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**LITURGY**

**First reading:** Jeremiah 23:1-6

**Response to the Psalm:** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**Second reading:** Ephesians 2:13-18

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia, The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord, I know them and they follow me. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mark 6:30-34

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**Dear Parishioners**

Various conflicts in recent years remind us that when war breaks out, the normal decencies of life are soon forgotten. The good relations built up between neighbours give way to mutual suspicion and enmity. What is it that unites people?

It may be a common culture, a shared task (such as defending one's country) or perhaps the experience of living under one ruler. But these are more or less changeable aspects of our lives. Real unity is based on friendship or love – seeking the good in others. The unity in a loving family is not something transient.

It is based on relations of mutual caring that do not diminish with time.

In an ideal world, society as a whole might be bound by similar relations. Good government can make society more just but, unfortunately, no amount of legislation can ensure friendship and love.

The readings this week remind us that Christ is the source of all true unity between

human beings. The Gospel tells us that Christ is the promised shepherd and in Ephesians we are told that the shepherd of Israel is our shepherd too. The bishops of the Church who follow in Christ's footsteps, obedient to his command to teach and baptise all nations, are the chief shepherds of Christ's flock. But we all share in their task of gathering and uniting God's people. Each meeting with a fellow human being is an opportunity to unite or to divide. Will our daily contacts with others be divisive or will they serve to unite? Will they increase mutual

understanding and strengthen the bonds of friendship or will they add to suspicion, prejudice and antagonism? Will we in our human contacts seek the security of defining ourselves over and against those 'others' who do not belong to our race, religion or culture and have no place in the little worlds we inhabit, or will we be willing to shed the skin of a narrow identity for a truly Catholic social vision, open to the working of God's Spirit in all men and women. Jesus reminds us that true religion is a question of sharing in the love that the Father offers us through the Son and in his Spirit. The unity that Christ offers us is not just peace on earth but friendship with God and each other for all eternity.

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**



**16<sup>th</sup> Week of Year (B)**

**Week commencing Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**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 17 <sup>th</sup> July		<b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday (YearB)</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Communion Children
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> July		<b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday (YearB)</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Communion Children
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> July			
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> July			People of the Parish
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> July			Private Intention
Thur 22 <sup>nd</sup> July		<b>St. Mary Magdalene (F)</b>	
Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> July		<b>St. Bridget of Sweden (F)</b>	Private Intention
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> July		<b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday (YearB)</b>	Millie & Douglas Thompson RIP
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> July		<b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday (YearB)</b>	Paul Bunn RIP

**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, 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, Alan Clatworthy, Anthony Woodhouse, Maurice Andrews, Bud Sollis, Max Stoddart.

**Those who have recently died:**

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, Jean Monica Tucker, Fr. John Fallon, Judy Husband Graham Janes.

**Parish Safeguarding: Mrs. Helen Woodhouse**  
Contact in confidence [sg.stmary.studley@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stmary.studley@rcaob.org.uk)

### **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*



### **How to support your Parish As We Move Forward**

At some point, sooner rather than later I hope, we will need to reinstate all our different ministries, we particularly need more volunteers to act as stewards. Please could I ask you to email me at [stmarysstudley@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysstudley@gmail.com) or phone me on 01527 852524 and let me know if you are willing and able to support us once more. Please could you pass on this message to anyone you know who does not receive the bulletin. Please remember that you are the parish and without you this parish would cease to exist.

**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.**

### **INFORMATION**

**Unfortunately, there will be no Saturday evening Mass this week, 17<sup>th</sup> July. Also, after this date, you will no longer need to book for the Saturday evening Mass, (so you do not need to phone Lin), please just turn up when and if you can. If 'Track and Trace' is still needed, we will ask for your details when you arrive.**