



# St. Vincent de Paul (Osterley) Newsletter

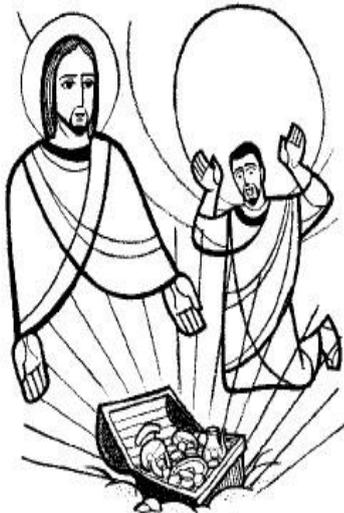


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TW7 4AJ.

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<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/osterley/> Or Google St Vincent de Paul Church, Osterley and follow the links  
This parish is part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee Registered Charity No. 233699

26 July 2020

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr A Vol. 2 (Pg. 108)



**1 Kings 3:5,7-12.** You have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself. Solomon prays for the gift of wisdom to ensure the discerning judgement he would need if he were to be a good king. This surpasses all other gifts of wealth, power and victory over his enemies that he might have asked from the Lord.

**Romans 8:28-30.** God intended us to become true images of his Son. Paul reassures us that God is ultimately behind every event that happens in our lives.

**Matthew 13:44-52.** He sells everything he owns and buys the field. The kingdom is compared to a valuable find – a treasure, a pearl, and a good catch of fish.

PSALM 118: Lord, how I love your law!



**Fr. Robin Burgess has prepared a homily for today**  
**You can read it on our website in the section entitled 'Homilies/Pastoral Letters' or scroll to the end of this page.**



*The church building is open for individual private prayer (which includes household groups) and for mass. Please check the website each week for opening hours as these change. Procedures are in place which comply with government advice to limit the spread of Covid-19.*

*26<sup>th</sup> July 2020*

Dear Parishioners,

From the 1<sup>st</sup> August parishioners may book two Sunday masses per calendar month. In addition, parishioners may book any Sunday mass the day before it takes place if there are places available.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> August parishioners may book any weekday mass.

Both of the above can be done online OR by phoning 078 9989 5483 only if you do not have access to the internet.

For the last two weeks there have been unfilled places at some Sunday masses so please remember to check on Saturdays in case there are places available. This will allow those parishioners who do so to attend more often than twice a month.

The purpose of this system is so that all parishioners who are medically able can attend at least two masses per month without being in competition with other parishioners.

The obligation to attend mass remains suspended (see below) but for Catholics attendance at mass is a joy and a privilege rather than an obligation.

### **Supporting the Parish**

Since resuming mass many parishioners have returned planned giving envelopes or made cash donations. There are collection baskets located at the front of the church at both Sunday and weekday masses for parishioners to make their weekly offerings. We are grateful for all those who supported the parish by standing order or electronic donations during lockdown and to all those who have contributed as mentioned above.

The parish relies on your support, not least to pay for the sanitizing equipment we have bought and to pay the four young part time cleaners who are ensuring the church is safe for us all to use.

Details of the collection are published below.

### **Confessions**

Confessions will resume being heard in the parish at the new time of 9.00am – 9.45 am on Saturday mornings. You can also make an appointment for the priest to hear your confession by ringing 078 9989 5483. Please leave a message if there is no reply and we will ring you back.

### **Baptism**

The parish can now resume baptisms. These will take place on Saturday mornings at 11.00 am. If you have asked to have your child baptised the parish will contact you in the next week to arrange a date.

### **Other Services**

In these weeks our focus has been on reopening safely for mass. The parish will now look at how we can resume bringing Holy Communion to the housebound. In due course we will also communicate about celebrating First Holy Communion and Confirmations which have been delayed. We will also look at whether we can resume devotions such as the Rosary and our prayer Group.

As usual for reflections on today's readings I recommend that you read the homily written by Fr Robin which is at the end of this newsletter.

**Update on the resumption of Sunday and Weekday mass (as published in last week's newsletter).**

I just want to emphasise the following:

1. The parish has employed four young part-time cleaners/stewards to clean the church after every service. Having tried it out myself, this work is quite strenuous and given the importance of this task and the training involved (which includes the use of PPE) this seems the most appropriate arrangement.



2. The parish is also thankful for everyone who has volunteered to Steward. Our volunteer stewards complement the work of our paid staff and enables us to open the church for mass and prayer more frequently.
3. Our regular volunteer cleaners will continue to give the church and other buildings their normal cleaning routine.
4. The parish is operating a 2.0 metre social distancing policy which means people are not obliged to wear masks (but may do so if they wish).
5. The parish has carefully calculated the capacity of the church when being filled in a socially distanced way by different sizes of groups. There are 77/76 tickets available for each mass.
6. Please see above for the new booking arrangements from the first of August.
7. We will only make available a number of tickets consistent with maintaining social distancing.

**Please keep checking the website to learn about updates to our procedures.**

As mentioned elsewhere the church is following all government and diocesan procedures to be as safe as possible. Sometimes pictures say this better than words so I have posted pictures in this newsletter of the following:

1. Battery operated (more to come) and pump action hand sanitizers.
2. One-way system in the church.
3. Touch bins replaced with pedal bins.
4. Seats roped off to maintain 2.0 m distance.
5. No kneeling allowed to maintain social distancing.
6. Hand towels instead of driers.

This is not a complete list but it gives an idea of the practical steps we are taking. The priest will explain any changes to mass as it is celebrated in these early days.

You will also be glad to see that I have posted some more photos of flowers from the parish garden and the church throughout this Newsletter.

### **Readers, Altar Servers, Ministers of the Eucharist.**

We thank these ministers for all they do. Currently we are contacting ministers on an ad hoc basis. Over the next few weeks we will be in touch to put rotas in place for these ministers to resume their roles in the liturgy should they be willing to do so. Thank you for your patience.

### **Reopening for Mass**

You will know from the news that it is permitted to celebrate mass after Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> July. Bishop Vincent has recorded a message, which you can watch on the diocesan website. You can click on this link to find it [www.rcdow.org.uk](http://www.rcdow.org.uk)

The bishops of England and Wales have also written an important letter about how we are to celebrate mass in these new circumstances. I encourage you to read this letter which can be found beside this newsletter in the Newsletter section of the website.

In the Cardinal's video and the bishop's letter they make it clear that in these extraordinary times the obligation to attend mass remains suspended so no one is obliged to come to mass.

It will be the case however that Catholics want to attend Mass and so we have devised a way for people to do so in a way that accords strictly with the government guidelines on social distancing. The factors we have considered are as follows:

### **Capacity of Osterley Church**

The normal capacity of our church is 320 people. Over three masses on a Sunday we have 700 attendees. This works out at 233 people per mass. The parish will be maintaining 2.0 metres social distancing (as far as possible). This means that we can accommodate much less people in each mass (76-77).

It is the case that some parishioners will not be able to attend mass due to the need to self-isolate, nonetheless it is clear that we will have to limit the numbers coming to each mass so we can celebrate safely.

It will not be possible for everybody to attend every Sunday so we have published on this website the means by which we are going to ensure that each parishioner can attend Sunday mass twice a month. You can book as many weekday masses as you wish.



## **The Parish needs your help to reopen Stewards – one hour once a month**

We need people to volunteer as stewards in the church. In order to be a steward you must:

1. Be deemed healthy and fit for work and should not be in the group classed as clinically vulnerable (over 70 years or specific pre-existing health conditions), self-isolating or shielding.

Full training will be given and personal protection equipment provided. If you meet the above criteria and can commit one hour per month on a Sunday to being a steward please e-mail the parish at [osterley@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:osterley@rcdow.org.uk) **OR** ring or text 078 9989 5483 and leave your name and contact details clearly. **Please seriously consider volunteering so that the parish can open safely.**

### **Private Prayer in Church**

Since Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June we have been opening the church each day for individual prayer. It has been good to welcome people back. You can attend with other people who are considered to be part of your household.

The parish has put in place social distancing measures, hygiene precautions and a cleaning regime which complies with Government guidance to limit the spread of Coronavirus.

We have battery operated hand sanitizers and pump action bottles of hand sanitizer. There is a Steward on duty when the church is open to ensure social distancing is observed and cleaning will take place throughout the day. We have posted some new photographs of some of the measures we are taking.

Whilst we look forward to seeing parishioners visiting the church to pray, the obligation to attend weekly mass is still suspended and you are not obliged to attend the church for private prayer.

