



A warm welcome to all who gather today
around the Altar of the Lord in our parishes of
Saint John the Baptist
&
Saint Bernadette
Working in Communion for Mission
Parish Priest: Father Tom Finnegan



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Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - 13th September 2020



Sunday Scripture Thoughts: Reports suggest a lot more people are going to confession these days, including young people. It's being referred to as the Pope Francis 'bounce'. There seems to be an informality about our Pope that makes people feel generally more comfortable about matters of faith, and of celebrating this beautiful sacrament. After all, it is an essential sacrament for growth in the spiritual life. To open ourselves up to the assurance of God's mercy through sacramental confession, we are refreshed and renewed and the still small voice of God becomes easier to hear. Don't be fearful of this sacrament. Embrace it and let yourself be embraced by God.

ALL PUBLIC MASSES AVAILABLE ON LIVE-STREAM AND YOUTUBE				Mass Intention:
Saturday 12 th September	St John's	6pm	Vigil Mass	Claudia Clasper (SI)
Sunday 13 th September	St Bernadette's	9am	Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year	People of the Parishes People of the Parishes People of the Parishes
	St John's	10.30am 12noon		
Monday 14 th September	St John's	9am	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross	Margaret Scott (RD)
Tuesday 15 th September	St John's	6pm	Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows	Special Intention
Wednesday 16 th September	No Mass today		Saints Cornelius and Cyprian	Church open 9-10am
Thursday 17 th September	St Bernadette's	10am	Saint Edith of Wilton	Kathe Rosenau (RD)
Friday 18 th September	St John's	9am	Ordinary Time	Grace Pepper (SI)
Saturday 19 th September	St John's	12noon	Ordinary Time	Hilda Burbridge (RD)
	St John's	6pm	Vigil Mass	People of the Parishes
Sunday 20 th September	St Bernadette's	9am	Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year	People of the Parishes William Willis People of the Parishes
	St John's	10.30am 12noon		

KEY: SI = Special Intention RD=Recently Deceased ANN=Anniversary

In our Prayers this Week...

Prayers: Please for those who are sick: John Streeter, Stephen Marsh. Helena Drawnel, Cecily Geldart, Maureen Watson. If you are sick and wish your name to be added to the prayer list, then please let Fr. Tom know. If you know of anyone who wishes to be added, then again, please let Fr. Tom know.

Recently Deceased: Ann Finlay, Patrick Whelan. May they rest in Peace.

Anniversaries: We keep in our prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Diocesan Prayer Link: St Peter, Swindon / Sacred Heart, Royal Wootton Bassett.

A few words from Fr. Tom: Someone said to me after the Mass in Westbury on Thursday that he felt sorry for the dwarves. I was a little mystified by his comment and then he clarified the remark. He felt sorry for the Seven Dwarves from Snow White, as they can now only be Six. This made me smile. The new govt guidelines limiting social groups of six will bring some challenges in many areas of society. Places of worship thankfully will not be affected by these changes and we will continue as we have been for the last few weeks. It's been lovely to see numbers increasing each week. So, who will have to leave the group? Doc, Bashful, Dopey??? And Snow White of course, will not be able to visit! **Fr. Tom**



Some Notices!

First Holy Communion and Confirmation:

Throughout September and early October we will be celebrating 9 First Holy Communion Masses on Saturdays and Sundays. These celebrations are taking place because the First Holy Communion celebrations couldn't take place in May because of

the Covid lockdown. It was a great disappointment to all. We are happy though to be 'catching up' now. Please keep these children in your prayers at this time. Plans for preparation for First Holy Communion in 2021 are in process. Because of social distancing, we will have to adapt our catechesis methods to ensure all are kept safe. More information to follow. This is also the case for those wishing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Parish Sponsored Walk: Despite COVID-19, we are glad to announce the Annual Parish Sponsored Walk will take place on Sunday 13th September. It will start as usual from Frank Geraghty's Garden at 3.30pm Elmhurst, Southbrook Lane, Steeple Ashton BA14 6HW. This year we will be supporting Fr. Pratap in India, they are still experiencing much hardship because of poverty and the impact of COVID-19. If you wish to walk, then please do. The walk will end at the Longs Arms Pub in Steeple Ashton!

Parish Golf Day: We are happy to announce that there is a Parish Golf Day on Wednesday 30th September @ Cumberwell Golf Club. Coffee and Bacon Butty from 10.30am, 18 holes & 2 course meal, plus prizes/banter all included in a fun day £35.00. Names to either Brian Moore "Brian Moore" misereor@tiscali.co.uk or Mike Heather michaelheather@blueyonder.co.uk before 23rd please. (Food on this day may not take place because of the new govt guidelines not allowing more than 6 people to gather socially).

Livestreaming of Mass: A big thankyou to all who have donated towards the cost of the livestreaming. We are still encountering broadband issues. The company that was to improve this have withdrawn. We are looking elsewhere now for a broadband provider. Sorry for the delay with this.

Soup Run Update: As well as continuing the Soup Run during the whole of lockdown, St Johns have also covered alternate Thursdays with Bethesda Baptist Church during this time. We have noticed extra clients turning up – and every scrap of food was appreciated, especially the homemade soup and cakes. Just to say a huge thank you to everyone who enabled the Soup Run to keep going, and especially to those who volunteered to provide extra for the Thursday slot. Finally, if anyone would like to join us and provide soup once every five weeks, you would be most welcome. Please contact Mary Turner 01225 767089.

CAFOD: CAFOD has joined with the UK Disasters Emergencies Committee to help millions of people whose lives are at risk as coronavirus spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict. You can donate at cafod.org.uk/coronavirus to help CAFOD scale up its coronavirus response through our global Church family.

Offering: The parish still needs your generosity during these times. If you do not do so already please consider setting up a direct debit if you can afford it. Please let me know if you need a form by emailing me thomas.finnegan@cliftondiocese.com You can also use the Paypal donation button on the Parish Website.

You can make your usual offering as you leave Church after Mass. There will be white collection boxes stationed at each door. **300 Club:** The 300 Club is still running. Last weeks winners as follows £200 282 Vicky Hiscox, £70 227 Karen Yates £50 185, Tim & Christine Cotter £ 10 140 Lucy Arnold. 300 Club Application forms are available from Frank Geraghty, f.geraghty303@btinternet.com, 01380871083. New members most welcome.

Newsletter: If you know of anyone who does not have email and would like a paper copy of this newsletter, please let me know their names and address.