



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 26th/27th OCTOBER 2024 THIRTIETH SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME

TIMES OF MASS & MASS INTENTIONS

Sat 26th	Vigil of 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.30pm H	Pro Populo
Sun 27th	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00am H 11.30am OH	Jacob Vazhappilly Evelyn & Joe McCall
Mon 28th	Saints Simon and Jude	No Mass	
Tues 29th	Feria	No Mass	
Wed 30th	Feria	No Mass	Mary Boxley (Anni)
Thurs 31st	Feria	1pm OH	Requiem: Edward Matthew Molesworth-Vigar
Fri 1st NOV	Solemnity of All Saints	10.00am H 12 noon OH 7.00pm H	Celebrant's Intention Ann Shackleton (R.I.P) November Dead List
Sat 2nd	Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed Vigil of 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00am H 6.30pm H	November Dead List Pro Populo
Sun 3rd	Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time	10.00am H 11.30am OH	November Dead List John Phap 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 on the 3rd November, there will be a Second Collection for the Johnson Fund

All Saints

The Solemnity of All Saints takes place on **this Friday 1st November**, & is a holiday of obligation. All Saint's (Or All Hallow's) is the great celebration of all the saints who are gathered around God's throne in heaven.

The Masses will be at 10am at Our Lady and St Kenelm's, Halesowen; 12 noon at Our Lady of Lourdes, Old Hill and 7pm at Our Lady and St Kenelm's, Halesowen.

All Souls

The Commemoration of All Souls is on Saturday 2nd and Mass will be the usual Saturday morning at 10am at Our Lady and St Kenelm's, Halesowen.

OCTOBER Anniversaries

Remember in your prayers the following deceased members:

Agnes Jinks, John Kurowski, Derrick Simpson, Joanna Whitaker, John McNaughton, Nellie Casey, Thomas Moloney, Osmund Tunnicliffe, Margaret Holder, Mary Boxley, Margaret Hickey, Bridget Sullivan, Ron Harris, Tim Matthews, Daniel Keneghan, Logan Paul Maxwell Williams, Helen Ready, Kevin Bissell and Deborah Schofield. Fr Paul Chavasse Cong.Orat. Mary Williams and Kevin Murphy.

May they rest in peace.

Lately Dead

Please keep in your prayers, Edward Matthew Molesworth-Vigar and Teresa Martinski.

May they rest in peace.

Edward Matthew Molesworth-Vigar's requiem will be on Thursday 31st October 1pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, Old Hill.

Father Stefan

Well I am almost back to normal, actually as I have been running around like a headless chicken, then I am fine.

I will be take a couple of days holiday at the beginning of the week, mainly to make sure that I don't run myself into the ground trying to catch up!

Visiting a Cemetery:

An indulgence, applicable only to the Souls in Purgatory, is granted each day from 1st to 8th November to the faithful, who devoutly visit a cemetery and there pray, even if only mentally, for the faithful departed.

Graves Blessings

3rd November 2pm – Brandwood End and Quinton

10th November 2pm – Lodge Hill

November Dead List (Holy Souls List)

Time is but a fleeting moment for us, and the end of the year is almost upon us and so we approach the month of November as we remember those who have gone on before us.

One of the most important things we can do is remember our dead, there will be envelopes out after masses this weekend for people to put together those names of our deceased who they would especially want to place before the lord with our masses for the November Dead List.

It is of course usual to put an offering into the envelopes to cover the masses which will be offered for our loved ones. Father does check every envelope as he likes to read all the names so that he knows who is named on our November Dead List. The envelopes can be returned to Father.

New Lectionaries

As we saw last weekend, the new lectionaries for the Ambo are here. As always things don't always go smoothly as the Book of the Gospels for Our Lady of Lourdes, seems to be stuck with DPD in Wolverhampton (I am chasing the supplier on this!) At Our Lady and St Kenelm's, If you want to donate to the appeal, please do return a sponsorship form to the box in the Narthex.

New Sunday Missals

The Sunday missals with the new readings that people pre-ordered have arrived and will be available for collection over the following weeks (and payment!)

Old Hill Foodshare

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

Christmas Fayre (Our Lady of Lourdes, Old Hill)

Old Hill will be having a **Christmas Fayre** on Saturday 30th November, 11:00-13:00. Can you spare any donations of gift sets, sweets, alcohol and toys for our tombola? If so, please leave them in the box on the table in the hall.

Mass of Anointing Saturday afternoon 9th November at 2.30pm

Both our parishes' SVPs are organising a Mass for the sick and housebound of both the parishes to be held at **Our Lady of Lourdes, Old Hill** on the afternoon of Saturday 9th November at 2.30 pm. There will be an opportunity to enjoy refreshments after Mass.

The sacrament of anointing of the sick is one to help heal in mind and body. Canon law states : The anointing of the sick can be administered to a member of the faithful who, having reached the use of reason, begins to be in danger due to sickness or old age. (Can. 1004 §1.) It should be explained that by Old Age is the same as for the exception of the fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, that is having reached one's sixtieth year!

