



CATHOLIC CHURCHES
of
OUR LADY & ST. KENELM, HALESOWEN
OUR LADY OF LOURDES, OLD HILL

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(Part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered Charity No. 234216)



LITURGY FOR THE WEEKEND 7th/8th SEPTEMBER 2024
TWENTY - THIRD SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME

TIMES OF MASS & MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 7th	Vigil of 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm H	Pro Populo
Sun 8th	Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00am H 11.30am OH	Marion and Graham Evans (R.I.P) Marie Hue and Holy Souls (R.I.P)
Mon 9th	Feria	No Mass	_____
Tues 10th	Feria	No Mass	_____
Wed 11th	Feria	No Mass	_____
Thurs 12th	Feria	9am SCH 12noon OH	Celebrant's Intentions
Fri 13th	St John Chrysostem	12noon H	Joseph K (R.I.P)
Sat 14th	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Vigil of 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10am H 6.30pm H	Pro Populo Special Intention
Sun 15th	Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00am H 11.30am OH	Dennis Abbott Patrick Kiely (Int)

MASS INTENTIONS to Father Stefan please

Masses marked H will be at Halesowen, OH will be at Old Hill

Confessions

There will be an opportunity for Confessions at Halesowen from 10.30 am (After Saturday 10am Mass) until 11am. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during confessions.

Confessions are also available by appointment

Second Collection

There will be a second collection this weekend (8th September) for the Maintenance Fund (H) and Parish Debt (OH).

Next Weekend (15th), there will be a collection for Catholic Evangelisation (Home Mission).

The weekend of 22nd September, there will be a collection for Fr Hudson's Society.

Education Sunday

On this Sunday, the Church in England and Wales will mark the 176th Education Sunday. As we have begun the beginning of a new academic year, let us entrust to Almighty God all who are involved in the provision of Catholic education in our schools, colleges and universities. We pray that Christ the Teacher will strengthen their faith and fill their hearts with courage and hope.

Old Hill Foodshare

There is a great need of - cereals, sugar, toilet rolls, toiletries, detergents along with tinned fruit, tinned fish and tinned meat.

Our Lady of Lourdes Foodshare

The Foodshare would like to express our gratitude to all parishioners and friends for your generous donations and support over the past few months. Without your support, we would not be able to continue, so huge thanks and God bless you all.

SEPTEMBER Anniversaries (Remember in your prayers these deceased members:)

Esther Mundon, Bernadette Realf, Sheila Knight, Joe Conlan, Maria Elizabeth Rowley, Denis Tapparo, Lilian Staples, James Breen, Dennis Abbot, Patrick Dawson, Hylda Dawson, Denis Clarke, Pat Carew, Harold Williams, Sidney Clark, May Bradley, John Christopher Maddocks, James Edward Jarvis, Thomas Griffin, Philip Smith, Geraldine Talboys, Olive Shelton, Liam Hynes, George Richards, Fr William "Edwin" Cownley and Walter Anthony Bristow.

Lately Dead

Please keep in your prayers, Jean McNarry and Malcolm Hawthorne. *May they rest in peace.*

SVP Matters

If you or someone you know is in need of support or a visit, then the SVP is here to help.

For a confidential discussion, please contact: Mike Weaver (call or text on 07714 287867) or Jane Clarke or Roy Williams or Father Stefan. Find out more on the Parish Website www.ourladyandstkenelm.org.uk

SVP Alert - Winter Fuel Worries - Pension Credit: Are you missing out?

Pension Credit gives you extra money to help with your living costs if you're over State Pension age and on a low income. Pension Credit can also help with housing costs such as ground rent or service charges.

If you are eligible for Pension Credit, this could mean extra weekly money and entitlement to a range of other benefits.

Although Pension Credit is means tested, you may still qualify if you have savings or if you own your own home.

Find out more and gain further support at: <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/benefits/pension-credit-are-you-missing-out/>

RICS Chartered General Practice Surveyor wanted.

The Archdiocese of Birmingham is seeking to recruit an enthusiastic and experienced RICS Chartered General Practice Surveyor to join its Property Team.

The key role of the Property Team is to provide advice and guidance for management of parish property, the school estate as well as manage all property held centrally by the archdiocese.

This is a permanent/full-time role. The application deadline is Wednesday 18 September.

Please visit <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/jobs> for details.

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The origins of this great feast (that used to be referred to as the triumph of the holy cross) can be found in an event in the fourth century. Saint Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine (who permits Christianity in the empire by the Edict of Milan), went to Jerusalem in search of the holy places of Christ's life. While she was there, she razed the second-century Temple of Aphrodite which had been built by the Roman Emperor Hadrian. Tradition held that the temple had been built over the Saviour's tomb. During the excavation, workers found three crosses. A dying woman touched each of the crosses and was healed by the one which was then identified as the one Jesus had died on. Her son, Emperor Constantine, then built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre on that spot.

Fr Stefan There will be no masses on Monday to Wednesday of this week.

I am hoping to try and add a feast or saint of the week to each newsletter. This week is Saturday's feast of the Exaltation of the Cross.

Our Lady of Walsingham

The Vatican has granted a new Feast for Our Lady of Walsingham to be celebrated in the dioceses of England, starting this year on 24 September.

