



**LITURGY**

**First reading:** Isaiah 25:6-10

**Response to the Psalm:** In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

**Second reading:** Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become the children of God. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 22:1-14



**Dear Parishioners**

Today's extract from Paul's lovely letter of joy to the Philippians - the last this year - shows us a life of paradox, of serenity in the midst of trouble. Paul had experienced life as it is for many of us: a mixture of poverty and plenty, joy and sadness, the valley of darkness as well as green pastures. Paul was proud to be *God*-sufficient, instead of *self*-sufficient as others preached. Right before this passage Paul had mentioned the stoic ideal of *self*-sufficiency. The stoics advised eliminating all emotion, feeling and desire, until you came to the stage where you no longer cared. One of the leaders of the Stoics advised to begin with breaking a cup and saying disdainfully, "I don't care." Then you go on to break a chair, then a table, and then ever more precious household utensils, and do the same.

Ultimately, you go to yourself, and if you're hurt you say the same thing. If you do this long enough, you'll come to the stage of being able to watch your closest loved ones suffer and die and say, "I don't care." You were to do this, the Stoics said, deliberately, so that you could finally come to see everything that happened in this troubled world as the will of God. Their notion is very different from what Christians call serenity. As one writer said, "The Stoics made of the heart a desert, and called it peace."

There are still Stoics among us; some of them masquerade as Christians. But true Christians live their lives, paradoxically, in serenity while at the same time having deep compassion for suffering. The *true* Christian has joyfully accepted God's invitation to His party, at the same time realising that, as with the Eucharist, to share a meal is to accept a commitment to the person whose guest we are. In whatever hardship happens to us, we pray the beautiful words of today's Responsorial Psalm: "The Lord is my shepherd." That can provide us with the paradox of true serenity even in a sea of trouble.

**God Bless,  
Fr. Benedict OSB**

# St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

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Registered Charity Number 1063237

This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham and served by the Benedictine Monks of Douai Abbey

**Parish Priest: Fr. Benedict Thompson O.S.B**

**Rev. Deacon Peter Griffiths**



**Week 28 Year (A)**

**Week commencing Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

**General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

The Douai Abbey Parishes Trust is responsible for our Parish and is committed to ensuring high standards of information security, privacy and transparency. Check our website, address above, for full details

## Masses

Sat 10 <sup>th</sup> Oct		<b>28<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Year A)</b>	Danny Scally RIP
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> Oct		<b>28<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Year A)</b>	People of the Parish
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct			
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct			Doleen Evans RIP
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Oct			
Thur 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct		St. Teresa of Jesus(m)	Nell Bridge RIP
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct			
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct		<b>29<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Year A)</b>	Neil Volante
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct		<b>29<sup>th</sup> Sunday (Year A)</b>	People of the Parish

**Mass is celebrated daily except on Mondays.**

**If you would like a mass offered for a particular intention, please email the parish or put a note through the door of the presbytery.**

**Those Who Have Asked for Prayers:** Faith Lyons, Steve Smith, Jane-Christina Thomson, Joan Smith, Derek Sollis, Michael Hall, Christopher Hurd, Edward O'Neill, Michael Smith, Barbara Wall, Pamela Young, Mick Sollis, Margaret Birkett, Annie McHugh, Georgette Cowell, Dolores Flynn, Carol Shuck, Tony Lyons, Jackie Ingrams, Brian Arthur, Michelle Norton, Melvin Probyn, Peter Sollis, Fred Chadfield. Mary Cross.

**Those who have recently died:**

Jennifer Harvey, Anne Nora Finnegan, Mary Hadley, Barbara Flowers, Gerald Clarke, Alma Clarke, Eric George Dunton, Jill Smith, Paula Brookes, Jean McCarthy, Joe Brennan, Paul Bunn, Richard Flynn, Denis Charlton, Mary Gardner, Charles Maries, Sheila Hall, Donald Newell, Helen Meaney, Bridget Clarke, Sylvia Flanagan, Robert McCarthy, Pamela Young, Norah O'Neill-Thomas, Susanna Westmeath, Nell Bridge. Doleen Evans.

**Parish Safeguarding Representative:- Gemma Holdsworth**

## Information and Prayers

### PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



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

*Based on a prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori*

**A big 'Thank You' to all those people who have sent cheques and cash over the last week. Please let us keep each other in our prayers.**

**God Bless you.**

**On the welcome page of our website** you will find a button marked 'Please sign up for our Bulletin Mailing List.' If you click on the button and fill in your details a copy of the bulletin will be sent to your email address automatically each week when the website is updated. This will also help us to notify you rapidly if a Mass in cancelled due to lockdown or a change in government rules. Please help us to help you and register your details as soon as you can. **Because of diocesan regulations concerning GDPR Neil and I will be unable to send out the bulletins after the end of November!**

**There has been a definite change in the weather** and autumn is certainly on its way. We are required to have the windows open in the church during Holy Mass & Sacramental Services to allow for adequate ventilation. Unfortunately, this does mean that the church may be a bit chilly. I would, therefore, encourage you to come prepared! If it is chilly outside – it will probably be chilly in the church – and a coat will help to keep you warm. There will be little point in putting the heating on, if the windows are open. If, and when, this advice from the Government and the English Bishops' conference changes, I will let you know.