

The Catholic Parish of Carpenders Park & South Oxhey
St Joseph's Church, Oxhey Drive, Watford WD19 7SW
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24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 17th September 2023

Fr John Warnaby Parish Priest Tel: 0208 428 0088
Linda Grimes Parish Administrator Tel: 0208 428 0088
Office hours: Tuesday & Friday 9am-3pm

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 16th September	Vigil: 24th Sunday	6.00pm	Mary O'Connor RIP
Sunday 17th September	24th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.30am	Betty Griffin RIP
		10.30am	People of the Parish
Saturday 23rd September	Vigil: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.00pm	Martin Rickard RIP

CONFESSIONS Saturday 5.30pm or see Fr John

When booking a Mass Intention please leave plenty of time if you want a special date.

Liturgy of the Word: 16/17th September 2023

Entrance Antiphon: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening;
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

Next week's Readings: Isaiah 55:6-9 Psalm 144 Philippians 1:20-24, 27 Matthew 20:1-16

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. Today Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small debt—a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends him to prison.

The merciful king learns about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes him because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king.

God forgives us over and over again: there is no limit to his forgiveness. We too are called to forgive others. When we refuse to forgive, we close the door to others and retain the hurt they have done within us. Forgiveness pours in love and allows the process of healing to take place. When Jesus taught us to pray, he told us: "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us".

May God help us to show his compassion and love to others; to be slow to anger and full of forgiveness

This weekend we welcome back Canon Michael Munnelly who will be offering Mass for us whilst Fr John is taking some time off. *There will be no weekday Masses whilst Fr John is away.* Fr John returns for the weekend of 23rd/24th September.

Second Collection this weekend

The third weekend in September is **Evangelii Gaudium Sunday**, formerly known as Home Mission Sunday. Evangelii Gaudium Sunday calls us to be joyous in proclaiming our faith. The day supports the work carried out by the Mission Directorate on behalf of the Bishops' Conference. Please be as generous as you can.

Pastoral Letter

The Cardinal has written a pastoral letter for this weekend. Printed versions are available at the back of church. Both the text and audio recording will also be made available on the diocesan website after 3pm on 16th September.

St Michael's Catholic High School –Year 7 admission in Sept 2024

Open Evening on Wednesday 20th September 2023 from 6pm until 9pm. No appointment necessary.

Open Morning on Friday 22nd September 2023 from 9:30am until 11am. Limited places bookable through admissions@stmichaelscatholichighschool.co.uk.

See poster at the back of Church –on the side wall.

St Joan of Arc Catholic School , Rickmansworth –Year 7 admission in Sept 2024

Open Evening on Thursday 5th October from 5pm until 8pm

Open Morning on Friday 6th October from 9.00am until 11.30am (no speeches).

See poster at the back of Church or visit www.joa.herts.sch.uk for further details.

South Oxhey Choir –Open rehearsal

Tuesday 26th September 7pm to 8.30pm at Oxhey Wood School WD19 7SL. No musical experience necessary. Check out their new website southoxheychoir.co.uk for further information.



Divine Mercy Apostolate, London

Pilgrimage-The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is hosting a Pilgrimage to the **Shrine of Our Lady of Knock**, Co Mayo from **9-14 November** to pray for the Holy Souls. It will be lead by the Marian Fathers. Package includes return flights by Aer Lingus from Heathrow airport, half board, 5 nights, accommodation in en-suite twin rooms, hand-luggage (10 kgs), all transfers and Airport Development fee. The Retreat will include daily Mass and Hour of Mercy and retreats at Glendalough and Kylemore Abbey. Cost £800. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957 594646 for more information.

Job vacancies –Diocese of Westminster

The list of the current vacancies on the noticeboard near the Door of Mercy has been updated after the summer holidays. Please take a look as there is a great range of jobs from Head Sacristan to Horticulture Tutor. These positions cover openings across the diocese. The list is usually updated weekly and available online via

<https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Spaces are still available on the annual Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which takes place from **19th to 27th November** led by Bishop John Sherrington and Fr John Farrell OP. It will include visits to Galilee, Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Flights will be from Heathrow. Costs are £2,265 per person sharing, £682 single room supplement; travel insurance essential. Booking forms are available from Elizabeth Uwalaka in the Pilgrimage Office or at www.tangey-tours.com See poster at the back of Church.

Please remember all our sick parishioners in your prayers, especially Bebe Ryan, Dawn Tannian, Phil Carey, Alice Sheppard, Christine Kempster and Richard Bailey.

Offertory for Sunday 10th September

Loose	£ 295.52
Envelopes	£ 198.92
Total	£ 494.44

Many thanks