

## ***Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2019***

### ***“Who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?”***

*Jesus is journeying towards Jerusalem. It is a journey that is described over ten full chapters of the Gospel. At one point, while he was still active in Galilee, Jesus made a life-changing decision. It is described in a simple phrase in Luke's Gospel: “Now as the time drew near for him to be taken up to heaven, [Jesus] resolutely took the road for Jerusalem.” Literally, in the biblical Greek, he set his face towards Jerusalem. He has made the decision to journey towards his own death. Everything that Jesus says and does from now until he reaches Jerusalem is connected with the journey and, of course, its destination.*

*In today's Gospel the man from the crowd is obsessed with himself and what he perceives to be his. At the same time, Jesus, the Son of Man, is utterly focused on giving his very self for the sake of humanity. The man from the crowd is small-minded, selfish and insular. Now he is asking a favour from the one who gives his life as a ransom for all - the ultimate action of selflessness and generosity. Jesus gives him a parable on which to reflect. All parables provoke questions, rather than supplying answers. The man must identify what questions the parable presents to him. Is he like a man who, having taken in a huge harvest, wants so much to celebrate the present that he invests nothing in the future? It's a future he soon finds he does not have, since his life ends that very night.*

*This is one of many places in the Gospel where Jesus urges people to decide where their priorities lie. Elsewhere, he says, “Set your hearts on [God's] kingdom first... and all these other things will be given you as well”, and “where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”.*

*Here is a test to discover where your heart is set. Make a list. It does not have to be written down - you can do it in your head. List what are the most important things, or people, or achievements in your life. If you can put them in order, well and good, but that is not of prime importance. Who or what you list is, of course, indicative of the person you are. When you have made your list, think about it. Was God on your list? Was the kingdom of heaven? If not, you might want to revise it.*

*We do not hear what happened to the man desperate to get his hands on his share of the inheritance. Did he, perhaps, in the words with which Jesus concludes today's Gospel, see the importance of “making himself rich in the sight of God”. It would be good if we could do likewise.*

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 9.15am Mass for the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord.**

**Fr Tom Quinn RIP.** You will be sorry to hear of the death of Fr Tom Quinn, former parish priest of St John Fisher, Shepperton, who died on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019. Funeral arrangements will be announced later. May the Lord reward him for his faithful and generous service of God's people.

**Parish Office.** During the school holidays the Parish Office will open **ONLY on Friday mornings (9.30am to 12.30pm)**. It will re-open on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Please leave a message on the answer phone (01784 252230) or send an email ([ashford@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ashford@rcdow.org.uk)) and I will respond as soon as I am able to do so.

### **Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham - Group for Young People**

Westminster Youth Ministry (WYM) invites young people aged 16 and above to join us on the diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 21st September. The pilgrimage will be led by Cardinal Nichols and will include Mass, a Marian procession, rosary and exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as being an opportunity to express our love and devotion for our Blessed Mother as a diocese and a group of young people. WYM is laying on a coach departing outside St Aloysius, Euston, NW1 1TA, at 7am, returning to St Aloysius early evening. Cost is £20 per person. Bring a picnic lunch. Booking form at [dowym.com](http://dowym.com)

### **Canonization of John Henry Newman**

Join Westminster Youth Ministry for a once in a lifetime trip to witness the first canonization of an English saint for almost fifty years. Travelling 11th to 14th October, highlights will include the canonization Mass with Pope Francis, the opportunity to visit historic sites and churches in Rome, and Mass in the Venerable English College with Bishop Nicholas Hudson. Cost is £480, which includes flights, accommodation, breakfast and public transport around Rome and to and from the airport. To register visit [dowym.com](http://dowym.com)

***Fr Jim Overton***

**Offertory Collection.** Last week's collection was £1,554.34 - Envelopes £513.90; Bankers Orders £600.00 (weekly average); Loose Plate £431.44

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

**Readings for 11<sup>th</sup> August, 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Wisdom 18: 6-9; Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19; Luke 12: 32-48*

**Emergency Exits:** In the event of an emergency, please note that the three fire exits from the church are the main church entrance, the side door to the left of St Joseph's Chapel, and the main entrance to the hall.

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**PLEASE PRAY**

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

**For anniversaries in August since 2012. William Andrew, Patricia Cowling, Gary Dale, John Field, Tom Kelly, Catherine King, Keith MacKenzie, Jimmy Rowan, Michael Sugrue, Irene Tompsett, Gilbert Francis Van Gramberg.**

**For Fr Voytek Przjalkowski and the parishioners of St David's, Stanwell in the Upper Thames Deanery.**

**for the Holy Father's Prayer Intention that families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly 'schools of true human growth.'**

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## Mass Intentions 4<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> August

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Vigil Mass Saturday, 6.00pm</b> The people of the parish
	<b>9.15am</b> Kitty Tippell RIP
	<b>11.00am</b> Bernie Driscoll RIP
	<b>6.00pm</b> Mina Fernandes RIP
<b>Mon 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.15am</b> Françoise Bouquet RIP
<b>Tues 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.15am</b> Neta Connor RIP
<b>Wed 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.15am</b> Special Intention (FC)
<b>Fri 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.15am</b> Maureen Tall RIP
<b>Sat 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.15am</b> Annie, Bridie and Len Scotten RIP
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Vigil Mass Saturday, 6.00pm</b> Joseph Fernandes RIP
	<b>9.15am</b> The people of the parish
	<b>11.00am</b> Deceased members of the Stewart Family
	<b>6.00pm</b> Patrick Lee RIP

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### Sunday Mass

(Vigil) Saturday, 6.00pm

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

### Holy Days of Obligation Mass

9.15am and 7.00pm

### Weekday Mass

9.15am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday

### Eucharistic Adoration

Saturday 9.45 – 10.15am

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10.15 – 10.45am *(and at any time by appointment)*

### Sacrament of Baptism

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

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## St Michael's Catholic Church

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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**

*Summer Parish Office Hours: Friday 10.00am - 1.00pm*

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