



Our Lady of Grace & St Edward's Chiswick and St Dunstan's Gunnersbury with St Joseph's Grove Park

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For even more regular news on parish life and activities, check the Latest News page on the parish website www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org or follow the parish on Twitter @ourladychiswick or Facebook at Our Lady of Grace & St Edward, Chiswick, London W4

26TH JULY 2020

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Fr Michael Dunne
Fr Mike Maguire
Fr Brendan Carmody SJ
Sharon Bowden

Parish Priest
Assistant Priest
In Residence
Administrator

Fr Michael writes:

We should be wise about asking the Lord for wisdom because He's very likely to grant it! In today's First Reading the young King Solomon asks for wisdom in preference to wealth and power and the Lord grants it. But wisdom brings with it the responsibility to act according to it, not as we might want to act which is to say, wilfully or selfishly. Jesus too implies this consistency in the last of His parables of the Kingdom of Heaven in St Matthew's Gospel. The person who has found the treasure in the field has to sell *everything* he owns in order to buy the field, just as the merchant, who finds the pearl of his dreams on offer, must sell *everything he owns* in order to buy the pearl of great price. If we are happy with *half-measures* we may only be ready to *pay* half-measures. And yet God loves us passionately. *He* has not paid half-measures for *us*! Rather He has in Christ 'sold' *everything He owns*, given His life, that we might share *His* life, His *everything* in the fullness of heaven. Do we realise what we are being offered when we are offered the Kingdom, which is to say, *life* in the Risen Christ here and its fullness in God hereafter? Indeed, the more we realise *what* we are being offered, the more likely it is that we are some way to conforming our lives to the invitation we have received; we have begun to *live* the wisdom we have received. And more is to come. For the more we realise in fact how intimately God speaks to us in the everyday reality of our lives, even and especially through the experience of the pandemic for the last few months, the readier we will be to encounter Him there. "We know that by turning everything to their good, God cooperates with all those who love Him, with all those that He has called according to his purpose", says St Paul in the Second Reading, "to become true images of His Son." These rich and wonderful truths of our discipleship might well be fruitful reflection for us in some rest over August, in which case Frs Mike, Brendan and I wish parishioners happy holidays. This is the last newsletter as normal until September. With our priestly comings and goings all Masses scheduled should be celebrated if, of course, there are sufficient generous stewards, to whom be many thanks.

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sat 25/7 6.30pm 6.30pm	Vigil Mass Grove Park	Thomas Healy John Kavanagh	ANN RIP
Sun 26/7 8.30am 9.45am 10.00am 11.00am 12.15pm 6.30pm	17 TH SUNDAY IN O.T. Gunnerysbury	Gaby Goubran Liam Lyons Fred Woods Thanksgiving Jer O'Sullivan Helena Ronan	RD RIP RIP INT INT 1 ST ANN
Mon 27/7 11.30am 12.30pm	Feria	Joyce D'Sa Pinton Tom Pirie	RD RD
Tues 28/7 11.30am 12.30pm	Feria	William Goodall Alf Dooley	ANN RIP
Wed 29/7 11.30am 12.30pm	ST. MARTHA	George Arthur Townson Ana Romero-Cabrera & Antonio Vaquero-Perea	RIP 10 TH ANN
Thurs 30/7 11.30am 12.30pm 1.45pm	Feria	Bernice Nolan The Malone Family Funeral of Theresa Donovan	RIP INT RIP
Fri 31/7 11.30am 12.30pm	ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA	The Maguire Family Beatrice Hooker	INT RIP
Sat 1/8 11.30am 3pm-5pm 6.30pm 6.30pm	ST ALPHONSUS LIGUORI Grove Park	Mai & Jack O'Dea Private Prayer Donal Murphy Laurence Ryan	RIP ANN INT

LET US PRAY

For those who are sick: Sandra Bocca, Cecil Pocock, Romeo Monthoy, Eulalie Raymond, Maxence Martin, Fr. Noel O'Boylon, Fr. Eamon Conaty, Gerry Duffy Andy Cronin, Maeve Kanal together with all those suffering in the pandemic.

For those recently deceased: Theresa Donovan, Agnus Browne and Sean O'Mahoney. May they rest in peace.

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Thomas Healy, Helena Ronan, William Goodall, Anna Romero-Cabrera, Antonio Vaquero-Perea, Donal Murphy.

THANK YOU TO THE STEWARDS – Because of the generosity of the volunteer stewards we are able to have the church open and to have two daily Masses. Without them we would have to remain closed. To volunteer please see www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org

MONDAY to FRIDAY

Church opens 11.00am
Mass 11.30am & 12.30pm
Church closes 1.00pm

SATURDAY

Church opens 11.00am
Mass 11.30am
followed by,
Private Prayer 12.15
(Last entry 12.45pm)
Church closes 1.00pm
Private Prayer 3.00pm to
5.00pm
(Last entry 4.45pm)
Church opens 6.00pm
Mass 6.30pm
Church closes 7.15pm

SUNDAY

Church opens 8.00am
Mass 8.30am,
9.45am,
11.00am,
12.15pm
Church closes 1.00pm
Church opens 6.00pm
Mass 6.30pm
Church closes 7.15pm

STEWARDS - In late July and through August even at weekends, on Sundays especially, we are currently down to one or two stewards booking in to volunteer. For Mass to take place, Our Lady of Grace needs FOUR stewards as a minimum, otherwise we cannot do what is expected of us to open safely and be 'Covid secure'. The responsibility for stewarding does not fall on those who are already doing it to do more but for those of working age who would be able even to offer *one two-hour shift a week* for perhaps two weeks or three. If it is argued that this is asking too much and an unreasonable hope, it would have to be accepted that parishioners have many varied responsibilities and commitments and they are the only ones who can determine their availability. The pity for us all, though, is that if enough stewards do not have the availability to book and turn up then the decision not to open the church at 11.00am or at the other church opening times, must be taken without notice. Those already awaiting the opening of the doors for Mass must prepare themselves for the occasions when Fr Michael or Fr Mike will regrettably have to explain that we cannot open. If we know in advance that we do not have enough stewards (which is the current position for August in spite of some generous volunteering over the last week) then we would be able to give a week's notice on the the church door when Mass could not take place. We cannot appoint untrained stewards for immediate service even if someone suitable turns up. Please, therefore, for any eligible parishioner who can help us sustain a partially open church, consider volunteering even a little and visit the parish website to sign up if you can: www.ourladyofgracechiswick.org

FOODBANK COLLECTION THIS WEEK – Between this weekend and next is our monthly collection of non-perishable items of food for our foodbank (which is very short of stock and funds). Parishioners already intending to be out at exercise or shopping may leave food all this week outside at the presbytery door. Please just ring the bell to us that food is outside and we will bring it soon inside. Cash donations are welcome also in envelopes marked 'Foodbank' through the letterbox. On Monday 3rd August the food/toiletries/cash will be delivered to the foodbank.

CENTERING PRAYER – In the current lockdown the Centering Prayer group has found a new way to convene via the internet platform Zoom. The group will now be meeting fortnightly on Mondays at 7.30pm. The next meeting will be 27th July so if you would like to join please phone or email John O'Brien who will be happy to assist: 07747611616 or john@jobrien.co.uk

BAPTISMS, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION – Even with Masses for restricted numbers now being offered, the return to large and festal occasions such as First Holy Communion or Confirmation Masses is more distant. The instructions for Baptisms have, however, now been published by the Bishops' Conference and so dates are being booked into the diary and the parish is contacting those families who had booked baptisms from the lockdown period. There is to be only one baptism and family group at a time with a maximum of 30 present and socially distant (2M) in church. Rescheduling the First Holy Communion and Confirmation Masses is going to have to wait for as near a return to normality as possible perhaps in the Autumn. The parish will swiftly contact parents and guardians of existing candidates for these sacraments as soon as authority is given.

