



Parish of St Peter and St Paul

ARCHDIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER

THE PRESBYTERY
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Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 15th January 2023

SUNDAY MASS: 9:45am & 12noon

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday & Friday 12.30pm; Tuesday & Wednesday 8am

CONFESSIONS: (on request)

WRITE THEM IN YOUR DIARY... ENTER THEM IN YOUR CALENDAR...

Did you know? On the Epiphany, after the Gospel, a Deacon, in keeping with an ancient practice of the Church, announces the moveable feasts of the year in this way:

*Know, dear brothers and sisters,
that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ,
so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection.
On the Twenty-second Day of February will fall Ash Wednesday,
the beginning of the fast of the most sacred Lenten season.
On the Sixth day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day,
the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.
On the Eighteenth day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.
On the Twenty-eighth day of May, the feast of Pentecost.
On the Eleventh day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ.
On the Third day of December, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to
whom is honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

- **First Holy Communion:** The preparation is over two years. Parents & children are expected to come to Sunday Mass at 9:45am, followed by class.
- **Marriage Course** starts next month. Fridays (February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24) and Saturday 25 March afternoon.
- **Baptism Course.** It is essential for parents to come to Sunday Mass regularly. **NOTE: the meeting scheduled on Saturday 28th Jan is cancelled. All those who wish to have their child baptise should approach fr. Ivano in person and he will set up a one-to-one meeting.**

Note: this week, no Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

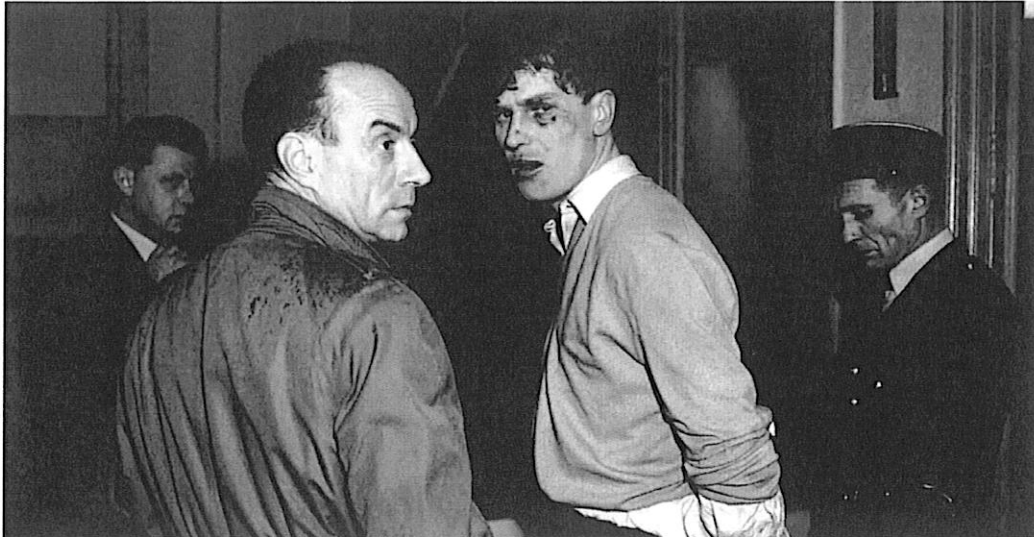
FIRE WARDENS needed

We are required to have at least one fire warden at each Sunday Mass. Training will be provided. Let Fr. Ivano know if you could help. Thanks.



SCAN to GIVE
You can scan this QR code for your weekly Sunday donation. Thank you.

Children of Thérèse



On February 25, 1954, Jacques Fesch entered the shop of Alexander Silberstein, a money-changer, at 39 Rue Vivienne in the Paris stock exchange, ordering a large quantity of gold. No need to suspect anything, Jacques is the son of a well-known banker. Just before six in the evening, he returns to pick up the gold but instead of paying he hits the money-changer on the head with the butt of a revolver stolen that morning from his father's house. Old Silberstein, bleeding, reacts and calls for help with all his voice. The man flees but in striking his victim the trigger of his revolver released and a bullet shot out wounding his hand. He too was now bleeding and this drew the attention of the people in the street. Followed by the crowd he comes to Rue Saint Marc and arrives at Boulevard des Italiens. Seeing a block of flats with an open driveway door leading into a courtyard he dashes in and runs up the stairway to the top of the building. On the fifth floor, he waits until things quite down. Then, he goes down very calmly as if nothing had happened. He walks out of the courtyard door with a normal step. But someone recognises him and shouts "That's him!". The policeman Georges Vergnes orders: "Hands up!". Fesch turned around immediately. Seized with panic, he drew forth his wounded hand which he had kept concealed in his overcoat pocket and fired a single shot. Fesch was tall, the police officer quite short: the shot reached the heart, the policeman died immediately. The man escapes again into the streets followed by the crowd. In his flight he fires another shot wounding seriously another man. He makes a dash for the Richelieu-Drouot metro station. Two people again try to seize him, but missed. He is finally caught.

At his trial, Fesch was condemned to death on the guillotine. His appeal for pardon was rejected. On October 1st 1957 he was executed. He was twenty-seven. During the months of detention in isolation, a remarkable change took place in the life of this atheist young man. In a letter written shortly after his death, his prison chaplain wrote: "Before his execution Jacques had been as closely united to Our Lord as it is possible to be (...) On September 30th, knowing he would be guillotined the following morning, he went to bed, slept, awoke during the night and asked what time it was. "Three o'clock in the morning". He asked for a light, got up, made his bed and took up his missal. This is how I found him on entering his cell at 5:30am. I heard his confession. His communion was very moving. I spoke with him briefly, then he fell silent. The executioners had him mount the scaffold. At once, Jacques said to me, "The crucifix, Father, the crucifix", and kissed him many times. These were his last words. It was very moving. Jacques offered his life for the conversion of his father, for those whom he loved and for the man he had killed. There was not the slightest note of rancour or bitterness, he died as a Christian."

On January 2nd it was the 150th anniversary of the birth of Thérèse of Lisieux. At the age of 14, she took to heart the desperate case of a criminal sentenced to death: "I wanted at all costs to prevent him from going to hell". On the way to the guillotine, the man asked for a crucifix and kissed it many times. She would always consider him to be her *first* spiritual child. Jacques Fesch 'happened' to be executed on October 1st, the Feast Day of Saint Thérèse!

In manus.

Father Ivano