Scripture Reading Programme For The Weeks Of This Lock Down**

Catholics have not been educated in the scriptures. We are accustomed to hearing (different from 'listening') to them at Mass and there are times when they seem to make no sense whatsoever - and sometimes they really don't! A focused programme of scripture reading can be incredibly enlightening and indeed refreshing – and enjoyable too..

This lock down will probably last about six weeks at least. Time, then, to read the Gospels, the Act of the Apostles and, from the Old Testament, The Book of Job - six books in all, one per week. Starting with the Gospel of Marc (shortest), then Acts of the Apostles (history), then Luke, Matthew (more details and early years of Jesus) and, bringing up the rear, Job (really shows how to engage with God!). For limited ages: between 7 and 100!

If you've not got a bible, I can find you one. How about it?

### **Re-Opening Of Our Churches And Receiving Communion**

The reality now is that, until such time as the virus is under control, St Anne's Church Wappenbury will not open. Of course this is sad, but the only sensible approach to take. Our Lady of the Angels Chapel at Princethorpe will, likewise, remain closed at least until the end of February. I will keep you informed as matters improve and as the roll out of vaccine proceeds. I want to assure you that, as soon as government regulations permit and when it is deemed safe for us all, I will make provision for a return to Mass at Princethorpe and an opening of St Anne's, Wappenbury.

Daily Mass will continue to be streamed at 9.30am each day from the prayer room at Wappenbury.  
The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended.

### **Holy Communion For Those Sharing Streamed Mass Daily**

Thank you to those of you who have volunteered to take communion to our house bound parishioners. I will explain the details to all those interested so that everyone is safe. Let me know if you would like to have communion at home during lock down. However, let us forgo this for the time being since this virus is now out of control and best we remain at home.

Finally, have you considered inviting someone to join with you, from their own homes, at one of the Masses that are streamed every day at 9.30am? People of all faiths and none seem to welcome this invitation. During these difficult times we really need each other.

### **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](mailto: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, anniversaries of death and any significant birthdays – we would love to share our prayers with you on that day.

### **Vaccination Programme**

Please can I urge anyone who is offered the Covid prevention vaccination to go for it. I had mine at the centre in Rugby. The whole process was well organized from the reception of the patients, to the jab itself and then the ten minute wait to check you were feeling okay. And no after effects.

### Parish Finances

The Finance Committee would like to thank all of you most sincerely for your continued support of the parish finances at this difficult time for everyone. If you would like to discuss how you can help in any way with the finance of the parish please email Fr Teddy directly at [fr.teddy.obrien@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:fr.teddy.obrien@rcaob.org.uk)

If you would like to receive a **Donations Options Form** (this form outlines which of the two accounts your standing order is credited to – either the current account from which the archdiocese levies are calculated or the development account which is solely for the maintenance of the parish estate) please let me know. You can email Loretta at [lkpcurtis@hotmail.com](mailto:lkpcurtis@hotmail.com) and she will send on the form to complete and return to me, please.

The Archdiocesan Financial Statement for 2019 is now available on the archdiocesan website. You will find it on pages 24 – 28 of the diocesan magazine “*The Sower*”. <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/diocesan-magazine>

### Spreading Our News

Do you know anyone who would like to receive our newsletter by email? Please ask them to contact me and I would be delighted to add their details to my records. Are you willing to deliver a copy of the newsletter to those who do not have internet? Please let me know.

### The Parish Is On Facebook! - Thank You Sebastien Buhour

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>

### The Stamps From Your Envelopes – Donated to the RNIB

Loretta would like to thank those parishioners who have taken the trouble to save and send her the used stamps in the last few weeks. The pile of stamps will be posted on Monday to the charity. Keep collecting if you can, save them for the next couple of months, and Loretta will send more again at the end of April



### Can You knit?

Pam Hopwood and the Teams4U shoe-box team are looking for help from anyone who can knit to make mittens in childrens sizes 6-11 years old and 12 years of age and above. There is a supply of wool in the Presbytery porch if you would like to come and collect some – kindly donated by Clare Burdett and friends. If you require a pattern please contact Loretta at [lkpcurtis@hotmail.com](mailto:lkpcurtis@hotmail.com) or 07951 256796



## Teaching at Princethorpe

If you are interested in teaching opportunities at Princethorpe College why not take a look at our new Teaching at Princethorpe College brochure, please click [here](#). Our next Taste of Teaching at Princethorpe event will take place on **Thursday 25 February 2021**. Further details will follow shortly.

