4 July 2021Divine Office: Week 2

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND ST CECILIA**

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**ORDINARY TIME YEAR B1**

**Please keep in your prayers:**

**Keith Wareham; Father Tom and all at the Care Home; Father Chacko;**

**Canon John Webb; and all families of those suffering at this time.**

**MASS INFORMATION CORRECT AT THE TIME OF PUBLISHING BUT MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE**

**Saturday July 3 9.30am HOLY MASS (EF)**

**ST THOMAS, APOSTLE, FEAST**

**5.30pm VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday July 4 HOLY MASS**

**7.30am, 9am, 10.30am**

**Monday July 5 9.30am HOLY MASS St Anthony Mary Zaccaria (Opt Mem)**

**Tuesday July 6 6.30pm HOLY MASS St Maria Goretti (Opt Mem)**

**Wednesday July 7 9.30am HOLY MASS**

**Thursday July 8 9.30am HOLY MASS**

**Friday July 9 9.30am HOLY MASS St Augustine Zhao Rong & Companions (Opt Mem)**

**Saturday July 10 5.30pm VIGIL MASS OF SUNDAY**

**Sunday July 11 NO MASS - HOLY COMMUNION 9am**

**SEA SUNDAY**

**SOCIAL DISTANCING,**

**MASKS AND HAND SANITIZERS ARE STILL OBLIGATORY**

**When will we Return to One Mass each Sunday at 9am?**

**We await the Government’s decisions about restrictions to be lifted this month. If we do return as far as possible to “normal”, then there will be no more 7.30am and 10.30am Mass on Sunday mornings, only one at 9 o’clock. We can only wait for announcements, and the date will appear in the newsletter.**

**The Pope's Intentions for July:** *Social Friendship:* We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

**First Confessions and First Holy Communions**

At a meeting of parents of the children who should receive their first Holy Communion this year (seven of them), we decided that we shall begin their instruction in two weeks’ time on **Sunday, July 18th.**  We are late in beginning if they are to receive Holy Communion on September 5th., (the Sunday before Our Lady’s birthday on September 8th) but that is just the situation this year.  We can do our best, and God’s grace is enough.

Each Sunday 9 o’clock Mass (and soon we hope that, with many restrictions being lifted, the only Mass celebrated on a Sunday will be at that time) will be a Children’s Mass, given over to helping our children understand what they are doing.  That understanding will be limited, of course, but who among us really understand what we are doing when we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus?  We can only do our best.

I should like the first 4 Sundays to be a preparation for their 1st. Confession, which will take place in August, and the second 4 Sundays a preparation for their 1st. Communion.

I am sorry if you may find this tiresome, but this is an exceptional year and so I hope you will put up with it happily for the sake of the children.

Fr. Francis had wanted to start again with our normal week-end schedule of two Mass: one on Saturday evening at 5.30pm, and one on Sunday morning at 9. However, given the Government’s delaying of the restrictions being lifted, it will be better to wait and see how things develop during July, and so **we shall continue with Masses at 7.30am, 9am, and 10.30am** on Sundays until further notice.

**However, Saturday evening Mass at 5.30** will be celebrated as normal on **July 10th, by Fr Malcolm Ferrier, but there will be no EF Mass that morning and there no Mass on Sunday morning, July 11th. but there will be a service of Holy Communion,** that is, the Sunday readings followed by Holy Communion from the Tabernacle.

Sunday, July 11th., is **Sea Sunday**. There will a second collection for Stella Maris on that day and at the Vigil Mass at 5.30 on Saturday. This year is a particularly important one for Stella Maris (The Apostleship of the Sea), the Church’s maritime welfare charity. It is important this year because seafarers and fishermen were severely impacted by Covid 19 and Stella Maris supported them throughout this period.

It is also Stells Maris’ centenary year. Last July Sea Sunday could not be held because of the lockdown. This obviously severely impacted their income.

Seafarers are extremely important to us in Britain, for 90% of our goods arrive by sea - food, equipment for hospitals, petrol. Just about everything. Seafarers work long shifts, seven days a week, often for nine months at a time, far away from their families and friends. Often they are exploited, and it happens regularly that they are exploited by their employer and left unpaid. In those cases a Stella Maris chaplain will come to the ship with food, clothes, phone cards, and medical supplies.

**They cannot do this without your support.**

There are 3 ways to donate: use the giving envelope provided at the back of church or put money in the Stella Maris bucket; text SEA to 70460 to donate £5; give via the website [stellamaris.org.uk/donate.](http://stellamaris.org.uk/donate)

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** - £181.10.  **DAY FOR LIFE** - £276.70.  **PETER’S PENCE** £170 Thanks to all who contributed. *Ruth, Parish Treasurer*

With blessings on every one of our parish family.

**Father Francis**

**Avis's husband David died peacefully at home on Tuesday June 22. Avis thanks everyone who has, with prayers and compassion, supported her and her husband during the years he has been ill, and especially during the last weeks of his life.**

**Parishioners will be very pleased to hear that Father Chacko has undergone a successful operation on his back and is now recovering well at home.**

**St Anthony Mary Zaccaria** (1502-1559) Feast day 5th July Canonized in 1897. At 22, Anthony graduated from the University of Padua with a degree in medicine. As he tended to the physical needs of the poor, however, he sensed a call also to minister to their spiritual poverty. So while he continued his medical practice, he studied theology to prepare himself for the priesthood. Ordained in 1528, Anthony served for a time near his home at Cremona. Then he moved to Milan, where he focused his attention on works of mercy. Anthony enlisted the collaboration of Louisa Torelli, Countess of Guastella, who founded a congregation of women devoted to rescuing and protecting prostitutes. In 1530, with several friends he established the Clerks Regular of St Paul, a community of priests who took vows and lived by a rule, but continued their work in the world. They made it their goal to "regenerate and revive the love of divine worship and a properly Christian way of life by frequent preaching and a faithful ministering of the sacraments." Anthony trained his brothers to preach the gospel in the spirit of St Paul. You can detect the strong Pauline influence in this excerpt from one of Anthony's sermons to members of his community:

We should love and feel compassion for those who oppose us, rather than abhor and despise them, since they harm themselves and do us good, and adorn us with crowns of everlasting glory while they incite God's anger against themselves. And even more than this, we shouldpray for them and not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil by goodness. We should heap good works like red hot coals of burning love upon their heads, as our Apostle urges us to do (see Rom. 12:20). So that, when they become aware of our tolerance and gentleness they may undergo a change of heart and be prompted to turn in love to God ...

Consider your calling, dearest brothers; if we wish to think carefully about it we shall see readily enough that its basis demands that we who have set out to follow, admittedly from afar, the footsteps of the holy apostles and the other soldiers of Christ, should not be unwilling to share in their sufferings as well. We should keep running steadily in the race we have started, not losing sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection (see Heb. 12:2). And so since we have chosen such a great Apostle as our guide and father and claim to follow him, we should try to put his teaching and example into practice in our lives. Such a leader should not be served by faint-hearted troops, nor should such a parent find his sons unworthy of him.

In 1533, the church officially recognized Anthony's community. Anthony served for 3 years as its general, then resigned to start a new branch in Vicenza. In 1539 the congregation made its headquarters at the church of St Barnabas in Milan, and so its members have come to be called Barnabites. The same year Anthony became ill and died at his mother's house in Cremona. *(The Times Book of Saints)*

**St Maria Goretti** (1890-1902) Feast day 6th July Canonized in 1950 Patron of teenage girls. In 1900 two farm labourers relocated their destitute families to an old barn near Nettuno, Italy. Luigi Goretti, his wife Assunta and their 6 children moved in with Giovanni Serenelli and Alessandro, his teenage son. Soon after the move, Luigi died, leaving Assunta to carry on his work. Maria, her oldest child, who was 10, assumed the household duties and cheerfully supported her mother. At 12, Maria was already a beautiful young woman. Alessandro, then 19, twice made advances toward her. She rebuffed him and kept his propositions secret because he had threatened to kill her. On 5 July 1902, Maria sat atop the hovel's stairs, mending Alessandro's shirt. He stormed past her, ordered her into a bedroom, grabbed her, and attempted to rape her. "No! No! No!" Maria cried. "Don't touch me, Alessandro! It's a sin!" She resisted him with all her strength. Angered beyond control, he stabbed her 14 times.

Maria survived a pain-filled 24 hours in the hospital. She showed more concern for where her mother would sleep in the hospital than for herself. Before she died she forgave Alessandro and prayed for God to have mercy on him.

