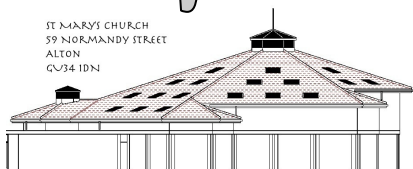


St Mary's Parish Newsletter

ST MARY'S CHURCH
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TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 29th September, 2024

Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year

(Year B) Psalter Week 2

Saturday	5.30pm	Maurice Hickey, RIP(MC)
Sunday	26th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	
Medstead	9.00am	The People of The Parish
St Mary's	11.00am	Alex D'Silva, RIP (A)
Monday	<i>St. Jerome</i>	
	9.30am	Fr. Kevin Delaney, RIP (A-MM)
Tuesday	<i>St. Teresa of the Child Jesus</i>	
	9.30am	NO MASS
Wednesday	<i>The Holy Guardian Angels</i>	
	9.30am	Special Intention
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>	
	9.30am	L. Rodrigues, RIP (LR) Marriage of Onyinyechi Atuegbo & Mukaoso Agwuegbo
Friday	<i>St. Francis of Assisi</i> Autumn Fast Day	
	9.30am	Jim Elliot, RIP (RE)
Saturday	<i>Our Lady on Saturday</i>	
	5.30pm	Int of the Snelson Family (F)
Sunday	27th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	
Medstead	9.00am	The People of The Parish
St Mary's	11.00am	Amy & Leonard Gilbert, RIP

26th Sunday of The Year

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

The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

Gospel Acclamation

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

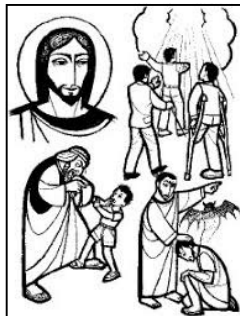
Communion Antiphon:

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

The Holy Father's Intentions (October)

For a shared mission

We pray that the Church continue to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.



26TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

29th September, 2024

There is a peculiar type of pettiness that will not allow someone to do what others do (even if - or perhaps especially if - they are good at it) because they aren't part of the group, or club, or circle. Unless you wear the uniform, the badge or tie, you can't share in the work. When this is applied to doing good or following the Lord, it seems even more petty than ever:

if someone does a good thing, does it matter that she or he is not a Catholic? The words of the Lord, "Anyone who is not against us is for us," should be taken to heart this Sunday. Let us recognise anyone who helps the poor, serves peace and justice, does what the Lord Jesus wants as our co-worker, whatever the 'label' they work under.

"Anyone who is not against us, is for us.."

A POPE'S REFLECTION

This Sunday's Gospel presents one of those episodes in Christ's life which, contain a profound meaning. The event involved someone who was not a follower of Jesus but who had expelled demons in his name. The Apostle John, a young man and ardently zealous as he was, wanted to prevent him but Jesus did not permit this; on the contrary, he drew inspiration from this circumstance to teach his disciples that God could work good and even miraculous things even outside their circle, and that it is possible to cooperate with the cause of the Kingdom of God in different ways, even by simply offering a missionary a glass of water.

St Augustine wrote in this regard: "as, therefore, there is in the Catholic — meaning the Church — something which is not Catholic, so there may be something which is Catholic outside the Catholic Church".

Therefore if a stranger to the community does good works in Christ's name, so long as he does so with good upright intentions and with respect, members of the Church must not feel jealous but must rejoice.

Even within the Church, people can find it difficult, in the spirit of deep communion, to value and appreciate good things achieved by the different ecclesial entities.

Instead, we must all and always be able to appreciate one another, praising God for the infinite "creativity" with which he acts in the Church and in the world.

The stream of invective of the Apostle James against the dishonest rich who rely on wealth accumulated by abuse, rings out in today's Liturgy. St Caesarius of Arles says in this regard in one of his sermons: "riches can do no harm to a good man, so long as he gives them compassionately, just as they cannot help a wicked man, so long as he keeps them greedily for himself or wastes them in dissipation". While the Apostle James' words put us on guard against the worthless desire for material goods, they are a powerful appeal to use them with a view to solidarity and the common good, always acting with fairness and morality at all levels.

Benedict XVI

Friday, 5th October is 'Autumn Fast Day'

On Family Fast Day, CAFOD invites us to share in the abundance that God has given us.

We are asked to fast, pray and give to help people so much less fortunate than ourselves.

The Collection will take place on Saturday 5th & Sunday, 6th October, following the Autumn Fast Day.

Saints of God, come to our aid!

Saint of the week

October 1st, Saint Thérèse of Lisieux



"I prefer the monotony of obscure sacrifice to all ecstasies. To pick up a pin for love can convert a soul."

These are the words of Thérèse of Lisieux, a Carmelite nun called the "Little Flower," who lived a cloistered life of obscurity in the convent of Lisieux, France. And her preference for hidden sacrifice did indeed convert souls. Few saints of God are more popular than this young nun. Her autobiography, *The Story of a Soul*, is read and loved throughout the world. Thérèse Martin entered the convent at the age of 15 and died in 1897 at the age of 24.

Life in a Carmelite convent is indeed uneventful and consists mainly of prayer and hard domestic work. But Thérèse possessed that holy insight that redeems the time, however dull that time may be. She saw in quiet suffering a redemptive suffering, suffering that was indeed her apostolate. Thérèse said she came to the Carmel convent "to save souls and pray for priests." And shortly before she died, she wrote: "I want to spend my heaven doing good on earth."

Thérèse was canonized in 1925. On October 19, 1997, Pope John Paul II proclaimed her a Doctor of the Church, the third woman to be so recognized in light of her holiness and the influence of her teaching on spirituality in the Church. Her parents, Louis and Zélie, were beatified in 2008, and canonized in 2015.

Reflection: Thérèse has much to teach our age of the image, the appearance, the "self." We have become a dangerously self-conscious people, painfully aware of the need to be fulfilled, yet knowing we are not. Thérèse, like so many saints, sought to serve others, to do something outside herself, to forget herself in quiet acts of love. She is one of the great examples of the gospel paradox that we gain our life by losing it, and that the seed that falls to the ground must die in order to live.

Preoccupation with self separates modern men and women from God, from their fellow human beings, and ultimately from themselves. We must re-learn to forget ourselves, to contemplate a God who draws us out of ourselves, and to serve others as the ultimate expression of selfhood. These are the insights of Saint Thérèse, and they are more valid today than ever.

October 2nd, Feast of the Guardian Angels

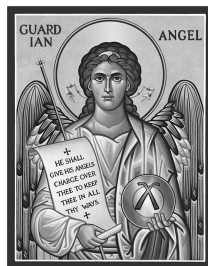
Perhaps no aspect of Catholic piety is as comforting to parents as the belief that an angel protects their little ones from dangers real and imagined. Yet guardian angels are not only for children. Their role is to represent individuals before God, to watch over them always, to aid their prayer, and to present their souls to God at death.

The concept of an angel assigned to guide and nurture each human being is a development of Catholic doctrine and piety based on Scripture but not directly drawn from it. Jesus' words in Matthew 18:10 best support the belief: "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."

Devotion to the angels began to develop with the birth of the monastic tradition. Saint Benedict gave it impetus and Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, the great 12th-century reformer, was such an eloquent spokesman for the guardian angels that angelic devotion assumed its current form in his day.

A feast in honor of the guardian angels was first observed in the 16th century. In 1615, Pope Paul V added it to the Roman calendar.

Reflection: Devotion to the angels is, at base, an expression of faith in God's enduring love and providential care extended to each person day in and day out.



A Prayer to the Holy Guardian Angels

Heavenly Father, Your infinite love for us has chosen a blessed angel in heaven and appointed him our guide during this earthly pilgrimage. Accept our thanks for so great a blessing. Grant that we may experience the assistance of our holy protector in all our necessities. And you, holy, loving angel and guide, watch over us with all the tenderness of your angelic heart. Keep us always on the way that leads to heaven, and cease not to pray for us until we have attained our final destiny, eternal salvation. Then we shall love You for all eternity. We shall praise and glorify You unceasingly for all the good You have done for us while here on earth.

Especially be a faithful and watchful protector of our children. Take our place, and supply what may be wanting to us through human frailty, short-sightedness, or sinful neglect. Lighten, O you perfect servants of God, our heavy task.

Guide our children, that they may become like unto Jesus, may imitate Him faithfully, and persevere till they attain eternal life. Amen

Marriage Care

Relationship support services including couples counselling, relationship and marriage preparation. No fixed charge, contribution-based. **Preparing Together Day on 23rd November 2024** at Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 2HE. Please visit www.mariagecare.org.uk or call Appointments Service to book on 0800 389 3801, Monday to Thursday 9am – 6pm.

Alton Foodbank

next collection will be on 5th & 6th October

Items required: tinned rice pudding, spaghetti, tomatoes & vegetables. Long life milk, sponge puddings and rice. The foodbank currently have in stock a good supply of pasta and pasta sauces. All donations are welcome and much appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.

PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART

O most holy heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, I adore you, I love you, and with lively sorrow for my sins I offer you this poor heart of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure and wholly obedient to your will. Grant, Good Jesus, that I may live in you and for you. Protect me in the midst of danger. Comfort me in my afflictions. Give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, your blessing on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death. Amen.

Charity unites us to God... There is nothing mean in charity, nothing arrogant. Charity knows no schism, does not rebel, does all things in concord. In charity all the elect of God have been made perfect. -- Pope St. Clement I

Please remember in your prayers

Maria Proli, Sister Terry, Francesca Adams, Mary McGrath, Annie Tomlinson, Rita Rawling, Kate Cradock, Alex Smith, Jonathan Wiltshire, Mary Sturgess, Brenda Gregory, Margaret Collins, Theresa Davies, Maureen Rogers, Flavia Stampa Gruss,

**MARY, MOTHER OF THE AFFLICTED,
PRAY FOR THEM**

S	T	S	N	I	A	G	A	S	S	MASTER
L	A	W	O	R	L	A	E	L	E	DEVILS
I	I	S	B	A	E	M	L	L	S	WATER
V	N	V	M	R	T	T	C	E	E	REWARD
E	S	E	E	A	E	A	A	H	R	MIRACLE
D	R	A	W	E	R	T	T	W	T	NECK
E	K	E	N	I	V	I	S	I	S	HELL
I	C	E	M	M	A	L	B	A	A	OBSTACLE
V	E	R	I	F	A	W	O	R	M	MILLSTONE
E	N	O	T	S	L	L	I	M	E	LAME
										FAITH
										WORM

