

## NEWSLETTER

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in  
Ordinary Time*'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth'*

We have a tendency when things go wrong to blame God, I have had told to me so often during an excruciating illness, 'father why is God doing this to me,?' I often reply, look to the cross, and I say when I look at the cross, I see the mangled body of our Lord hanging, and the wounds that the nails have made, I say it's I who deserve to die for all my sins and instead our Lord says to the Father, No let him live I shall die in his place, it's exactly what our Lord did.

God in his generosity helps and continues to help us through any adversity or crisis. Some people, however, tend to turn to palm reading, tarot card reading, making a visit to a witch doctor or physic reading, having their horoscope read, to find a solution to the problems. I have to put my hand up and In the past, I have been guilty of dabbling in such activities. Surfice to say, it didn't get me anywhere except waste my money.

Our second reading from St Paul's letter to the Romans reminds us, 'There is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live'. God is stronger than all such practices. We have to decide for God, recall the First Commandment, 'I am the Lord your God, you shall have no strange gods before me'

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest'. When I need spiritual advice, I turn to my Spiritual Director, I choose God not someone else. before I contracted COVID-19, speaking with my Spiritual Director I was intending to go on a retreat. It's still on my mind to do and go on holiday, I am in a fortunate position that I could combine the two! Often times we tend to saturate our minds listening to the radio or watching TV which does not bring any rest and someone commented just recently that there should be a health warning because it blocks God out from our lives. When we need rest, we should turn to the Lord in prayer.

When a crisis comes remember the Rosary and don't abandon God by following or dabbling in other practices. 'The Spirit of God has made his home in you' and Jesus says, to us, 'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest'.  
Fr Christopher

**Matthew 11: 25-30**

Alleluia; we are now able to gather again. Jesus invites us to rest with Him. He too was in lockdown with us and now He invites us to put all our worries, concerns, burdens, difficulties into his care. By handing it all over to Him we will truly rest.

The burdens we carry are easy and light with Jesus. In this unusual time, we are called to help others to carry their load. Try your best to do so with someone around you, who might be in need.

*Fr. Javier Ruiz-Ortiz***MASS INTENTIONS****July 4, 2020**

6pm - People of the Parish

**June 5, 2020**

9am—For all the volunteers of the Parish

11am— Joseph Francis Silva (Anniv)

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

Confession  
only by appointment.**Spiritual  
Communion**

Jesus!

My God and my All  
my soul longs for thee.My heart yearns to  
receive thee inHoly Communion, come, O  
Lord.Bread of heaven and food  
of angels to nourish my  
soulheal my body and to rejoice  
my heartcome most lovable friend of  
my soul,to inflame me with such  
lovethat I may never again be  
ever separated from thee.

Amen

## Readings for this &amp; next Sunday

1st Reading; Zechariah 9:9-10

Psalm 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14 response v 1

2nd Reading - Romans 8: 11-13

Gospel – Mathew 11; 25-30

1st Reading; Isaiah 55:10-11

Psalm 64:10-14,

2nd Reading - Romans 8: 18-23

Gospel – Mathew 13; 1-23

*Thy kingdom come*

Is there anyone, however ill-mannered, who would not consider beforehand how to address a person of high rank of whom it was necessary to ask a favour? Would not one be careful to gratify him, to avoid offending him, and to think over what one meant to petition for, and what use could be made of it, especially if the request were an important one, such as the good Jesus tells us to beg for? I think this point deserves serious consideration.

Could you not, O my Lord, have included everything in one phrase, saying: 'Give us, Father, whatever we need'? For, as God knows all things, further words seem needless. O eternal Wisdom! this alone would have sufficed between you and your Father. Thus did you address him in the garden: you showed him your will and your dread, and submitted yourself to his will. But you know, O my God, that we are not so resigned as you were to the will of your Father—there was a need to name each thing we pray for, that we might decide whether it was what we wanted, and otherwise not to ask it of you. For being what we are, unless what we want is given to us, as we have free will we should not accept it as the gift of God though it might be best for us, since unless we see the money in our hand we never think we are rich.

The good Jesus bids us say these words which ask that this kingdom come in us: 'Hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come in us'. How great is the wisdom of our Master? It is well that we should all learn what we ask for when praying for this kingdom. His majesty saw that, unless he enabled us to do so by giving us his kingdom here on earth, our natural defects would render us unfit either to hallow, praise, magnify, glorify, or extol the holy name of the eternal Father. Therefore the good Jesus placed the two petitions close together. I will tell you what I understand about the matter, so that you may realize for what you are praying, how important it is to ask for it, and how we should strive to please him who can bestow it.

Among the many other joys of the kingdom of heaven, the principle appears to me to consist in a disregard of all earthly things and a peace and beatitude which rejoice and delight in the bliss of one's companions. The soul dwells in perfect peace and feels supreme satisfaction at seeing that all those around it honour and praise God and bless his name, and at knowing that they never offend him. In heaven every one loves him; the soul cares for nothing but loving him: it cannot cease to do so because it knows him as he is. If only we knew him we should love him in the same way in this world, and although not so constantly and so perfectly as in heaven, yet very differently from what we do now.

*The Way of Perfection of St Teresa*

*“Jesus asks His disciples to take the demands of the Gospel seriously, even when that requires sacrifice and effort... He says: “Whoever loves father or mother [...] son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me” (v. 37). Jesus certainly does not intend to undervalue love for parents and children, but He knows that family bonds, if put in first place, can deviate from the true good...All of us can give many examples in this regard, not to mention those situations in which family affections are intermingled with choices that are contrary to the Gospel. When, instead, love toward parents and children is inspired and purified by love for the Lord, it then becomes totally fruitful and produces fruit for the good of the family itself as well as beyond it. Jesus says this phrase with this meaning...The true love of Jesus requires a true love of parents and children, but to seek out family interests first always leads to the wrong path.” Pope Francis*

*“Unity is the fruit of prayer, for prayer allows the Holy Spirit to intervene, opening our hearts to hope, shortening distances and holding us together at times of difficulty... We today can ask: “Are we protecting our unity, our unity in the Church, with prayer? Are we praying for one another?” What would happen if we prayed more and complained less, if we had a more tranquil tongue?... God expects that when we pray we will also be mindful of those who do not think as we do, those who have slammed the door in our face, those whom we find it hard to forgive.”*

*Pope Francis*

*Alleluia!* We have waited for this moment when Churches would be opened for public liturgies. We have been following the Mass via live streaming or online and making a Spiritual Communion. Our hearts have yearned to receive Our Lord as we have patiently endured a Eucharistic Fast. This weekend our hearts are joyful as we gather again to receive Our Lord with joy. Thank you for your patience as you calmly waited for this moment. God bless you

Here at St Edmund's, we will keep 1m distance but this rule would be subject to review and could change. This first weekend of us been back we will observe and make a decision that would be practical to implement. If on the other hand, you are unable to attend Mass at the weekend you may attend other days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday at 9.15 am and Saturday at 6 pm & Sunday 9 am and 11 am. During this time the Sunday obligation is lifted.

If you should use the toilets could we ask that you use the cleaning products available to disinfect those areas after use?

We need volunteers to clean the Church immediately after the 9 am Mass. If you could help, do make yourself known.

Mass books and Hymn Books would not be available as there will be NO congregational singing. Instead, Kriemhild would play the keyboard.

There wouldn't be any children's liturgy at 9 am & 11 am for the time being.

If you take a Newsletter, please don't return it back to the stand or tray or leave it lying around in the Church. Please take it home with you and then dispose of it.

*Fr. Christopher*

### St. Thomas the Apostle, Pray for Us!

Today we honour a disciple who is known for his doubt, but whose eventual profession of faith became a simple prayer for all Christians: "My Lord and my God!"

"Thomas shares the lot of Peter the impetuous, James and John, the 'sons of thunder,' Philip and his foolish request to see the Father—indeed all the apostles in their weakness and lack of understanding. We must not exaggerate these facts, however, for Christ did not pick worthless men. But their human weakness again points up the fact that holiness is a gift of God, not a human creation; it is given to ordinary men and women with weaknesses; it is God who gradually transforms the weaknesses into the image of Christ, the courageous, trusting, and loving one."

*from Saint of the Day*

*"In the Gospels, Jesus is called "son of David" a number of times; in fact, like him, He was born in Bethlehem...Let us look at David; let us think about David. Holy and sinful, persecuted and persecutor, victim and manslayer, which is a contradiction. David was all of this, together. And we too have recorded events in our lives that are often opposed to each other; in the drama of life, all people often sin by inconsistency. There is a single golden thread running through David's life, that gives unity to everything that happens: his prayer. That is the voice that is never extinguished. David the saint prays; David the sinner prays; David the persecuted prays; David the persecutor prays. Even David the manslayer prays...That is the voice that is never silenced: whether it assumes tones of jubilation or those of lament, it is always the same prayer; only the melody changes. In so doing, David teaches us to let everything enter into dialogue with God: joy as well as guilt, love as well as suffering, friendship as much as sickness. Everything can become a word spoken to the "You" who always listens to us."*

*Pope Francis*

*"Jesus admonishes: "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" - that is, for love, for love of Jesus, love for one's neighbour, for service towards others (Matthew 10:39). This is the Gospel paradox. But even regarding this, we have many, many examples, thank God! We see it in these days, how many people, how many people, are bearing crosses to help others, they sacrifice themselves to help others who are in need in this pandemic... But, always with Jesus, it can be done. The fullness of life and joy is found by giving oneself for the Gospel and for others, through openness, welcoming and goodness."*

*Pope Francis*

#### *From Fr. Chris*

Now that we can all gather again. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers during the time of my illness. I can confirm that I was tested positive for COVID-19. I was seriously ill, thanks be to God and our Blessed Mother I didn't have to go into hospital. As my Doctor said, I was extremely lucky since I had all the symptoms but no temperature. I am equally thankful to all of you who volunteered to do the shopping for me and the innumerable phone calls inquiring after my welfare. I am humbled by your kindness and generosity. Thank you and may God bless you all.