MARRIAGE CARE, COUNSELLING SERVICES – *Marriage Care*, established in 1946 in response to the pressure on family relationships following the end of the Second World War, now offers support from trained counsellors to couples and families who need help in coping with the pressures of 'Lockdown'. Further information: <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/marriage-and-family-life/news/marriage-care-at-75---we-are-here-for-you/>

PARISH ASSOCIATION WITH THE CATHOLIC UNION – Our parish has become the first in the country to have a formal association with The Catholic Union www.catholicunion.org.uk and many more will follow where there is shared interest. Fr Michael much recommends going to the website to sign up for their news briefings directly emailed completely free of charge. The news from parliament is always interesting if often rather worrying with initiatives to challenge the common good.

Collection for last weekend:

£4291.02

Thank you for your generosity.

GUNNERSBURY NOTES

Thank you to those who have volunteered to be stewards and cleaners at St Dunstan's so that we can resume and sustain at least a 10.00am Sunday Mass. Today is first public Mass in St Dunstan's after the lockdown at **10.00am** and thereafter it is hoped every Sunday of the summer and onwards while the lockdown is slowly lifted. A further training session for Stewards and Cleaners can take place if more volunteers can generously steward and clean. Please could all parishioners remember that Mass will not be 'normal' as before. Mass must be short and simple with no singing, bidding prayers, sign of peace, Precious Blood, and Holy Communion taken in silence. The Reader must wear disposable gloves as must stewards and cleaners. PPE will be provided. The church has a reduced capacity of 21 places due to the requirements of social distancing. Thus all parishioners would not be able to attend at once in any case. However, let us begin again. The volunteering will be for about 90 minutes weekly: 30 minutes before Mass, 30 minutes at Mass, and 30 minutes washing and disinfecting, working on four or five volunteers who must be between 18 and 70 years of age and with no underlying health conditions. New volunteers pls email chiswick@rcdow.org.uk Please remember that if we do not have at least three volunteers for Mass, we cannot have Mass and, in the worst case scenario, Mass might have to be cancelled without notice. Please volunteer to avoid this!

GROVE PARK NOTES

Thank you to those who have provided their email addresses to Fr Michael so that the recruitment of volunteers can begin in order to resume and sustain at least one public Mass at St Joseph's each weekend over the summer and onwards. The first training session for Stewards and Cleaners took place last Tuesday but a second can be arranged so please do volunteer. Please would all parishioners remember that Mass will not be 'normal' as before. Mass must be short and simple with no singing, bidding prayers, sign of peace, Precious Blood, and Holy Communion taken in silence. The Reader must wear disposable gloves as must stewards and cleaners. PPE will be provided. **The church has a much reduced capacity of just sixteen places** due to social distancing requirements so all parishioners would not be able to attend at once in any case. However, let us begin again. The volunteering will be for about 90 minutes weekly: 30 minutes before Mass, 30 minutes at Mass, and 30 minutes washing and disinfecting, working on four or five volunteers who must be between 18 and 70 years of age and with no underlying health conditions. New volunteers pls email chiswick@rcdow.org.uk Please remember that if we do not have at least three volunteers for Mass, we cannot have Mass and, in the worst case scenario, Mass might have to be cancelled without notice. Please volunteer to avoid this!

Update on St Joseph's Jungle Garden aka Project Paradise Regained – After a careful selection process a landscape gardening company has been commissioned for a two-phased rejuvenation of the parish garden. Phase One is Clearance which will happen in late July and/or early August, weather permitting, and will, name notwithstanding, keep what should be kept. Phase Two is Replanting and this will happen in September in good time for the autumn rains to bed in the new garden for winter. Between Phases One and Two the garden will not be pretty but this too is a phase and will pass.

In other news progress on the presbytery is necessarily slower while the late Fr John's estate is being settled by his Executor. Also as yet the time is not right to book in a Parish Memorial Mass for the late Fr John as we will wish all parishioners to be able to be present and so we will have to wait for social distancing restrictions effectively to be lifted altogether.

VIRTUAL WESTMINSTER LOURDES PILGRIMAGE! - As the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage cannot take place this year, a virtual pilgrimage will take place instead from 26th June to 1st August, with a full programme of Masses and devotions. Full details can be found on the events page of the diocesan website and on the poster at the back of the Church. All are welcome to join in this virtual pilgrimage on the dedicated Westminster Diocese Lourdes Pilgrimage YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9AT-YIsH22Hbp2rnIG7jsA>