Alessandro was sentenced to 30 years' hard labour and imprisoned at Noto, Sicily. One night in 1910 he dreamed that Maria handed him a bouquet of lilies and he began to feel remorse. Soon after, Bishop Blandini of Noto visited him, explaining that Maria had forgiven him and that God would also forgive him. The message struck home. A few days later Alessandro sent the bishop this letter:

*I cannot tell you what comfort has come to my sorrowing soul through the conversation with your Excellency, for which I send my most heartfelt gratitude.*

*It is indeed true that in a moment of mental aberration I was led to commit a barbarous murder which the law has already punished. But I can never accuse myself of doing it with the sole and firm purpose of committing so great a wrong. The fact that I was very young and knew little about life was the primary cause which brought me to such a step which I regret bitterly.*

*I regret doubly the evil I have done, because I realise that I have taken the life of a poor, innocent girl. Up to the last moment she wanted to protect her honour, sacrificing herself rather than give in to my wishes. This it was that drove me to so terrible and deplorable a deed. Publicly, I detest the evil that I have done and I ask God's forgiveness and that of the poor, desolate family for the great wrong I committed. I hope that I too, like so many others in this world, may obtain pardon.*

*I declare this to your Excellency with the hope that you also will pardon me this great crime of my inexperienced youth. May your prayers united to mine obtain for me the forgiveness of him who governs all things, and the calm and the blessing of the poor departed one.*

Alessandro was released from prison early for good behaviour. He reformed his life and ultimately joined the Franciscan Third Order. Pope Pius XII canonized Maria Goretti in 1950.Assunta was present for the event, the first time a mother was present when her child was declared a saint.

On Christmas Eve 1936, Alessandro visited Assunta and asked her to forgive him, which she did. And together they attended Midnight Mass in the church where Maria lay buried. Alessandro was also present in St Peter's Square in 1950, probably the first murderer to attend the canonization of his victim. *(The Times Book of Saints)*

**Our website is now running again.  To find it, just go to** [**blandfordcatholics.org**](http://blandfordcatholics.org/)

**THE MAIN ONLINE CHURCHES WE USE ARE:**

St. Bede's, Basingstoke [www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk](https://www.stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk/)

St. Mary of all Angels, Worthing [https://www.stmaryoftheangels.org.uk/](http://www.stmaryoftheangels.org.uk/)

Our Lady, Star of the Sea, Weymouth. [https://www.ourlady-starofthesea.com/](http://www.ourlady-starofthesea.com/)

Also: [www.churchservices.tv](http://www.churchservices.tv/) This website gives the times of all Church Services (Mass, Exposition, Holy Hour etc) at many churches in UK and Ireland from 5.30am until 9.15pm. *Tom and Teresa*

**The following links are also to churches and chapels who are currently streaming live Masses and other services:LIVE STREAMING OF HOLY MASS** - **YOUTUBE LIVE** Plymouth Cathedral is live streaming the Mass daily at 11am and an Evening Prayer will be posted at 4.30pm every day. The link is:https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUNt4x\_nz0A (unfortunately the sound is not very good)

**LIVE ADORATION FROM TYBURN CONVENT:** [https://adoration.tyburnconvent.org.uk](https://adoration.tyburnconvent.org.uk/)

**WALSINGHAM TIMES:** https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/ and on youtube. There is a webcam in the **GROTTO IN LOURDES** (just google the words webcam, Lourdes and grotto) and Masses, the recitation of the Rosary and other prayers can be seen there throughout the day. There is a list on their website giving the details of which languages are used at which times. **WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL**  is now streaming live some Masses and services - please visit the Cathedral's website for further information and future schedules.

[www.cpg.church](https://www.cpg.church/) takes you to **GUILDFORD PARISH CHURCH** website, where there are links to live-streamed Masses and other devotions online (thanks to Ann, Michael and Lynette for this)

Also the **REDEMPTORISTS** www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online with Father Denis McBride, C.Ss.R. (thank you to Isobel for this).

**BUCKFAST ABBEY** The Abbey (currently closed to the public) is livestreaming Mass, Matins, Lauds, Vespers and Compline. You can view these services on YouTube and Facebook.

And here is a link useful to those who are Deaf or hearing-impaired:

**SIGNED MASS** The parish of Our Lady and St Vincent in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, is providing a Sign Interpreted Mass for its Sunday Vigil – 6pm every Saturday. [You can watch here](https://www.churchservices.tv/pottersbar/embed).

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**NOTICE-BOARD** The notice-board on the street has been renewed. The old man needed to be replaced because it was looking rather shabby, and it is important that our public face, at least, should look attractive and cared-for. The coat of arms, as you may recognise, shows the arms of the Holy See, the same as on the Vatican flag.

**COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP (BLANDFORD WELCOME GROUP)**

To better capture what we’re about, the group is now known as the “Blandford Welcome Group” and a number of events are coming up, in support of the project (see below).:-

* Further proposed activities will be announced as and when they are finalized.

