

**St Agnes Catholic Church,
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Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Last week's collection. £2,170. Many Thanks.

Second collection – Sick & Retired Priests' Fund

Today's second collection is for the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. Please give generously and help ensure our sick and older priests are financially supported, having given us a lifetime of dedicated service. They have baptised us, welcomed us into the church, and offered comfort and prayer at times of sorrow. Now we have a chance to give back and ensure they have peace of mind during their senior years, when they may be facing failing health and declining mobility.

Please give generously using the envelopes in the church. You can make a one-off donation or set up a regular donation and become a Patron by completing section 4 on the envelope form. You can also donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations - the envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online.

Feasts this week. Monday. The Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter & Paul, Apostles. Thursday. The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Friday. St Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr. Saturday. Blessed Virgin Mary.

Prayer for the dead for November: Into your hands, O Lord. We humbly entrust our brothers and sisters. In this life you embraced them with your tender love, deliver them now from every evil and bid them enter eternal rest. The old order has passed away, welcome them into your paradise, where there will be no more sorrow, no weeping nor pain but fullness of peace and joy with your Son and the Holy Spirit forever and ever Amen.

Gospel Notes. Mark 13:24-32

1. Jesus speaks of the established order falling apart, but the collapse of the old order opened the way for new possibilities. Our church is in crisis, and the world is facing climate change disaster. Where have you seen something new and hopeful in the midst of all this, e.g. some action arising from better eco awareness (less waste, a community garden, et al)?

2. The Parable of the fig tree. Even in the winter it begins to put forth leaves which give a hint of the fruit to come. Where have you found the signs of hope in a wintry situation – in your own life, in the of the church, in our world?

3. Jesus proposes no clear time-scale for the events being foretold, so the final sentence (v32) is a call to alertness, because God can come to us in different ways each day. What difference does it make to you when you are able to live the present moment to the full.

Thought for the day: Be thankful you don't have everything you desire. If you did what would there be to look forward to? Be thankful when you don't know something for it gives you the opportunity to learn for improvement. Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow. Be thankful for your limitations because they give you opportunities for improvement. Be thankful for your mistakes, they will teach you valuable lessons. Be thankful when you're tired and weary as it means you've made a difference. A life of rich fulfilment comes to those who are thankful for the setbacks. Find a way to be thankful for your troubles and they can become blessings.

November is the month of the Holy Souls. Masses will be offered up for the Holy Souls over the month. November envelopes and sheets are available in the church porch. Please take them home, fill out the names of deceased and return back to the Church.

St Agnes Primary School are seeking a Full-time Teaching Assistant as soon as possible. Please see advert in the back of the Church.