

Twenty ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 20th October 2019

**“Ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures
- from these you can learn the wisdom that leads
to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”**

When St Paul writes to Timothy, the Bishop of Ephesus, he asks him to remember his teachers and all that he has learnt from childhood from the holy scriptures. Timothy would have grown up hearing stories from the Jewish scriptures, learnt the psalms in Hebrew and prayed them, and later, from his Christian mother, heard stories about Jesus. As a man dedicated to God, Timothy learnt about the power and necessity of prayer. Prayer was part of life: in the morning, in the evening, on the Sabbath, on Sundays and on feast days. The words of today's psalm response would have echoed in his heart, “Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.” He could trust that help would come from God and that he would be protected and guarded against evil or going astray. The story of Moses in the first reading would have reminded him of the need to be faithful and persistent in prayer, even when it was easier to fall asleep.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells the story of a widow who constantly comes to visit a judge to demand justice. You can imagine the tenacity of this woman; perhaps you know someone like her? She kept hammering on his door for justice. The lazy judge has lost interest in his work and really does not care for those who seek justice. He is comfortable, negligent and avoids his responsibilities to those in need. He simply sorts out the case to get some peace. In contrast, God will see justice done although, in human eyes, it may seem to take a long time. Presumably some of Jesus' followers were questioning whether it was worth praying because they didn't get the results they wanted. Jesus teaches that our fidelity is important, God's ways are not always our ways, but God is close by to help, guard and protect. We touch here a deep mystery.

Talking about the Gospel and Jesus teaching, it reminds me of Dan Reuttiger who stood only 5 feet and 6 inches and had “the physique of an inner tube.” He also had the “cliched” dream of playing football at Notre Dame. Twice Dan applied to Notre Dame, and twice the school turned him down. He spent most of one night praying at the grotto of Our Lady on campus, and the third time they admitted him. Incredibly, he made the team and went on the hear 59,075 fans scream at the final game of the season, “Reuttie! Reuttie! Reuttie!” But there's even more to his story. Reuttie's “cliched” dream was picked up by Hollywood and made into a movie titled “Rudy” in 1993. So the million-dollar question is: To what extent am I as tenacious as “Reuttie” and the widow in the Gospel to trust in God and ask Him all that we need?

As we are invited to be faithful in prayer and to know the scriptures. St Jerome said, “Ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ.” The scriptures are the way by which we begin to understand God's mercy and the person of Jesus Christ. By watching him in the Bible stories, listening to his words, we begin to taste and see, sense and feel, with the mind of Christ. We begin to see with different eyes and have different attitudes.

The Bible stories and the stories of the saints open up the children's minds to the person of Jesus. As they hear the words of Jesus, they begin to know his love for them. As they hear of God working in the saints, they begin to learn about the ways to be a Christian in the world. As they learn their prayers and say the Our Father,

they begin to speak with words taught by Jesus.

Could any other stories be more important? The scriptures are a treasure to be ever more deeply explored so that we might know the love and mercy of Jesus Christ and become women and men dedicated to God and fully equipped for God's good work.
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Summer Time ends. Don't forget clocks **fall back** next Sunday morning!

Missio. Today is World Mission Sunday when the Holy Father asks us to pray for all those working in the Church's overseas missions. There will be a retiring collection for Missio, the Pope's charity for supporting these missions. You will find donation envelopes in the narthex.

Feast of All Saints, Friday 1st November is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses at 9.15am and 7.00pm.

Feast of All Souls, Saturday 2nd November. Masses for All Souls at 9.15am and 6.00pm. **Please note that the 6.00pm Mass is not a Sunday Vigil Mass.**

November List envelopes. You will find envelopes in the narthex for the names of your deceased family and friends for you to place in the box by the hymn book trolleys. During the month of November eight Masses will be offered for the repose of the souls of all those on the November List.

November Blessing of Graves. On **Saturday 2nd November** I will be blessing the graves of members of your family in Long Lane Cemetery at 11.30am and in Staines Cemetery at 2.00pm.

Ashford Hospital Chaplain. Frances Castledine has stepped down after as Chaplain for Ashford Hospital. I would like to thank her for her many years of service in this role and ask the Almighty to bless her abundantly a hundredfold.

Weekday morning Mass on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please note that the 9.15am Mass will now take place in St Joseph's Chapel. Mass will be in the church on Fridays and Saturdays.

