



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



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.

St Mary's Roman Catholic Church

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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



16th Week of Year B

Week commencing Sunday 21st July 2024

Parish Safeguarding: Mrs. Helen Woodhouse

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Helen Woodhouse. She can be contacted at: sg.stmarys.studley@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern

Masses

Sat 20 th July	5.00pm	16 th Sunday Year (B)	Margaret & Martin Flynn RIP
Sun 21 st July	10.30am	16 th Sunday Year (B)	John Kickham RIP & Kickham Family
Mon 22 nd July			
Tues 23 rd July		St. Bridget of Sweden (Feast)	Private Intention
Wed 24 th July			
Thurs 25 th July		St. James (Feast)	Mary Phipps RIP
Fri 26 th July		SS Joachim & Anne (mem)	
Sat 27 th July	5.00pm	17 th Sunday Year (B)	Leslie Hedley RIP
Sun 28 th July	10.30am	17 th Sunday Year (B)	Zita, Harold & family RIP

Mass is celebrated privately daily except on Monday.

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, *please do not place it in the collection bag*. Thank you.

Those Who Have Asked for Prayers:

Derek Sollis, Dolores Flynn, Fred Chadfield, Chanel Mullings, Clive Rickhards,, Jill Spurrell, Stan Phipps, Judith Baylis, Jackie Gannon, Mick Sollis, Tim Harrison, Agnes Wilkins.

Those who have recently died:

Mary Judith Smith (nee Hewitt), Wyn Varley, Raimondo Gemeli, Anthony Woodhouse, Barbara Woodhouse, Kathleen McLoughlin, Peter McGoldrick, Anthony Roache, Lionel Quigley. Keith John Francis Cotterell, Anna Rose McGoldrick, Mary Baker, Georgette Cowell, Anthony Mathew, John Knox, Bill McCarthy, Mary Phipps, Alan Clatworthy, Abbot Finbar Kealy and all those we have been asked to pray for.

INFORMATION

Sunday Coffee

Do please come and join us after Mass near the end of each month. **The next coffee morning will be on Sunday 28th July after the 10.30am Mass. We currently have no volunteers!**

Please come and enjoy a coffee, biscuits, cake and a chat.

Second Collection

The weekly second collection will normally be for help towards the payment of the diocesan levy and the upkeep of the house and church buildings. Both the church and the house are Grade II listed so any work done has to be to a high standard as set by the requisite authority.

Mass Intentions

I have recently received an influx of Mass Intentions. Please be patient if your intention has not yet appeared in the bulletin. If you have requested a certain date, I will do my best to comply with your wishes, but Saturday and Sunday Mass Intentions are running through to August!

Graveyard

Please would people refrain from keeping bottles of water in the hedges of the graveyard. Unfortunately, this is encouraging people to leave all sorts of rubbish in there as well. It might be an idea to leave the bottles in the car park side of the hedge and we'll see if that works!

New Sunday Missal

The newly translated Sunday Missal will be available from the end of October 2024. The cost is £19.95 for a red hardback edition. The parish will be ordering missals for those who want them. Please complete the form with your details at the back of the church and enclose cash or a cheque made payable to St. Mary's RC Parish for £19.95