

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, 27th October 2019

“The man who humbles himself will be exalted.”

A newly commissioned colonel had just moved into his office. A private entered with a toolbox. To impress the private, the colonel said, “Be with you in a minute, soldier! I got a call as you were knocking.” Picking up his phone, the colonel said, “General, it’s you! How can I help you?” A dramatic pause followed. Then the colonel said, “No problem. I’ll phone Washington and talk to the president about it.” Putting down the phone, the colonel said to the private, “Now, what can I do for you?” the private shuffled his feet and said, sheepishly, “Oh, just a little thing, sir. They just sent me to hook up your phone.” How prone am I to name-drop or brag? What seems to be the reason for it?

As we heard Jesus was speaking directly to the Pharisees in today’s Gospel, this may be assumed to be the case. The Pharisees were, after all, a group who considered themselves to be righteous. Generally, they would have looked down on others who were not of their group. For example, Jesus had already spoken to them about how they liked to take the places of honour at banquets. Now he is making a further point to this elite group about the need to root out their pride. What a way to do it, though, by comparing a Pharisee with a despised tax collector. Tax collectors were collaborators with the Romans; they were the scum of the earth as far as the religious authorities were concerned. Fancy holding up a tax collector as the one who goes home right with God!

The Gospel shows us that true prayer is always directed to God. True prayer comes out of our awareness of our total reliance on God. If virtue only goes skin-deep and our relationship with everyone else is to look down on them, then pride is at work. Pride focuses our attention on ourselves and closes us to a proper relationship with God. Pride is about us exalting ourselves when we truly want to be exalted by God. To be exalted by God is to have the humility to recognise that God is all in all.

Only we can truly know, as individuals, what our relationship with God is like. It is for God to reveal to us our issues of pride and where we can grow in humility. No one else can really point it out unless they know us very well and are spiritually in tune. Pride is not always easy to root out. Once it is discovered, though, there is a chance for the Holy Spirit to work on tempering it, softening it, making it less pronounced.

One area where we might find the coming of growth in humility is through the encouragement of others and the desire to lead them forward to serve our sisters and brothers and the whole Church. For example, we could invite someone to share in a particular ministry that we have done for a long time. Alternatively, we may feel called to stand back from that ministry and allow someone else to perform it. Often it can be difficult to let go of those things that we have always done. However, there are always plenty of other things we can get involved in. We will never be unemployed as Christians. We can ask ourselves the question: where will those people come from who are to follow us? The answer may be that, unless we have the humility to ask the question, we will never know.

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. Next **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.**

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** (DO NOT SEND TO THE PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS).

Confirmation 2020. Canon Paschal Ryan, Episcopal Vicar for Ashford, will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to our young people on **Saturday 27th June 2020** at 2.30pm. Application details will be available shortly.

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.

Missio. Thank you for your donations of £435.09 last weekend.

Fr Sidon Sagar FDP

Offertory Collection. Last week's collection was £1,692.52 - Envelopes £561.30; Bankers Orders £600.00 (weekly average); Loose Plate £531.22

The Bucket Collection in October is for Ashford Breast Cancer.

Ladies Circle meet on Thursday 31st October at 8.00pm in the parish hall.

Gunnersbury Catholic School will be holding its 6th Form Open Evening for external candidates on **Tuesday, 29th October 2019, 5.00 - 7.00pm**. If you have a daughter (or son not attending Gunnersbury) in Year 11 you are most welcome to join us and obtain an insight into our exceptionally successful 6th Form. Furthermore, if you have relatives or friends (not currently at Gunnersbury Catholic School) who would be interested in joining the 6th Form, please extend this invite to them. All students must be accompanied by a parent on the evening.

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**, 9.30 - 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.

Are you a Catholic teacher working in a non-Catholic school? The Diocese of Westminster is hosting an evening to engage with Catholic teachers and leaders currently working outside of Catholic education at Vaughan House, Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN on **Monday 18th November**, 6.30 – 8.00pm. Please register intention to attend at eduemc@rcdow.org.uk and see the poster in the narthex.

Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet other single Catholics, either one to one or through social events. For further information, visit www.catholicssingles.org.uk or tel. 0161 941 3498

Connect@Hounslow / Feltham – a safe place for adults with intellectual disabilities to like to take part in art, music, drama or cookery. Held every Tuesday or Thursday at St Michael's and St Martin's, Hounslow or St Lawrence's, Feltham. For more information, see the leaflets in the narthex or contact Karen on 07394 566361.

Readings for 3rd November, 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 11:22 – 12:2; 2 Thessalonians 1:11 – 2:2; Luke 19: 1-10

<p>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.</p>
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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 Hallowes, 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 27th October – 3rd November

Sunday 27th	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
Mon 28th	9.15am	Bernadine Dominic RIP
Tues 29th	9.15am	Deodita Fernandes RIP
Wed 30th	9.15am	Philomena Ursua RIP
Fri 1st	9.15am	The people of the parish
	7.00pm	Holy Souls on the November List
Sat 2nd	9.15am	Michael and Gerard Horan RIP
	6.00pm	Terry Richardson RIP
Sunday 3rd	9.15am	The people of the parish
	11.00am	Bernie Driscoll RIP
	6.00pm	Patrick Joseph Young 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

112 Clarendon Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 2QD

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
