



## CATHOLIC CHURCHES

of

### OUR LADY & ST. KENELM, HALESOWEN OUR LADY OF LOURDES, OLD HILL

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Stefan Laszczyk

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



### LITURGY FOR THE WEEKEND 28th/29th SEPTEMBER 2024 TWENTY - SIXTH SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME

#### TIMES OF MASS & MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 28th	Vigil of 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm H	Venetia Dowling (Birthday Intentions)
Sun 29th	Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00am H 11.30am OH	Ruth Rushbury (Int) Nung's family
Mon 30th	St Jerome	No Mass	_____
Tues 1st OCT	St Theresa of the Child Jesus	10.00am OH	Francis C.P. (R.I.P)
Wed 2nd	Holy Guardian Angels	12noon H	Tessy Jose
Thurs 3rd	Feria	9am SCH 12noon OH	Celebrant's Intention
Fri 4th	St Francis of Assisi	12noon H	Maggie Francis (R.I.P)
Sat 5th	Our Lady on Saturday Vigil of 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	10am H 6.30pm H	Pro Populo Eugenie Williams (R.I.P)
Sun 6th	Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00am H 11.30am OH	Annie-Kate (Nancy) Barrett (2 <sup>nd</sup> anni) Paul Bac (R.I.P) and Holy Souls

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

Next weekend of the 6<sup>th</sup> October there will be the Second collection for CAFOD's Harvest Fast

#### Preparation for the Sacraments

If your child does not attend a Catholic school and you wish her/him to prepare for the sacraments of Holy Communion or Confirmation, please inform Father Stefan by 20th October at the latest as preparation for these sacraments will begin in November.

#### First Friends with the SVP

Parishioners, friends and supporters are invited by the SVP "First Friday Friends" for a coffee and chat in St John the Baptist Church in the town centre between 10.45am - 11.45am on

**Friday 4th October.**

#### Old Hill Foodshare

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

**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, Eugenie Williams (Des Quigley's Sister). *May she rest in peace.*

#### Our Lady and St Kenelm's Lectionary Sponsorship Appeal

From Advent this year, there is a new mandatory Lectionary coming into use for England, Scotland and Wales. The Lectionary is the book that contains the Scripture readings for Mass and the Sacraments. The cycle of readings remains the same but the translations used in the Lectionary are being updated to the English Standard Version - Catholic Edition of the Bible and the Abbey Psalter for the Psalms.

The parish has had to purchase the new Lectionaries including Chapel and Study editions as well as the Book of Gospels. Parishioners are invited to make donations to help fund the costs and for a family dedication to be entered into the Ambo Lectionaries.

If you would like to donate to this appeal, please take a sponsorship form from the table in the Narthex and put your completed form in the envelope provided & return it to the box, also in the Narthex.

#### Our Lady of Lourdes Lectionaries.

We have had to get a new set of the Ambo Lectionaries and Book of the Gospels. A parishioner who wishes to remain anonymous has paid for them. We thank them for their kind and generous donation to the parish.

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

#### Quiz Night at Our Lady & St Kenelm

The yearly quiz night is back on Friday 18th October starting at 7pm. Bring your own booze and play your cards right. Tickets are now on sale for £5 each, please see Rebecca after Mass.

Teams of no more than 6 people. Come and raise money for OLSK and have a night of laughs and fun.

#### St Jerome

He was born Eusebius Sophronius Hieronymus in Strido, in Dalmatia in around 342AD. Today, the town, which ceased to exist in Jerome's time, would likely be in Croatia or Slovenia. Around the age of 12 or so he travelled to Rome, studied grammar, philosophy and rhetoric. In or around the year 366, Jerome was baptised by Pope Liberius. and was baptised there. He was attracted by the ascetic life and travelled to the East, where he was (unwillingly) ordained a priest as Pope Damasus wanted him to be ordained. He was recalled to Rome to act as secretary to Pope Damasus, but on the Pope's death in 384, he returned to the East, to Bethlehem, where (with the aid of St Paula and others) he founded a monastery, a hospice

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and a school, and settled down to the most important work of his life, the translation of the Bible into Latin (The Vulgate), a translation which, with some revisions, is still in use today. He wrote many works of his own, including letters and commentaries on Holy Scripture. When a time of troubles came upon the world, through barbarian invasions, and to the Church, through internal dissension, he helped the refugees and those in need. He died at Bethlehem.

