

## NEWSLETTER

12th Sunday in  
Ordinary Time*The Faith That Conquers Fear*

I'll finish my letter by saying this: let yourself be invaded by God. Live in him through faith. Hand yourself over to him. He won't fail to take possession of your whole being. He is love; and we exist only because of his infinite goodness. Let's breathe in, to put it that way, the divine milieu in which we live. God is in us.., Let's adore him with faith. Everything changes when we look at this divine sun. May faith be the lens that reveals to you your Creator. A soul that has faith has everything because it has God. Sufferings are transformed by faith.

The important thing is not to concentrate on the external. We should examine the source from which things are born, and faith will make it known: It's God's love which tries, refines, and purifies our soul. When you're suffering look at Jesus. He is loving you with tenderness because you are participating in his cross, in the cross, he carried in his most divine Heart from Bethlehem to Calvary. Place yourself and everything around you in that Heart of Jesus. Live abandoned to his holy will. From that abandonment, oneness with God will be born.

*St Teresa of Jesus of the Andes*

*Re-Opening of Churches*

Here at St Edmund's the Church is opened for **Individual Prayer only, from 10 am-1 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays with the Blessed Sacrament Exposed, without Benediction.** When you enter the Church, please sanitize your hands with gel provided and you will be given wipes to wipe the area you use prior to departing. Kindly refrain from touching statues, you may light a candle from the lit candle on the stand. Thank you for your co-operation.

It's anticipated that places of worship would be permitted to open on 4th & 5th July for the faithful to gather for Mass. This would mean teams of volunteers for the following:

- 1) Ushers, at All Masses; 6 pm Saturday; 9 am Sunday and 11 am on Sunday.
- 2) We require to have a team of volunteers to clean the church immediately after the 9 am Mass.

If you are able to volunteer, could I ask you please give your details to Katherine at the Parish Office? When we are able to gather for Mass Mass books and Hymnbooks would not be provided until we are permitted; Should you take a NEWSLETTER you are kindly asked not to return the NewsLetters back to the stand when you depart but instead take it home with you. Thank you

**Your Prayers** are asked for Canon Christopher Tuckwell whose undergoing treatment at Royal Marsden Hospital. For all the sick and retired clergy of the Diocese.

Pray for the repose of the soul of Canon Vincent Berry RIP who passed away last weekend. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

MASS INTENTIONSJune 20, 2020

6pm - John Higgins (Anniv)

June 21, 2020

11 am— People of the Parish

For weekday mass intentions please, see the notice board on the left hand side of the main door of the church.

***The church remains closed but masses continue to be offered behind the closed door.***

***Parish Office remains open.***

***Please, contact us in case of any problem caused by the lockdown. We got a team of healthy people ready to help.***

**Spiritual Communion**

Jesus!

My God and my All  
my soul longs for thee.

My heart yearns to  
receive thee in

Holy Communion, come, O  
Lord.

Bread of heaven and food of  
angels to nourish my soul  
heal my body and to rejoice  
my heart

come most lovable friend of  
my soul,

to inflame me with such love  
that I may never again be ever  
separated from thee. Amen

## Readings for this &amp; next Sunday

1st Reading; Jeremiah 20:10 –13,  
Psalm 68:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35 response v 14  
2nd Reading - Romans 5: 1-15  
Gospel – Mathew 10; 26-33

1st Reading; Acts 12:1-11  
Psalm 102:1-4, 6-8, 10 response v 17  
2nd Reading - Timothy 4: 6-8, 17-18  
Gospel – Mathew 16; 13-19