## Training To Become A Teacher at Princethorpe

Thinking of becoming a teacher? Then why not consider training at Princethorpe College. Whether you are a new graduate or contemplating a career change, we have opportunities available across the subjects but particularly for those with a Maths or Science degree. Though our association with the Lion Alliance, we offer a year's training as part of the School Direct scheme, leading to Qualified Teacher Status. Placements would be at Princethorpe and also at other schools within the Lion Alliance. Our training is supported by Warwick University, Birmingham City University and by our experienced mentors here.

Now in its third year our successful scheme also attracts bursaries from the government of between £7,000 and £24,000 to support those training in Chemistry, Computing, Maths, Physics, Languages and Biology.

Our Assistant Head for Teaching and Learning, Dr Liz Pyne is happy to offer advice about the different routes into teaching and what Princethorpe can offer you. Please email: [lizpyne@princethorpe.co.uk](mailto:lizpyne@princethorpe.co.uk) Further information about the Lion Alliance can be found here: [www.thelionalliance.co.uk](http://www.thelionalliance.co.uk)

Information about Getting into Teaching and possible bursaries can be found here: <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/>

## Please Remember Especially In Your Prayers

**Shelley**, friend of Janet and Jimmy Murray, who is having extensive treatment.

**Paul**, friend of Fen, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

**William Blaesberg**, in Denmark, a friend of Loretta's. William is home from hospital and continues to recover.

**Clare O'Callaghan** who suffered a serious fire at her house..

**Pauline**, a friend of Marie Kerrigan's, who has been told her cancer is inoperable, that she may be able to receive a trial drug to enable her to live longer than the one year given.

**Ann**, a friend of Marie Kerrigan's, who is recovering from a cancer operation.

**Ellie**, a friend of Marie Kerrigan's, who has inoperable cancer -that she may continue her life-saving treatment and more chemo.

**Laurie (23)** who has been diagnosed with cancer. Laurie is a relative of Sue Kimberley.

**Claire Spencer**, friend of Yvonne, who is recovering from a fall from a horse recently. Claire's father, Ken, died very recently from Covid.

**Margaret (76)**, Stretton on Dunsmore, who has been diagnosed with motor neurone disease. Please pray for Margaret and her husband, Geoff. Margaret and Geoff are neighbours to Mary Hewitt.

**Sue**. Hold Sue and family in your prayers. Sue continues further chemotherapy treatment.

**Kathleen** who is recovering at home from taking an overdose. Hold Kathleen's immediate and wider family in your prayers.

**Gillian and Isabel** whose marriages are under strain at present.

**Bill** who is experiencing serious difficulties at present. He is awaiting further assessments. Hold Bill and Yvonne in your prayers

**Paul Catterall** who is recovering after a serious accident at work before Christmas. Hold Paul, his wife Theresa, and family in your prayers.

**John Davies**, one of the team of builders who were responsible for the renovation of St Anne's. John has fallen 15ft from a ladder and is wearing a full brace to support this spine.

**Violet, in Ireland**, who may lose sight in one eye.

**Alice**, Jim Murray's sister, who is now at home, doing well and would like to thank everyone for their prayers.

**Alice, David and Sonia's daughter**. Alice is home again and in pain, awaiting a serious operation. Please hold Alice, James and family in your prayers.

**Jo** who is recovering at home from her operation. Pray for Jo and Jonnie.

**Joseph 14**, who has a long standing illness and is now receiving treatment in hospital in Staffordshire.

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

**Di**, who has more tests to overcome.

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

**Linda**, who is receiving further attention after her cancer treatment. Hold Bede and family in your prayers.

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

**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.

**Catherine** whose pregnancy with twins is worrying.

**Jim and Anne** for their young baby. Hold their wider family in your prayers.

**David**, a young father struggling at the moment.



### **Please Remember Especially In Your Prayers (continued)**

**Anne** who is very anxious at present.

**Peter Power** and family.

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

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

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

**Claire** as she settles in her new home up north.

**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.

**Liz's mum who is unwell.**

**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.

**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.

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

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

**Young people** as they struggle with hopeful return home for Christmas.

**Parishioners** who have been diagnosed with coronavirus.

**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.

### **Pray For Those Who Have Died And For Their Families - Our Prayers This Week**



**Staff at George Elliot Hospital** on the unexpected death of a young doctor. Please pray for his family and three small children

**Frances Kendrick RIP** who died last week. Please pray for her family

**Peggy Blunsom RIP** who died recently after a short stay in hospital. Hold Janet and family in your prayers.

**Mai Drobyk RIP**, Basil and Julie's mother who died recently

**Ken RIP** who died recently from Covid.

**Liam Morgan RIP**, Liam was one of the wonderful team of builders who worked on the restoration and refurbishment of St Anne's in 2014. Please pray for his family and friends.