Should you wish to help with any of these events, please contact **Anthony Reed** or **Marie Fisher.**

We are planning to have a barbecue in the garden on the feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady on **Sunday, August 15th**, the proceeds going to the Blandford Welcome Group for Refugees.  I do hope that many will come.  It will be a lovely opportunity for the parish to be able to get together again and at the same time to follow the Holy Father’s urging to support Our Lord’s work in this way.  There will be good food and drink, stalls.  Let us pray for good weather!

Tickets for this event will go on sale in the coming weeks after week-end Masses.  So that we may cater accurately for numbers, please kindly complete the form at the back of the church, indicating whether you intend to come, and how many will be in your party.

*Father Francis*

The first draw in the **PARISH SWEEPSTAKE** will be at the barbecue on 15th August.. *Mike*

**We welcome contributions to this newsletter from parishioners; please send in links to websites, hard copy, email pictures, prose or poetry, whether to inform or to entertain....**

"In the rush to people-please, someone has attempted yet again to make the Bible more accessible. A man on the wireless recently revealed that Jesus said to his disciples something on the lines of, 'Don't bother about all those fish, soon you'll be catching people', which sounds as though it should be addressed to the Old Bill rather than the missionary. For all the cloth-eared to whom this sort of thing appeals there must be thousands who would prefer the phrase 'fishers of men'. Is ugliness more politically correct, or is it that we are considered too stupid to appreciate beauty?"

- Alice Thomas Ellis, *God Has Not Changed*

(contributed by Avis)

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"There are many graces that we will not obtain if we ask them of God. But if we ask them of Mary, we will obtain them, not because she is more powerful but because God wants to honour her in this way."

- St Anselm

**From the *Vatican News***

(The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople is the leader of the Orthodox Church. It is Pope John Paul II who said that the two Churches are the two lungs of the Universal Church, East and West. Relations between the Catholic and Orthodox Churches are more important than anything else, especially since, unlike other Western Churches, we and the Orthodox Church hold fast to the teaching of the Apostles and early Church Fathers concerning the Eucharist and the Apostolic Succession, teachings from the very first days of Christianity that have been abandoned by Protestants, changing fundamentally their Christian beliefs.)

Pope Francis meets with a delegation of the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew and speaks of the importance of Christian communion as an example as we seek global communion after the pandemic.

Addressing the delegation of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople in the Vatican on Monday, Pope Francis noted that “this annual exchange of delegations between the Church of Rome and that of Constantinople” for the feasts of Saints Peter and Paul, “is a sign of the communion – real, albeit not yet full – which we already share”.

This year, the Pope notes, the celebration of our respective saints comes “in a world still struggling to emerge from the dramatic crisis caused by the pandemic”. The Pope noted that there is only one thing more serious than this crisis, “and that is the risk that we will squander it, and not learn the lesson it teaches”. This is a lesson in humility, continued the Pope, which shows us that “it is not possible to live healthy lives in an unhealthy world, or to go on as we were, without recognizing what went wrong”.

For us Christians on the path to full communion, means “asking ourselves how we wish to move forward”, noted the Pope. He explained that every crisis represents a crossroad at which we can either "withdraw into ourselves, seeking our own security and expediency", or at which "we can be open to others, which entails risks but also God’s promised fruits of grace. "Without ignoring the differences that need to be resolved through charitable and truthful dialogue, could we not begin a new phase of relations between our Churches, marked by walking more closely together, by desiring to take real steps forward, by becoming more willing to be truly responsible for one another?", asked the Pope. He explained that "if we are docile to love, to the Holy Spirit who is the creative love of God and who brings harmony to diversity, he will open the way to a renewed fraternity”.

Bringing his address to a close, the Pope noted that "the witness of growing communion between us Christians will also be a sign of hope for many men and women, who will feel encouraged to promote a more universal fraternity and a reconciliation capable of healing past wrongs". This, he stressed, is the only way to the dawn of a future of peace.

Finally, Pope Francis thanked all those present and asked that they convey to His Holiness Bartholomew, who was unable to travel to Rome, his cordial and respectful greetings: "Through the intercession of Saints Peter and Paul, Princes of the Apostles, and of Saint Andrew, the First-Called, may Almighty God in his mercy bless us and draw us ever closer to his own unity”.

The exchange takes place annually marking the respective feasts of their Patron Saints: 29 June for the celebration of Rome's Saints Peter and Paul; and 30 November for the celebration of Istanbul's St. Andrew.