If anyone needs transport to the Mass, please contact the SVP via Mike Weaver on 07714287867 or mpweaver@ymail.com

Reflection for Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Readings: Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126; Hebrews 5:1-6; Mark 10:46-52

The liturgical texts this Sunday emphasize the efficacy of God's intervention. God is effective by making numerous children of Israel return from exile to their beloved homeland (First Reading). With God's effective power, Jesus Christ restores sight to the blind man Bartimeus, who overcomes all obstacles and thus fulfils his great desire to see (Gospel). God's salvific efficacy is made especially manifest in Christ, the High Priest, who saves human beings from ignorance and pain, and frees them from their sins. -----

A God who is effective out of love. He who achieves all that he strives for, in appropriate ways, with the best means and in the least amount of time, is effective. This is a definition acceptable to the common mentality. However, God's efficacy is often disconcerting. No one doubts that God is effective, but the ways and timing of divine efficacy follow directions foreign to us. Often the ways appropriate for God are not appropriate for human beings and vice-versa. Their exile to Babylon probably did not seem like a proper way to the Jews, but it was for God, who thus manifested the power of his love and mercy by enabling them to return to their homeland, "For I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my first-born son" (First Reading). To go up to Jerusalem is lovely, but to do so in the company of Jesus who will meet the Cross and his death there, inevitably challenges our human way of thinking and our will to follow him. However, there is no doubt that in the Cross the divine power of love shines forth. This mysterious efficacy of redeeming love has continued to live and give life throughout the centuries, up to our very day. It must have been somewhat surprising to the early Christians that Jesus, as High Priest, did not come from the tribe of Levy. This way, however, divine efficacy shone with a new splendour, constituting Jesus Christ not only as High Priest of the Jewish people, but of all humankind, in the manner of Melchizedek. There is nothing more effective in life than love, and God is Love. But the efficacy of love, rather than being discovered with pure reason, is discovered with pure and sincere love.

The prerequisites of divine efficacy. This Sunday's liturgy indicates some such prerequisites.

1) To believe and hope. Those who had been exiled from Babylon could not forget God's wonders in the history of their people. God had shown the strength of his hand in the Exodus and in the conquest of the Promised Land. They believe and trust that God will once again act effectively in their favour, although they do not know when or how. Bartimaeus has immense faith in the fact that Jesus, the Messiah and the descendant of David, can cure him of his blindness. This is why he cries out fearlessly and boldly, "Son of David, Jesus, have pity on me." The Jews believed that God had granted the High Priest, on the feast of Yom Kippur, the power to forgive the sins of all the people. And we Christians believe with absolute certainty that Jesus Christ, our High Priest, destroyed the world's sins on the Cross. It is impossible for God to manifest his power in those who do not believe in it.

(continued)

2) To feel in need of the power of God. The Jews in exile knew perfectly well that they could not get back home on their own. Bartimaeus was very aware that he could do nothing to recover his sight. We Christians and Jews are convinced that only God can forgive sins. The self-sufficient do not feel the need for God's power, and will never be able to be the witnesses of his efficacy in people's lives and in history. 3) Be consistent. If we accept God's power in our life, we must accept being consistent with its requirements. In other words, as Christians we must be a sort of shop window displaying God's effective action in us. The Jews exiled from Babylon started walking towards Palestine and Bartimaeus followed Jesus on his way to Jerusalem. Christians have not only been redeemed by Christ, the High Priest, but they also live as redeemed beings.

Lord, let me see again! Bartimaeus, the blind man, is the figure and symbol of the disciples of Jesus at that historical time in which Jesus passed through Jericho, and at all times. Confronted with the mystery of the Cross and of ignominious death, we Christians often experience Bartimaeus' blindness, his drifting, his poverty. "Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting at the side of the road." There are so many Bartimaeuses in our time, in the face of the great mystery of pain and innocent suffering! There is a lot of blindness in human beings when confronted with the injustice of suffering, as if suffering weren't the apex of human perfection. Many of us are very cautious when confronted with the idea of walking with Christ towards the city of pain and death. We remain motionless in the territory of our ego; we lack the will to start walking towards the land of other people's pain. We are in need, in great need of someone - or better yet Someone - to open our eyes and drag us out of our immobility. A Christian is one who is not afraid to suffer; he says "yes" to health and well-being, to suffering and tribulations. The "yes" of the Christian is a "yes" to the mystery of God-Love, and for those who love God, all things contribute to their good. May the Lord allow all of us Christians to repeat often, "Lord, let me see again!" So that by seeing I may believe, and by believing I may firmly follow your footsteps towards the Cross.

Following Christ. He who believes in Christ and follows in his footsteps is a Christian. The following of Christ is not the following of a doctrine like that of Pythagoras, of Aristotle or of Zeno. One who follows a way of life traced out in ancient manuscripts, following the great moral teachers of the East and West, is not a Christian. The Christian follows a person, the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Moreover, the Christian is one who lends Jesus Christ his human nature, so that the Lord can make himself present in today's world. In other words, being a Christian is being the transparent image of Christ for others. Are we Christians a transparent image of Christ? Are you a transparent image of Christ in your family, in your parish, among your friends? Or are you a disfigured image of Jesus Christ? Taking our Christian vocation seriously has been a historical imperative from the beginning of Christianity. What can I do to be a transparent image of Christ in every place and circumstance? Let us build a chain of transparent images of Christ so that the world, our world, be saved by the one and only Saviour.

Shalom, Fr Steve

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.



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

Responsorial Psalm

Response: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.