First Holy Communion 2020. The First Holy Communion Mass will take place on **Saturday 16th May 2020.** Application forms for children in Year 3 and above are now available on the parish website and **should be made online ONLY.** Please go to the parish website -

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/ashford/> to download the application form. On the parish website you will need to select the Sacramental Preparation page and then select First Holy Communion. Please return the completed application form to **ashfordcomm@rcdow.org.uk by 31st October 2019.**

Signing Secondary School Forms. I will be signing Certificates of Catholic Practice on **Wednesday 20th November** at St Michael's School, 2.30-3.30pm and in the Presbytery 6.15 - 6.45pm. It would be a great help to me if you would come only at these times and not seek individual appointments.

Parish Council. The minutes from the last Parish Council meeting are now available in the narthex and also on the parish website

Fr Sidon Sagar FDP

Offertory Collection. Last week's collection was £1,542.99 - Envelopes £469.50; Bankers Orders £600.00 (weekly average); Loose Plate £473.49

The Bucket Collection in October is for Ashford Breast Cancer.

Parish Diaries 2020. New style parish diaries are now available in the repository - £1.99 each.

Healing Mass at Sons of the Divine Providence, 25 Lower Teddington Road, Hampton Wick KT1 4HB on **Saturday 26th October 2019,** 2.00 – 4.00pm. For more details, please see the poster in the narthex or call Fr John Perrotta on 07921 125283.

Ashford Baroque Ensemble Concert at St Matthew's Church. **Please note that the concert has now been postponed until Sunday 8th December.**

The Passage, a Christian Charity working with homeless people, is holding a fundraising concert at the Royal Festival Hall on **Tuesday 5th November** on the theme Magic of Italian Opera with Petroc Trelawny as presenter. The music includes Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves and Nessum Dorma with soloists Joyce El-Khoury, Michael Fabiano, Clare Presland and Simon Thorpe. For more details call 020 7592 1856 or email tickets@passage.org.uk

Admission to Reception for September 2020. St Ignatius Catholic Primary School, Green Street, Sunbury on Thames TW16 6QG is holding an Open Morning on **Thursday 7th November 2019,** 9.30am - 11.30am. An address will take place at 9.30am for prospective parents. Deadline for applications is **15th January 2020** to your Local Authority. Each Catholic school you apply to (regardless of where you rank them) will also require their own forms to be completed by this deadline.

Family Holiday Club at St Lawrence's Church, Feltham on **Friday 25th October 2019,** 11.00am – 2.00pm organised by Caritas Westminster - lots of fun activities for families to enjoy, followed by a hot nutritious lunch and food to take home and cook together. The club is for children from ages 4-11, accompanied by a parent or guardian. The club is completely free to attend but advance booking is required. To book a place please text 0752 5812 508 or email cfc@rcdow.org.uk.

Readings for 27th October, 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ecclesiasticus 35: 12-14, 16-19; 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18; Luke 18: 9-14

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.

PLEASE PRAY

for all the sick and housebound in our parish.

for anniversaries in October since 2012. Robert Attard-Aquilina, Davide Brattesani, James Carroll, Anne Marie Cordery, Patricia Coyer, Mabel Corry, Charles Dillon, Daniel Evans, Lionel Hallows, Jay Kathan, Liam Little, Paddy McMahon, Pina Mingoia, Marie Nugent, Thomas O'Brien, Kevin Quinn, June Smith, Andrew Stuart, Reg Thomas.

for Fr Reg Dunkling and the parishioners of Teddington; and the Sons of Divine Providence of Hampton Wick in the Upper Thames Deanery.

for the Holy Father's Prayer Intention that the breath of the Holy Spirit may engender a new missionary 'spring' in the Church

Mass Intentions 20th – 27th October

Sunday 20 th	Vigil Mass Saturday, 6.00pm Ann Cordery RIP
	9.15am The people of the parish
	11.00am Gary Fox RIP
	6.00pm Sol Hemy RIP
Mon 21 st	9.15am In thanksgiving
Tues 22 nd	9.15am Holy Souls
Wed 23 rd	9.15am Andres Maningas and Beatriz Cruz RIP
Fri 25 th	9.15am Catherine Mead RIP
Sat 26 th	9.15am Holy Souls
Sunday 27 ^h	Vigil Mass Saturday, 6.00pm The people of the parish
	9.15am Henryk Borkowski RIP
	11.00am Ann Cordery RIP
	6.00pm Catherine Mead RIP

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 and Benediction

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

St Michael's Catholic Church

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Telephone: 01784 252230; Email: 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: Fr Sidon Sagar FDP; Assistant Priest: Fr Carlo Mazzotta FDP

Parish Secretary: Mrs Shenda Holmes

Parish Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10.00am - 1.00pm