### Reflection for Twenty-sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

*Readings: Numbers 11:25-29; Psalm 19; James 5:1-6; Mark 9:38-43, 47-48*

Today's texts all make reference to community life, both in the people on the journey to the Promised Land, and in the Church community. The first reading talks about the gift of the Spirit of God to the seventy elders of the people on their journey across the desert. The Gospel reflects on certain aspects of the life of the disciples and of the early Christians in their relations among themselves and with those not belonging to the Christian community. At the end of his letter, James addresses the rich members of the community to reproach them for their conduct and make them reflect in the light of the final judgment. -----

An imperfect community. The first thing that catches one's attention in today's texts is that the early Christian community and, before them, the Jewish community in the desert, are characterised by limitations and imperfection. Their exclusionist intolerance of those who do not belong to their group is evident both in Joshua, "My Lord Moses, stop them!" (First Reading) and John, "Master, we saw someone who is not one of us driving out devils in your name, and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him" (Gospel). Another point is the injustice committed by some of the "strong" and "great" members of the community, who put the simple faith of the more "insignificant" members at risk (Gospel). Among those who cause scandal are the rich, who place their sense of security in their riches. On top of this, they exploit the poor by not paying daily wages to labourers. They abandon themselves to luxury and pleasures, and tread upon the law and justice to the detriment of the poor (Second Reading). Here is an important lesson: no Christian community is exempt from imperfections, weaknesses and wretchedness. Before such a reality, the Pope invites us to purify our memory in the face of the past, and to repent and renew ourselves in the face of the present. An imperfect community makes us live with a greater consciousness that the Spirit of God, not man, is the soul which gives us life and sanctifies us with his presence and gifts.

The community, a reflection of Christ. Before all else, emphasis must be placed on Jesus Christ's great tolerance, or rather, on his enormous openness of spirit towards those who do not belong to the group, to the community of believers. "You must not stop him," Jesus says to John and to the disciples. Jesus' behaviour is preceded by that of Moses, who learns that his spirit has been communicated to Eldad and Medad, neither of whom belonged to the group of seventy. "Are you jealous on my account? If only all Yahweh's people were prophets, and Yahweh had given them his spirit!" Jesus explains his position with two reflections: 1) Those who invoke my name to work a miracle, cannot then immediately turn round and speak ill of me. Jesus exerts a comprehensive influence, which cannot be confined within institutional limits. 2) Those who are not against us are for us. And this is true even when one does not belong to the same community of faith. On the other hand, within the community relations between the different members must be based on the commandment of charity. The charity we are talking about is the "little charity" of the Gospel, a necessary ingredient for living together on a daily basis. The simple gesture of giving someone a glass of water with the sole intention of living out Christian charity, is an example of this "little charity" in practice. Another way of living according to the commandment of charity is to avoid scandal. For the love of one's brother, one must be ready to put an end to anything that may hurt him.

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Relations within the Church must also be characterised by justice between the owners of the lands and the labourers. The rich must be clearly conscious of the fact that their wealth is not there simply to be enjoyed and squandered, but to be placed at the service of the needy. -----

**The freedom of the Spirit.** The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us to see "all goodness and truth found in these [non-Christian] religions as 'a preparation for the Gospel and given by him who enlightens all men that they may at length have life'" (CCC 843). The Spirit is like the soul of the Church, but the Church does not have an exclusive or an excluding nature in relation to him. The Spirit enjoys the right to act beyond the visible body of the Church. As children of the Church, we must try to know and feel full of joy vis-à-vis the manifestations of the Spirit in other religions. Anything that stems from the action of the Spirit, wherever it may be, will be good, holy and true. It is true that together with the action of the Spirit there are also human actions, with all of their imperfections and even sin. This is why discernment is necessary, i.e., the capacity to distinguish and separate the work of the Spirit from the action of men. To distinguish and separate is necessary, but not to eliminate. "Do not put out the Spirit," says St Paul. In the current situation of society and the Church, a situation bound to become more marked in the future, it is important for us Christians to be able to accept the freedom of the Spirit. It is also important for us to be educated, from a young age, to tolerate and accept the Spirit's freedom. But we must especially be educated in Christian prudence and discernment. Have you had any opportunity - at school, at work, in your friendships - to practice tolerance, respect, prudence and discernment?

**Authority and richness in the Church.** In the Church, only some have been called by God to exercise institutional authority, but we all have the right and duty to exercise the authority of holiness. Since the Christian conceives authority as a service, the Church hierarchy practises its service making sure that the Church community is on the right track when it comes to doctrine, moral life, and liturgical actions. In turn, holy souls exercise their authority over the ecclesial community by generously giving their lives to God and men, attracting many people to God and to the Spirit with their behaviour and witness of life. These are two different ways of exercising authority, both of which are at the service of the Church as a whole. It goes without saying that many members of the hierarchy, in addition to the juridical authority which they enjoy, also stand out by virtue of their moral authority and their holiness.

In the Church there are many who are rich in goods, and many of them are also rich in true love. In the Church there are also those who are poor in goods, but who possess extraordinary wealth in terms of faith, love and hope. Unfortunately, there are also the others, the rich in goods and poor in love, the poor in goods and rich in their eagerness to make money and gain wealth. Let us not deceive ourselves. The real rich in the Church are the saints. If, in addition to being rich in holiness, they are rich in money, so much the better - provided that they place them at the service of all.

Shalom, Fr. Steph



### **Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time** **Entrance Antiphon**

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

Response: The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Your word is truth, O Lord:  
consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

### **Communion Antiphon**

By this we came to know the love of God: that Christ laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for one another.