"May this yearly celebration be a source of renewed grace and evangelical endeavour for the Church in England and Wales, as, imitating Mary, the faithful may ever more become disciples of her Son, receive the message of the Gospel, treasure it in their hearts and reflect on it in their minds."

Cardinal Roche speaking of the new feast of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Reflection for Twenty-third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Readings: *Isaiah 35: 4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37*

One of God's attributes is "the liberator". This is the attribute which this Sunday's liturgical texts especially focus on. God frees all human beings from their sad condition of outcasts, and he frees nature from its barren dryness (First Reading). He frees us from illnesses of the heart and of the spirit, "everything he does is good, he makes the deaf hear and the mute speak" (Gospel). He frees the Christian from any distinctions of class, for whether we are rich or poor, we are all the same before God (Gospel).

A free nature at the service of humanity. God created nature, but he did not then lose interest in it. Nature is our home, and so God exercises his providence over nature, so that it may serve us. This divine providence "frees" the earth from its misery. The first reading tells us that "the parched ground will become a marsh and the thirsty land springs of water." God is the Lord of nature and freely exercises his absolute dominion over it to help us materially and spiritually. Materially, by making nature bear abundant fruit, so that we may feed ourselves with that fruit. Spiritually, by making us feel the power and weight of natural calamities, so that we may feel the need to look up to the Lord of nature and beg him for his blessing. Human pride, the enemy of our true good, is invited to humble itself before such natural misfortunes, which to us are like a platform enabling us to leave our pride aside and go back to God. In freeing the destructive powers of nature for a moment, God especially tries to free us from ourselves, which is what is really important.

God, our liberator. We humans are a mystery of flesh and spirit. God manifests his love to us by offering us a total liberation, which we need to accept with gratitude and a simple heart. He frees our flesh from illness. He does so directly, when it becomes necessary for our overall good, as happens with many sick persons who have been miraculously cured. He does so indirectly, by the power that he has given us to study the human body, know its illnesses and treat them. Today's Gospel tells the story of how a deaf and dumb man was cured by Jesus. But God also intervenes to cure our spirit. He cures us from mental illnesses, he frees us from the power of the devil and sin through the work of the Holy Spirit, he makes us strong before temptations and inclinations to evil. When and how does God, man's liberator, act? These are questions to which only God has the answer. However, the most important thing for us is to be aware and fully certain that God loves us and wants what's good for us. It is also important for us to be humble and turn to God with simplicity and ask him, "Lord, free me from all illness; especially free me from myself so that my life may be a song of praise to your holy name."

(continued)

James' exhortation in the second reading fits in perfectly here: "My brothers, do not let class distinctions enter into your faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord." The believer, having been freed of himself by baptism and the Eucharist, cannot go back to the slavery of the past. It would be like overturning God's liberation.

Everything he does is good. The crowd of people reacted with these words, when they realized that Jesus had cured the deaf and dumb man. In addition to this, there are many Gospel texts which narrate the good works of Jesus for man. Indeed, St Peter says of Jesus in one of his speeches to the early Christians that "he went about doing good." John Paul II tells us that "The charity of Christians is the prolongation of the presence of Christ giving of himself." Yes, Christ wishes to continue to do good among us and in our days through Christian believers. Christ wishes to continue to free us from material needs, illness, natural disasters and spiritual ailments, through Christian believers. Indeed, it is truly wonderful to observe the generosity of so many millions of Christians in rescuing the needy in any part of the world. Christ must truly be happy, for he can continue to do good in history through his Christians. At the same time, as Christian believers we must ask ourselves a few questions: am I personally doing all the good that I can do? Do I wish others, individually or as a community, would do good? What is the kind of good that I like to do: material good, spiritual good, or both at the same time? Am I convinced that through me the glorious Christ continues to be present among men and do good? To do good unto others in a disinterested way is a wonderful way to free them. To want to be freed. Liberation is very attractive. It is clear that man, consciously or unconsciously, sees and perceives himself as "enslaved", at least partially. We should observe that in his existence, man encounters many constraints at different times of his life. By experience, we know that we cannot free ourselves from such bonds on our own, especially when it comes to the deepest and strongest bonds. We need to be set free. But in order for this to happen, we must want to be set free. Because it just so happens that, due to inexplicable and often complex reasons, we love the "sweet" constraints that enslave us. But they are bonds that, as sweet as they may be, gradually strangle us until they kill our freedom. Liberation, therefore, is possible only for those who wish to be freed. Another aspect to consider is whom to turn to in order to be set free. In our world and in our environment, there are many people who claim to be "liberators", because what they free is not man in his greatness and dignity, but the foul pits of his passions, his selfishness, ambitions, nightmares and instincts. God is our true liberator. Our true liberator is Jesus Christ who died for us and rose from the dead for us. Have you accepted, do you really accept with all your heart, the freedom offered by Jesus Christ? If you want to be set free, have no doubts, he will free you. Having deeply experienced Christ's liberation, you will be spurred on to tell others who it is that can grant them the real freedom they are seeking.

Shelagh,

Fr Stefan



Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.



The Parishes operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. The Parish Safeguarding Representative for Our Lady and St Kenelm is Shelagh Ash. Shelagh can be contacted at: sg.olstkenelm.halesowen@rcaob.org.uk. The Parish Safeguarding Representative for Our Lady of Lourdes is Nadine Hancox. Alternatively, the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.