*It is vital to remember the good we have received. If we do not remember it, we become strangers to ourselves, “passers-by” of existence. Without memory, we uproot ourselves from the soil that nourishes us and allow ourselves to be carried away like leaves in the wind. If we do remember, however, we bind ourselves afresh to the strongest of ties; we feel part of a living history, the living experience of a people. Memory is not something private; it is the path that unites us to God and to others. This is why in the Bible the memory of the Lord must be passed on from generation to generation... But there is a problem: what if the chain of transmission of memories is interrupted? And how can we remember what we have only heard, unless we have also experienced it? God knows how difficult it is, he knows how weak our memory is, and he has done something remarkable: he left us a memorial. He did not just leave us words, for it is easy to forget what we hear. He did not just leave us the Scriptures, for it is easy to forget what we read. He did not just leave us signs, for we can forget even what we see. He gave us Food, for it is not easy to forget something we have actually tasted. He left us Bread in which he is truly present, alive and true, with all the flavour of his love.”*

*Pope Francis*

*God never liked to have anything to do with those who prayed the “easy” way. And Moses was not a “weak” dialogue partner either, from the very first day of his vocation... Moses urges us to pray with the same ardour as Jesus, to intercede for the world, to remember that despite all its frailties, it still belongs to God. Everyone belongs to God. The worst sinners, the wickedest people, the most corrupt leaders, they are children of God, and Jesus feels this and intercedes for everyone. And the world lives and thrives thanks to the blessing of the righteous, to the prayer for mercy, this prayer for mercy that the saint, the righteous, the intercessor, the priest, the bishop, the Pope, the layperson, any baptised person incessantly raises up for humanity, in every place and time in history. Let us think of Moses, the intercessor. And when we want to condemn someone and we become angry inside... to get angry is good it can be healthy - while to condemn does no good, let us intercede for him or her; this will help us a lot.”*

*Pope Francis*

*“I urge you to reflect on “life after the pandemic,” for while this storm shall pass, its grave consequences are already being felt. You are not helpless. You have the culture, the method, and most of all, the wisdom that are kneaded with the leaven of feeling the suffering of others as your own. I hope that this time of danger will free us from operating on automatic pilot, shake our sleepy consciences and allow a humanist and ecological conversion that puts an end to the idolatry of money and places human life and dignity at the centre. Our civilization — so competitive, so individualistic, with its frenetic rhythms of production and consumption, its extravagant luxuries, its disproportionate profits for just a few — needs to downshift, take stock, and renew itself. You are the indispensable builders of this change that can no longer be put off. Moreover, when you testify that to change is possible, your voice is authoritative. You have known crises and hardships ... that you manage to transform — with modesty, dignity, commitment, hard work and solidarity — into a promise of life for your families and your communities.”*

*Pope Francis*

*“Given the current health crisis in various countries, many children are forced into jobs that are inappropriate for their age, so as to help their own families who are in conditions of extreme poverty. Many cases are forms of slavery and confinement, resulting in physical and psychological suffering. We are all responsible for this. I appeal that every effort be made on the part of institutions to protect minors, by filling the economic and social gaps that underlie the distorted dynamic in which they are unfortunately involved. Children are the future of the human family: all of us are expected to promote their growth, health and tranquillity.”*

*Pope Francis*

### **Healing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, I thank you for loving me.

I thank you for sending your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, to the world to save and to set me free.

I trust in your power and grace that sustain and restore me.

Loving Father, touch me now with your healing hands, for I believe that your will is for me to be well in mind, body, soul, and spirit.

Cover me with the most precious blood of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ from the top of my head to the soles of my feet. Cast anything that should not be in me. Root out any unhealthy and abnormal cells. Open any blocked arteries or veins and rebuild and replenish any damaged areas.

Remove all inflammation and cleanse any infection by the power of Jesus' precious blood. Let the fire of your healing love pass through my entire body to heal and make new any diseased areas so that my body will function the way you created it to function.

Touch also my mind and my emotion, even the deepest recesses of my heart. Saturate my entire being with your presence, love, joy, and peace and draw me ever closer to you every moment of my life. And Father, fill me with your Holy Spirit and empower me to do your works so that my life will bring glory and honour to your holy name, I ask this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*St Padre Pio*

***"if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in Heaven"***

On 7th February 1945, the Communist soldiers arrived at the Franciscan Monastery in Siroki Brijeg and said, 'God is dead, there is no God, there is no Pope, there is no Church, there is no need of you, you also go out in the world and work' The Franciscans were working as teachers and some were professors who had written books. The communists ordered them to remove their habits, they refused and one angry soldier took the Crucifix and threw it on the floor, he said, 'you can now choose either life or death'. The friars knelt down, embraced the Crucifix, and said, 'You are my God and my all'. The thirty Franciscans were taken out and slaughtered and their bodies burned in a nearby cave where their remains lay for many years. Today their remains are buried inside the Franciscan Church.

We don't live under such difficult circumstances today. But the Church in our time is also suffering greatly. It seems to me we have lost our sense of right and wrong as we are drifting away from God. When we drift away from the Truth it follows then we don't know the difference between truth and falsehood. We have forgotten that sin is sin. St Paul writing to the Romans, says, 'But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through one man's trespass much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man Jesus Christ, abounded for the many' (Romans 5: 15).

We have heard it said, follow the crowd, but that 's falling away from God and the popular narrative says, 'It's uncool to be religious, and the martyrdom needed now is not to follow the crowd. In this narrative, it's held that religion impedes once freedom, curbs once enjoyment of life. The crowd, looking for pleasure, doesn't seem to realize that freedom and pleasure can only be achieved by following God. Recall when Jesus arrived into Jerusalem for the last time, the crowds were hailing him and throwing palm branches on the road and others even spread there cloaks on the road before him. A short time later, they berated him and called him to be crucified and called for the release of Barabbas and even the apostles deserted him and Peter denied him. Even in our first reading Jeremiah, says, 'I hear so many disparaging me, 'Terror from every side!' denounce him! Let us denounce him!' His friends too have deserted him for proclaiming a prophetic word from God.

Our readings invite us to be steadfast and be bold in standing up for Jesus and for what is right even if it's unpopular. Our happiness comes from following God's ways. Even if they say, 'you are out of touch and you belong to a bygone era going to Mass because you respect marriage as a sacrament and you value human life and we hold our head high. We have to remember that it's not they who will judge us but God and he will also judge them. As Jeremiah says in our first reading, 'But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero; my opponents will stumble, mastered, confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs'.

In conclusion, I quote our Lord, ' So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven'.

*Fr. Christopher*

***With you is the source of life***

You have been redeemed, consider who it is who hangs on the cross for you, whose death gives life to the dead, whose passing is mourned by heaven and earth, while even the hard stones are split. Consider how great he is; consider what he is.

In order that the Church might be formed from the side of Christ as he slept on the cross, in order that the word of scripture might be fulfilled-'They shall look on him whom they have pierced'-God's providence decreed that one of the soldiers should open his sacred side with a spear, so that blood with water might flow out to pay the price of our salvation. This blood, which flowed from its source in the secret recesses of his heart, gave the sacraments of the Church power to confer that life of grace, and for those who already live in Christ was a draught of living water welling up to eternal life.

Arise, then, bride of Christ, be like the dove that nests in the rock-face at the mouth of a cavern, and there, like a sparrow which finds its home, do not cease to keep vigil; there, like a turtle-dove, hide the fledglings of your chaste love; place your lips there to draw water from the wells of your Saviour. For this is the spring flowing from the middle of paradise; it divides and becomes four rivers, then spreads through all devout hearts, and waters the whole world and makes it fruitful.

O soul devoted to God, whoever you may be, run to this source of life and light with eager longing. And with the power of your inmost heart cry out to him: 'O indescribable beauty of God most high! O pure radiance of everlasting light! O life that gives life to all life! O light that illuminates every light, and preserves in its undying splendour the myriad flames that have shone before the throne of your godhead from the dawn of time!

'O water eternal and inaccessible, clear and sweet, flowing from the spring that is hidden from the eyes of all mortal men; the spring whose depths cannot be plumbed, whose height cannot be measured, whose shores cannot be charted, whose purity cannot be muddied'.

From this source flows the river which makes glad the city of God so that with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving we sing to you our hymns of praise, and by experience prove that with you is the fountain of life; and in your light we shall see light.

*St Bonaventure*