

Sixteenth Sunday Year B

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus our Lord,

I hope that you are keeping safe and well. We approach something of a watershed this coming Monday when the promise of a reduction in lockdown regulations is about to occur. Let us pray for our country and the world at large that things will gradually become more positive as time rolls on. There again let it not be a simple return to previous values but rather a realisation that life can be short and that it makes us remember that it is then even more precious. May we also realise that things we thought so important can in fact take second place to the needs of others and the deepening and the practise of our faith. For where do we go when this life closes its door?

As society is given permission to reduce its restrictions, we will be keeping an eye on developments to see when as a parish we can reduce our restrictions. However, we will go cautiously giving notice whenever appropriate. One possible move for the future may be to slightly reduce distancing as some, but not all the Masses. We will monitor the situation over the next few weeks.

Please note that this weekend is the last streamed Mass for the summer period. I would like to extend my deep and sincere thanks to our technician(s) who have devoted their time over the past eighteen months to give us this service. In September following the return from holidays I will be looking at a more automatic and permanent system. The cost for a good system is around £4,800 and then £500 per annum to run and maintain. It looks as though the church authorities will allow streaming for a good while yet. Any pledges towards this investment will be gratefully received.

With all this in mind we are called to pray for the repose of the souls of both Gwen Bastions and Bernard Shamarati who died during the week. May they find their rest and their place amongst the Saints in paradise! May they see the Lord face to face and know him as he really is, full of love and compassion for us, his lowly creatures.

Father Julian Green rang during the week to thank everyone for the gifts given by the parish in recognition of his 25th Anniversary of Ordination. He is very grateful that he is so fondly remembered. "Ad multos annos" to Father Julian.

A word of thanks to the Lord for the good weather last weekend so that we could celebrate First Holy Communion. Thank you for all the hard work of the staff who gave up a good part of their Saturday to make it all happen. Let us recall that as the Lord loves us in Holy Communion that it is also a way in which we learn and return our love to the Lord Jesus.

Next weekend there is an appeal for the Missionary work of the Marist priests and brothers. We are normally very generous to the annual Mission Appeal so I ask that you take time to consider what you might be able to contribute to their cause.

Next Tuesday schools close and the summer holidays begin. We also say goodbye to four members of staff including our head and wish them well for the future. Please keep them in your prayers as they look to their times ahead. Pray also for our new members of staff that they settle in well and have a happy future with us.

Meanwhile please God bless and take care!

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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Sunday 18th July 2021

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The Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto
Mary.

And the Word was made flesh.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with Thee;
Blessed art thou among women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
Jesus.

Hail Mary. . .

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death. Amen

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ.

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

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

R. Be it done unto me according to
thy word.

was made known by the message of an angel,
may by His Passion and Cross be brought
to the glory of His Resurrection.

Hail Mary. . .

Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen