

Fr Terry writes:

I am always a bit disconcerted when God is dragged into war. It seems that for centuries people have been justifying war by saying that God is on their side. I believe that in the last war, the belt of a German soldier carried the words on the buckle *Gott mit uns* – God with us. So we read Exodus 17.8-13 with mixed feelings. Moses with his arms being held up so that he can continue interceding for his people is a beautiful image of prayer. It ends badly for his people's enemies. Perhaps, though, we can return to the thought of God with us. It does not mean that God blesses everything we do. It *does* mean there is no time or no place where we are without God. To remember this might mean that we exercise all our powers with more discretion and compassion. We remember too that people who go to defend us put their lives on the line. Who would not want spiritual advice, prayer and consolation at such a moment? Hence the importance of military chaplaincy. And yet to leave it there would bowdlerise the story. Reading about Moses I find myself reflecting that a people with a strong sense of God are a people with a stronger sense of identity. I do not want God used – or rather abused – for racism, nationalism or tribalism. However I do wish that in the West today there was a greater sense of how Christ has shaped our history and our self-understanding. I wish that instead of grand services hallowing our great national or civic moments, we had a people who were more ready to turn to God in prayer at any moment of the day. For our own lives we seek the mercy, grace and guidance of God. If we do not bring our own lives in prayer to God, how can God give us anything? We will be unaware of the giver and of his gifts. We should be aware, too, of the fierce conflicts in our world, not least of the conflict between good and evil, love and hate. We are like Moses on the hilltop, able to pray and pray yet more, only this time instead of being on the hill above we are in front of our television sets, watching the events of the world unfold. And there is much to pray for. The parable of the widow and the unjust judge (Luke 18.1-8) is also challenging. At first glance it can make prayer seem uncomfortably like nagging God. But I think of a friend of mine who complains about his teenage children coming all the time to ask him for money. Actually, I know that he is glad it happens. At a time when they are stretching their wings and making their own decisions, it gives him a chance to talk to them, to understand the pressures on them, and to know them a little bit better even as he shows them once more that he loves them.

St Mary's Catholic Church

279 High Road London N2 8HG

Tel: 0208 883 4234 Parish email: finchleyeast@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Terry Tastard

29th Sunday (Year C) 20th October 2013

Our help shall come from the Lord – today's psalm

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 19th October

6.30 pm Vigil Carmelo Pignataro, *anniversary*

Sun 20th October

8.30 am *Mary Stacey, RIP*

10 am *Kathleen Flatley, RIP*

12 noon *Philippa Knox, RIP*

Mon 21st Oct

10 am *Kathleen Flatley, RIP*

Tue 22nd Oct

10 am *John Fernandes, RIP*

Wed 23rd Oct

10 am *Liturgy of the word and holy communion*

Thu 24th Oct

10 am *Lima family, intentions*

Fri 25th Oct

10 am *Patrick Elns, RIP*

Sat 26th Oct

10 am *William and Vera Brennan, intentions*

Confession Saturday 10.30-10.45 am and 6.05-6.25 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursday 10.30-10.50 am

Saturday 6-6.25 pm

Baptism Ask God's blessing on Christian Paul Thomas baptised here, Saturday 19th October.

Congratulations and best wishes to Martin and May Brennan, who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary this week.

Collection The collection last week was £1012.25. Today we have a second collection for the Association for the Propagation of the Faith, to help younger churches to build churches and train priests, and the work of mission generally.

St Mary's Christmas Fair

Saturday 23rd November 12noon until 3 pm

Please put the date in your diaries now and be sure to come along

We need: * Gifts for tombola stall (chocolate / bottles / jam jars) * cakes
* toiletries * books in good condition * volunteers to sell raffle tickets
fee free to bring any of the above to the church or presbytery door ... no jumble

Growing in Faith

Growing in Faith is a diocesan initiative to increase the resources which the church needs to meet the future. Every parish is asked to have its own project, and to join with others to help provide for care of the poor and of priests. Fr Terry will be meeting one-on-one with parishioners to ask their support.

Confirmation

Fr Terry writes: I apologise for a slight misunderstanding from this notice in previous weeks. Preparation sessions for young people will take place here at St Mary's East Finchley. Only the confirmation itself will take place at Golders Green. We are now able to take the names of those young people who want to be confirmed, who must be at least 12 or in year eight at school. Bishop John Arnold has asked neighbouring parishes to combine for confirmation, and so we will be going to St Edward the Confessor, Golders Green, for confirmation on Sunday 1st June. Confirmation classes begin on 12th February. A form is available. Return it to Fr Terry. We are very grateful to Matthew Whitaker and Florence Okafor who will be the catechists for confirmation.

First Communion Enrolment

We are now enrolling for First Holy Communion preparation. The preparation sessions will be on Sunday mornings at 9 am in term-time, and the children will then attend the Family Mass at 10 am. The first session is on 20th January. Forms are available to register your child, who must be at least 8 or in year 3.

October Month of the Rosary The Legion of Mary will be organising rosary prayer in church and homes throughout the month of October. All are welcome.

Tues 22nd Oct	Josie Willcocks	7 Park Hall Rd	3 pm
Wed 23rd Oct	In church after 10 am service		
Thurs 24th Oct	Annette O'Gorman	29 Elmhurst Ave	4 pm
Friday 25th Oct	Agnes Day	54 Squires Lane	3 pm
Sat 26th Oct	Dominic & Miscelle Almeida	7 Simms Gardens	2 pm

Friday 1st November ALL SAINTS DAY A holy day of obligation

Mass at 10 am and 7.30 pm

Annual Cemetery Mass

The annual Mass for those buried at St Pancras Cemetery will be in Islington Cemetery Chapel at 3 pm on Friday 15th November.

SVP

The SVP has a **helpline number** 07580 300 392. If you or someone you know has a request for assistance, please call this number.

St. Theresa's Catholic Primary School

East End Road, London, N3 2TD. Open Day for prospective pupils due to start Reception Class in September 2014. Open Days are as follows:

Thursday 7th November 2013 at 9.30am & 2.00pm

Thursday 14th November 2013 at 9.30am & 2.00pm

Wednesday 20th November 2013 at 9.30am & 2.00pm

Please call the school office for more information 020 8346 8826.

November Remembrance of our departed loved ones

November is the month of the Holy Souls. You are welcome to take a form and envelope from the back of the church and write on the form the names of any loved ones you would like to be remembered. You can return the form in the envelope via the sacristy or the presbytery letter box. Their names will be placed on the altar each day in November thereafter, and several Masses have been set aside each week to be offered for them.

Supporting Parents in Sacramental Preparation

Open to all interested parents and will be held at St Joseph's Pastoral Centre, St Joseph's Grove, The Burroughs, Hendon, London NW4 4TY. Date: Tuesday 12th November. Time 7-8.30 pm Suggested donation £3. Registration is required: For more information and registration email livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk

East Finchley Altogether Better

East Finchley Altogether Better is an initiative to bring people together in our area and to improve the quality of life. EFAB aims

- to share the skills and experience of local people
 - to pool available information for the benefit of everyone in the community
- To find out more and get involved, you are welcome to come and meet others this coming **Tuesday 22nd** in our own church hall. There is a morning session 10 am-12.30 pm and an afternoon session, 2-4.30 pm, and drop-in one-hour workshops 5-8 pm. There is something for everyone. For more information, take away one of the leaflets by the church door.

Tuesday Club for Senior Citizens

Our monthly club for senior citizens meets on **Tuesday 5th November** at 3 pm (note earlier starting time) and runs until 4.30 pm. All are welcome.