30.07.2023

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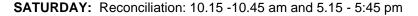
Deacon Gary Bevans 01903 503514

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## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	29 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Princess Diana RIP
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	Brian McCann RIP
•		10.30 am	Albert Davitt RIP
Monday	31 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	No Mass
Tuesday	1 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am	Margaret Mould RIP
Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.30 am	Tommy Foley RIP
Thursday	$3^{rd}$	9.30 am	John Hanrahan RIP
Friday	4 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Dick Koral RIP
Saturday	5 <sup>th</sup>	6.00 pm	Mr Merry RIP
Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup>	8.15 am	The Parish
•		10.30 am	Billy Shoer RIP



TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12, St Paul to the Romans 8:28-30, Matthew 13: 44-52

**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Matthew 17:1-9

COLLECTIONS: Church: £377 Digital Collection: £87 Thank you for your generosity

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Philip Jenkins, Sarah Johnstone, Brian Dunne, Ian Follett, Tony Kearney, Ella Doll, Paul Curd, Lola Samengo-Meehan, Maureen House, Joan Wand, Samuel Bezants, Thomas Boylan. John Mayock, Terry Stanley, Glenn, Helena & Vittorio Villa, Peggy Gallagher, Lena, Ken Harvey, Sienna Coates, Brian Caplin, Valerie Halley, Pat Duggan, Tony Grana, Sister Raymond, John Smith, Ian Threlfall, Lelia Murray, Mary Murphy, Brenda Peazold, Mary Wessel, Gordon Milne, Alfred Deacon, Roni Horstead, Ronnie Tyler, Bill Hogg, Michaela Finn, Winifred Lyons, Yvette Allen, Kerry McStravick, Lydia Van Melsen

- **2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY: MAUREEN JONES** and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Janet Flynn, Bernard Flynn, Sheila Mander, Deacon Pat Moloney, Brenda Allen, Douglas Kirkby, Doris Smith, Roger Stubbs, Kathleen Winsall, John Flood, Eileen Scott, Rosemary Brown. *May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*
- 3. WELCOME TO ANY VISITORS to our Parish this weekend. We do hope that you have enjoyed your stay.
- **4. THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**, led by Bishop Richard, is taking place between 27<sup>th</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup> August. Please remember to keep all those on the Pilgrimage in your prayers as they will you. Thank you, once again for helping two of our young people to go as Red Shirts to assist the sick pilgrims.
- <u>5. BEAUTIFUL HANDMADE CARDS</u> are now available in the shop. All proceeds will go to the Parish Mission in Kalingalinga, Lusaka
- **<u>6. A DAY WITH MARY</u>** will take place on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> August in Arundel Cathedral starting at 9.30 am with the entry Procession of Our Lady. Please see notice in Front Porch for further details.
- 7. THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES MASS will be held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 11.30am at Our Lady of Ransom, Eastbourne. Marriage is a vocation to celebrate. Whether you have been married for a year or for 70, if this year is a special one for you, join Bishop Richard and many others from across the Diocese to celebrate. The booking link is attached here Marriage Anniversaries Mass (30-Sep-2023) · ChurchSuite Events.
- **8. MARY'S MEALS COLLECTION POINT** is one of the small boxes under the notice board to the right in the Front Porch. It now costs £19.15 to feed one child for a year! Your donations will always be much appreciated.

**9. THE ANNUAL MASS FOR ALTAR SERVERS** led by Bishop Richard, will take place on 23rd September at 12 noon in Arundel Cathedral. Join a Mass for those who have served, are serving, or would like to serve - all are very welcome (Mass will be followed by light refreshments - bring a packed lunch). There is no need to register though attendees are asked to email Fr Aaron to confirm numbers.

10. TURNING TIDES WISH LIST is appealing for the many items that they need. Coffee, Long-life Milk, Sugar, Cooking Oil, Small bottled/carton drinks/water, Cereal Bars, Biscuits, Snack Pots, Tinned meat/fish. Also Toilet Rolls, Washing-up Liquid, Washing Powder, Dish-washer Tablets, Deodorant, Shampoo and conditioner. Pot noodles Tinned ham, Corned beef, Soft fruit Custard, Long life carton of juice, Snacks and crisps, Toilet rolls, Anti-bac spray and cleaning sprays, Cleaning surface wipes, Dish cloths, Black sacks, Bleach. Also Small tents, Roll mats, Rucksacks and backpacks, Sleeping bags (nylon and shower proof), Shower resistant jackets, Mens Gloves, Thermal tops and leggings, Small/med/large hoodies and joggers, Bath towels Mens boxers and Women's briefs, Women's and Mens t-shirts, Single bedding - duvets covers. Many thanks to anyone who is able to help.

**FATHER LIAM SAYS:** One of the most significant changes in the last fifty years or so, across the developed world, is the number of people who reject any form of religion and who say that they do not believe in God or a God. When I was young, great numbers of missionaries – men and women – went out from many parts of Europe to areas of the world that knew little of Christ and they won many new people to the faith. Holland and Ireland were noted for the missionary efforts they made to bring people to Christ. How different Europe is today!

We all accept that Christians must always proclaim Jesus as the Son of God but we seem to be at a loss as to how effectively to go about it. The labours of past missionaries have been very fruitful. The Church continues to grow in many parts of the world, though the state of Christianity in Europe is at a very low ebb. But this does not mean that people are a-religious and without religious longings. St Augustine said 1500 years ago that God has made us for himself and our hearts are not at rest until they rest in him. If it is true that people are truly Godless that would mean that the Holy Spirit is no longer speaking in their hearts and minds. It is tantamount to saying that God has gone away. Part of the good news of the creation is that God never goes away. In every heart God's Spirit is somehow active. The quest for God is taking new forms and perhaps finding different expressions. Perhaps the challenge facing Christians and facing the Church is to recognise ways in which God's presence in the lives and work are to be found and to realise that God continues to work in mysterious ways.

The Second Vatican Council spoke of this in the major document 'Gaudium et Spes over 50 years ago. 'For since Christ died for all and since the ultimate destiny of all humanity is the same, name divine, we must hold that the Holy Spirit offers all of us the possibility, in a way known to God, of being made partners in the Pascal Mystery'. Finding this new language that belongs to today and tomorrow is very difficult. Perhaps that is what the Synod of the Church is attempting to do. It has more than a year left in its explorations. It is very much a work in progress and we should not forget to pray that its outcome will help us in the years ahead to follow the course Christ wants for us. We must be wary, as a Church and as individuals, of ever presenting anything but mercy and gentleness if we are not to betray the God we claim to serve.

The 19th century hymn writer, Frederick Faber (1814-1863), proposed a vision that seems to come to the heart of the matter:

There is a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.
There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows. are more felt than up in heaven.
There's no place where earth's failings. are such kindness given.

For the loving God is broader than the measures of the mind, and the heart of the eternal is most wonderfully kind. If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word and our lives reflect thanksgiving, for the goodness of the Lord.

There is wonderful food for thought in this hymn. It is a pity that we hardly ever sing it. It celebrates a God who is always greater, always kinder, always gentler and more loving and merciful than we can ever imagine.