

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope this bulletin finds you all well and safe. And for those among us who are not feeling particularly fine, a promise of prayers and I ask everyone within our community to do the same.

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and someone half seriously and half joking said, "What is there left to give up Father?" It is a fair question when you think of it as many people have been through a period of challenge, endured restrictions, and many difficulties.

Perhaps then it is more to do with a change in outlook and mentality. Is it possible for us to suggest to ourselves that, although not the best of times for us, we might still make our problems into a positive by offering them up for the sake of our souls, the souls of all the people we love and all those in the world who are in deep need! We often say, "There are others worse off than ourselves, but when the pressure is on, we find it very difficult to think that way." So many things are relative in life, but we can try to follow a long tradition and offer our suffering as Christ did on the cross.

Lent is not only about giving things up; it is also about change. The church often refers to conversion and reconciliation. Conversion is a turning point and Lent is the perfect time to re-commit our efforts, especially the mental effort for prayer and thinking about the teachings of Christ and the heady principles that the church in general stands for. Reconciliation is an understanding that we come closer to God and to the community of Christ, something we celebrate when we pray the Mass. It is a thing often overlooked by those who come close to the church for a period of time and then drift away maintaining that their relationship with God can be dealt with privately. It may be true but then it misses the relationship with Christ that is accomplished through Christ and his community, Christ in the very Eucharist itself.

To do all this is helped by the giving of time to prayer, reading and arguing with ourselves about the appropriateness of Christ and the Church. Alas for many, because of lockdown, home learning and attempts to earn a living, time is not always available. But then that is the question and choice, "Where can I find the time, am I willing to find the time to think and pray, to revise my catholic/Christian lifestyle?"

Please remember that it is the foodbank collection this Sunday 2-3 p.m. in the church carpark. There has been a particular call and need for cleaning materials and deodorants. See what you can do for those who may be in greater need than ourselves.

Please remember in your prayers our most recently faithful departed, Sheila Wade and Michael Joseph Devaney. May they rest in peace! Please also remember their family and friends.

God bless and stay as safe as possible,

**Father Anton s.c.j.**

### **Our Lady & Saint John the Baptist, Ashley and Our Lady & Saint Werburgh, Clayton**

*The parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No 234216*

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Clayton and Ashley: 01782 613023**

**[Parishes Office Hours: Wed/ Thur/Fri/Sat 10.00 am – 1 pm]**

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### **Sunday 14th February 2021 Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B**

#### **The Angelus**

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto  
Mary.  
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.  
  
Hail Mary, full of grace,  
The Lord is with Thee;  
Blessed art thou among women,  
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb,  
Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners,  
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen  
  
V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
  
R. Be it done unto me according to  
thy word.  
  
Hail Mary. . .

And the Word was made flesh.  
R. And dwelt among us.  
  
Hail Mary. . .  
  
V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.  
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of  
Christ.  
Let us pray:  
Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace  
into our hearts,  
that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son  
was made known by the message of an angel,  
may by His Passion and Cross be brought  
to the glory of His Resurrection.  
Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen