

## **Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

***“Repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.”***

*Jesus seems to be concentrating on the positive side of the honour code of society in his time. In Mediterranean societies of Jesus' day public shame and public honour were of very great importance. His advice seems to be about how not to be shamed in public, and how to be wise enough so that you are more likely to be honoured. Don't sit in the top seat in case you're moved down, but do sit in the lower place so that you have the chance of being moved up. There is a certain practical wisdom being deployed. However, Jesus is surely saying much more than that.*

*Heaven is often compared in the scriptures to a wedding banquet, so we can assume Jesus is using this imagery here. The context is one of eternal salvation. So in the case of getting to the heavenly banquet, do not presume that you are worthy and better than everyone else. Presumption, St Thomas Aquinas says, comes from pursuing something beyond our powers. Authentic humility is necessary because without it we can never benefit from God's grace. If we think we are self-sufficient, God will respect that, but we will never be able to enjoy the banquet of eternal life. Presumption is better than despair, better than false humility, but all should be avoided in favour of genuine humility.*

*So how are we to be invited to the great wedding banquet of eternal life? First of all we are called to realise that there is absolutely nothing we can do to deserve, earn or buy an invitation. The invitation is entirely the free gift of God. That is the first reason why we should not presume to think we should even be there, let alone sit at the top place. Secondly, the invitation we have been given is always available through the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord. The crucifixion is the real nuptial feast between God and humanity, foretold by the wedding feast at Cana. The superabundance of wine at Cana foretells the superabundant power of the blood of Christ shed on Calvary.*

*So how do we respond to the invitation? We can do so by participating in the sacraments. Through the sacrament of penance we show the necessary and fitting humility to accept the invitation. Then the Eucharist is the great feast in this world which anticipates the heavenly banquet. In the Eucharist, Christ is the host, the groom, the master of ceremonies and the feast itself. In the Mass, Jesus is the lamb of sacrifice, the high priest and the bread of life. In fact, in the whole sacramental system, we have a new way of conducting human affairs, a new way of looking at honour and customs. It is the renewal from within of our human interaction, with the added benefit that it also helps us interact with and be more closely united to God.*

**Redemptorist Publications, The Living Word, 2016, C4, adapted**

**Sunday morning Mass times.** Our Sunday morning Masses are now at **9.15am and 11.00am**. I am very grateful to all of you for your gracious and supportive acceptance of these new Sunday morning Mass times.

**Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> August.** Kindly note that there will be NO 9.15am Mass.

**RCIA.** The next RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) will begin on **Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016 from 7.30pm to 9.00pm** in the presbytery meeting room. If you would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith this course would be very helpful to you – whether you are thinking about becoming a Catholic, or are already a Catholic. Please contact the RCIA Catechist Lee Gibson on 01784 252194 / 07713 760281 or [lee.gibson.2na@btinternet.com](mailto:lee.gibson.2na@btinternet.com)

**Parish Charity Quiz Night.** The next quiz will be on **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 7.30 pm** in the parish hall. The entry fee is £1 per person. Please bring your own refreshments. The entry fee and proceeds from the raffle will go to a charity (to be decided). All are welcome.

**Parish Office.** The Parish Office will be open on **Friday mornings 10.00am – 12noon ONLY**, during the summer break. Normal hours will resume on **Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016**.

*A parishioner is seeking work as a receptionist at a retirement home for the elderly or as a nursery assistant teacher on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. If you are in a position to advise or assist, please phone Beatriz on 07947 327506.*

**Fr Jim Overton**

**Offertory Collection.** Last week's collection was £1,620.77 - Envelopes £580.58; Bankers Orders £600.00 (weekly average); Loose Plate £440.19.

**The Bucket Collection in August is for the Sam Beare Hospice.**

**Saint of the slums.** In the next broadcast of "Talking Faith" Lavoisier Fernandes talks with Fr. Alexander Sherbrooke, Parish Priest of St. Patrick's, Soho who has worked with Mother Teresa and continues to work with the Missionaries of Charity. The broadcast goes on air on **Heaven's road Radio FM on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> September at 0605/1205/1805/2400** GMT. Tune in using smart phones, iPhone, iPad or tablets via the free app TuneIn Radio (search for heavens road FM catholic radio) or via the web [www.heavensroadfm.com](http://www.heavensroadfm.com)

**Catholic Speed Dating.** Our ever popular Catholic Speed Dating at Austin Forum is back on **16<sup>th</sup> September 2016** from 7:30pm-late. Location at Austin Forum, St Augustine's Church, Fulham Palace Road, W6 8AU. There is a £5 donation. Please contact [gabriella@austin-forum.org](mailto:gabriella@austin-forum.org) to book a place.

**Gumley House Convent School Morning/Afternoon and Midday Supervisor.** From September we are seeking to appoint a person with experience of supervising students in a school environment for morning and lunchtime and/or lunchtime and afternoon shifts, Monday to Friday, term time only. Salary £17,645 pro-rata. Details of the post and an application pack are available from the school website [www.gumley.hounslow.sch.uk](http://www.gumley.hounslow.sch.uk) or contact Lorraine Lonergan, P.A. to the Headteacher on [lloerngan@gumley.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:lloerngan@gumley.hounslow.sch.uk) Tel: 020 8568 8692. Gumley House Convent School FCJ, St. John's Road, Isleworth, Middlesex, TW7 6XF.

**Boyce Care Ltd.** Are looking for caring people to join their friendly team, working locally, supporting adults with learning disabilities. If you are interested please look at the card in the Narthex or call 01784 245817 for an information pack or 07775 037 629 for more information.

**Readings for Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> September**

*Wisdom 9: 13-18; Philemon 9-10, 12-17; Luke 14: 25-33*

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**PLEASE PRAY**

**for all the sick and housebound in our parish.**

**for anniversaries in September since 2009.** Jim Boyle, Florence Delaney, Molly Doust, Margaret Gillespie, Tom Griffin, Richard Griffiths, Tom McNulty, Catherine McQuillan, Brynley Williams, Catherine Wood, Leslie Worley, Patrick Young.

**for Fr Michael Tuck and parishioners of St Ignatius, Sunbury-on-Thames; and for staff and pupils of St Paul's College.**

**for the Holy Father's Prayer Intentions:**

- a) that each may contribute to the common good and to the building of a society that places the human person at the centre and
  - b) that by participating in the Sacraments and meditating on Scripture, Christians may become more aware of their mission to evangelise.
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## Mass Intentions 28<sup>th</sup> August – 4<sup>th</sup> September

<b>Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Vigil Mass Saturday, 6.00pm</b> Mary and Michael Braganza RIP <b>9.15am</b> The People of the Parish <b>11.00am</b> Deceased Members of the Stewart Family <b>6.00pm</b> Annie and Bridie Scotten RIP
<b>Monday, 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.15am</b> James Rowan RIP
<b>Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.15am</b> Joan Heffernan RIP
<b>Wed, 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>9.15am NO MASS</b>
<b>Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>9.15am</b> Ishwar Peter Macwan RIP
<b>Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>9.15am</b> Joan Heffernan RIP
<b>Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Vigil Mass Saturday, 6.00pm</b> Bobby Blount RIP <b>9.15am</b> The People of the Parish <b>11.30am</b> Francisca Maria Barretto RIP <b>6.00pm</b> Sister Marie Hawkins' Intentions

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### Sunday Mass

**Saturday, 6.00pm (Vigil Mass of Sunday)**  
**9.15am** Family (Folk Group, Children's Liturgy of the Word)  
**11.00am** Sung (First Sunday, Ordinary of the Mass sung in Latin)  
**6.00pm**

### Mass on Holy Days of Obligation

**9.15am and 7.00pm**

### Weekday Mass

**9.15am** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday,  
*(not Thursday)*

### Saturday

**9.45 - 10.15am** Eucharistic Adoration,  
**10.15 - 10.45am** Sacrament of Reconciliation

### Sacrament of Baptism

**Normally celebrated on a Saturday once a month.** To arrange a Baptism contact the Baptism Catechist, Lee Gibson on 01784 252194 / 07713 760281 or [lee.gibson.2na@btinternet.com](mailto:lee.gibson.2na@btinternet.com)

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## St Michael's Catholic Church

**112 Clarendon Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 2QD**

**Telephone: 01784 252230**

**Email: [ashford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ashford@rcdow.org.uk)**

**Website: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/ashford/>**

*This parish is part of the Westminster Catholic Diocese Trustee Charity no. 233699*

**Parish Priest: Mgr James Overton**

**Parish Secretary: Mrs Shenda Holmes**

**Parish Office Hours during the summer break: Friday 10.00am – 12 noon**

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