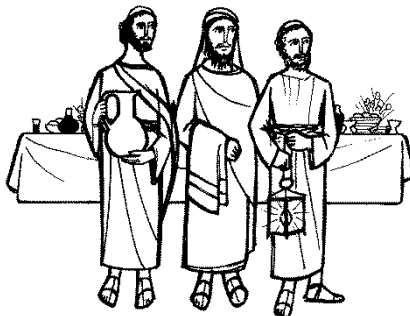




Our Lady of Lourdes Harpenden

7th August 2016
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time



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THE OFFICE
IS CLOSED
DURING
SCHOOL
HOLIDAYS

Also in Residence
Bishop Emeritus
John Crowley
(Retired)

Jesus has switched from talking to the crowds, to talking to his disciples. So Peter's enquires about to whom Jesus means his teaching to apply: is it the small group, the little flock, or all the followers? Of course, the Gospel's first audience was the earliest generation of Christians, and that all the evangelists wrote Jesus's words as if he was talking to the community after the Resurrection, not just those who walked with him in his earthly life. The 'servant' and the 'master' are not simply fictions but stand for Jesus and the pastors of the Church, although not in all aspects of his behaviour - Jesus won't punish those who betray his trust. There are two examples which make a somewhat different point - being ready for the Lord's return which was thought to be imminent. What unites the two teachings is shown by the First Reading and the Psalm. They are both about *the Lord's people*; how fortunate we are to be among them, but what obligations that brings!

SMILE LINES

SHAGGY DOG STORY

The new vicar was puzzled and slightly apprehensive at the sight of old Mr. Jackson's strange-looking dog. "What is it?", he asked, "some kind of chow?".

"Search me", said Jackson, shrugging, "My daughter sent it from Africa -she married an African, you know".

"It's such a big shaggy dog", commented the vicar.

"Well, yes", agreed the old man, "but it's a lot tidier now since I clipped all that long hair from round its neck".

* * * * *

Mrs. Smith decided she needed a good watchdog. Having seen an advertisement for a thoroughbred police dog at a very reasonable price, she sent off a cheque and asked for

the dog to be delivered, A few days later the dog arrived - the shaggiest old mongrel she had ever seen. Furious, she telephoned the advertiser "How on earth can you call that old mongrel a thorough-bred police dog?".

"But he is, Madam", came the reply.

"Don't be deceived by his looks. He's in the Secret Service".

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MOVE IT

A South London Parish Priest who was appointed to another parish received a letter from a Removal Firm. It assured him: "Dear Sir, We would like to remove you. In the last year we have

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 6th August
10.00am Intentions of Liz Wang P. H.
6.00pm

Sunday 7th August 19th in Ordinary Time
08.30 Private Intention
09.45 The People of the Parish
11.30 Johnny Cullen (RIP) Rec. Dec.

Monday 8th August St. Dominic
09.15 Special Intention

Tuesday 9th August St. Teresa Benedicta
09.15

Wednesday 10th August St. Lawrence
09.15 Margaret Foulds (RIP)

Thursday 11th August St. Clare
11.00am

Friday 12th August St. Bonaventure
09.15

Saturday 13th August
10am
6pm Stanley Norman Whittle (RIP anniv)

Sunday 14th August 20th in Ordinary Time
08.30 Tony Rammelt (RIP) Rec. Dec.
09.45
11.30 Denise Iommi (RIP) Rec. Dec.

removed 20 South London Parish Priests, to the entire satisfaction of all concerned."

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QUOTE - Pope Francis

Prayer is the first and principal 'work tool' in our hands. To insist on something with God is not in order to convince him, but rather to strengthen our faith and our patience, that is, our capacity to fight beside God for the things that are truly important and necessary. In prayer we are a pair: God and me, fighting together for what is important.