**Tom Moloney RIP (89)** who died unexpectedly recently in Limerick. Tom is uncle and godfather to Peter Griffin and brother to Peter's mother, Anastasia. Anastasia is now the last family member of that generation. Hold Mary, Tom's wife, and the wider Griffin family in your prayers.

**Brigida RIP**, aunt to Fen Whittle's friend, Theresa. Brigida died last Wednesday.

**Jan RIP**, school friend to Sue Kimberly. Jan died recently. She buried her son a couple of years ago.

## Pray For Those Who Have Died And For Their Families - Our Prayers This Week (continued)

**Caitlin RIP** who died unexpectedly on 28 December. Hold her husband, Ciaran, and their 5 month old child, Adana, in your prayers. Pray also for Caitlin's parents, Bernard and Jo, for Rory, Caitlin's brother and for Caitlin's aunt, Clare, and Clare's family.

**Deborah Jorgensen RIP (89)**, sister-in-law to Willi Brown. Willi is the last surviving member of that generation.

**Michael Turner RIP**, brother of Jeremy Turner, husband of Sarah, who died the week before Christmas with Covid-19 in addition to his cancer. Also Jeremy's sister, Celia, whose husband Keith died recently shortly after a diagnosis of cancer. Pray for the families.

**Gisela Heines RIP (59)**, sister in law to Helen Peters (Willie Brown's daughter) who died recently.

**Maureen Mernagh RIP (95)**, aunt to Peter Power, who died recently in Co Wexford. Peter's Uncles Paddy and Tom, and his aunt Kate died earlier this year.

**Kate Tennant RIP**, friend of Loretta, please pray for Kate and her family.

**Angela RIP**, who died recently. Angela was a close friend of Mary Rogers.

**Geraldine RIP**, close friend of Jane and Tony Phayer, who died recently.

**Chris Peake RIP (71)**, former caretaker of Our Lady's School, Princethorpe, who died recently. Please pray for Chris's family.

**Stuart Cartwright RIP (76)**, who died recently. Hold Stuart's wife and daughters and Paul in your prayers.

**Paula** whose mother died recently in Dublin. Paula is secretary to our MSC Provincial, Fr Carl.

**Ron RIP**, father to a friend of Yvonne, who died from Covid recently.

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

**Augustine RIP** (19 years old) who has died in Northern France. Sebastien, Carolina and family ask for your prayers for Augustine's family.

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

**Norman RIP**, very dear friend of Paul and Fen Whittle. Keep Paul and Norman's family in your prayers.

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

**Denis and Kate McDaid** as they come to terms with the death of Bridie Gallagher, Denis's aunt in Ireland. One of eleven children – Bridie was the last member of the maternal side of the family.

**David Ratcliffe** whose father in law, Tony, died recently

**Patrick Horgan (76) RIP** Hold his family in your prayers. Pray for Jo, his very close friend.

**Wolfgang (RIP)** Chrissie's father, who died recently and her mother who has recovered well from her operation and is now at home.

**Mildred (87) RIP** (Ryton on Dunsmore)

**Betty Lucas RIP**

**Kay RIP**, aunt to Yvonne.

**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**



Letter from Archbishop Bernard Longley

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE BIRMINGHAM

2 February 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am writing to you at this very difficult time following the conviction and recent sentencing of Joseph Quigley at Warwick Crown Court.

On Friday 29th January he was sentenced to 11-and-a-half years in prison. The crimes for which he has been sentenced are deplorable and totally unacceptable. There is no excuse for any kind of abuse and the Archdiocese apologises for the suffering he has caused.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with all those who have suffered and we again acknowledge their courage in coming forward to provide evidence during the trial. I am acutely aware of the hurt and the understandable anger and concern this case has raised across the Archdiocese. I cannot change the past but where there have been failings, as an Archdiocese, we must identify them and learn from them so that they do not happen ever again.

Therefore, in the light of this, I have already commissioned Barnardo's to undertake an independent review of the Archdiocese's actions at every stage of this case. Joseph Quigley faces the Church's disciplinary processes that will address the seriousness of his offences and I will seek his laicisation by the Holy See.

All who have suffered or may be suffering abuse are encouraged to report the matter to the police by calling 101 and, if appropriate, to the Archdiocese of Birmingham Safeguarding Team on 0121 230 6240 or by email: [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk).

With my prayers for you all and every kind wish.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Bernard Longley

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