In addition to reopening for mass permission has been given to have funerals and weddings of no more than 30 people including ministers etc. We, the church wish to play our part in controlling Coronavirus so our leaders will ensure that we observe what social distancing measures are necessary.

### **Planned Giving Boxes**

If parishioners wish to donate to the parish when they visit the church, please do so using the new drop safe in the lobby. This can be used for planned giving envelopes.

We have sent out new boxes of planned giving envelopes (which start from the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020) by post.

The parish appreciates that the ability of parishioners to contribute to our collections may have been adversely affected by the current pandemic. Please just give what you can.



## **Prayer Resources Online.**

It has been wonderful to see so many resources online for Catholics to use during these times. The link <https://rcdow.org.uk/> brings you to the diocesan website. This has many prayer resources and information on the practical steps being taken by the people of our diocese and by Caritas Westminster to help people in material need. Caritas Westminster was established by Cardinal Vincent using funds donated by parishioners during the "Growing in Faith" campaign which ran in the diocese some years ago.

Once again I send particular greeting to those who are sick or living alone. You are in my thoughts and prayers. We also pray for those who have died, may they rest in peace, and for those who mourn, may God console them.

I ask God to bless all those who are still at home in the following words. (Your response is Amen!)

May almighty God bless you.  
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit  
**People:** Amen

## **Times of Opening for Individual Prayer for week commencing the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

Tuesday, Thursday, 11 am -12 noon

Saturday 9 am – 10 am

## **SUNDAY OFFERING AND SUPPORTING THE PARISH:**

Dear Parishioners,

We are conscious that many parishioners may be struggling financially, if however, you are able to continue your weekly donations please see how to do this below:

- 1) On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April those who give by planned giving envelopes ran out of envelopes. It is not currently possible to distribute new boxes of envelopes.

If possible, please set up a Standing Order to replace your Planned Giving Envelopes. To see how to do this electronically please See "Donate to our parish" on our website. Should you wish, you can change this back to planned giving envelopes when they are distributed and movement restrictions lifted.

- 2) If you give cash, you can set up a standing order in favour of the parish electronically. For our bank details please see "Donate to our parish" on our website.
- 3) You can use the donation facility on our website to make your donation each week by credit or debit card. See "Donate to our parish" on our website.
- 4) If you do not already do so, you can Gift Aid all your donations. This increases your donation by 25% at no costs to you. You simply have to pay sufficient tax to cover 25% of your donations to the parish. If you do so the government will refund this money direct to the parish. Please follow the instructions on the parish website under "Donate to our parish"

We know that those who are able, will sustain the parish financially during this challenging time and enable us to minister to our parishioners and those in need.

If you have any queries you can contact the parish bookkeeper Steve McEvoy on [osterleybk@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:osterleybk@rcdow.org.uk) or 079 3278 3647. Thank you. *F. Mark*

**MASS INTENTIONS:** Mass intentions can still be requested via e-mail or by ringing the parish office. Please leave a message and phone number if there is no reply from the office. Offerings for such masses can be made using the online donation link on the website or submitting it to the parish only when movement restrictions are lifted. Masses offered prior to the reduction in Sunday and weekday masses will be allocated to the nearest free mass.

### SERVICE TIMES & INTENTIONS

**26<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – 1<sup>st</sup> August **New Mass Times****

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> July</b><br>17 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time<br><b>9.00 am</b>   | Jose Luis Xavier De Sequeira RIP              |
| Sunday 11.30 am  | Mary Smith RIP (R.D.)                         |
| Sunday 6.00 pm   | People of the Parish                          |
| Tues 28: 7.00 pm<br>Weekday  | Thanksgiving Mass offered by Rosalina De Cruz |
| Thu 30: 7.00 pm<br>Weekday   | Florinda Maria De Abreu RIP                   |
| Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> August<br>10.00 am St<br>Alphonsus Liguori<br>Bishop and Doctor | Mass  |
| <b>SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> August</b><br>18 <sup>th</sup> Ordinary Time<br><b>9.00</b>     | People of the Parish                          |
| Sunday 11.30   | Mass  |
| Sunday 6.00  | Mass  |

| Loose | Envelopes | S/Order | Total  |
|-------|-----------|---------|--------|
| £541  | £1619     | £2,815  | £4,975 |

**Priests Easter Collection** £1,105 (loose and envelopes) + £1,407 (one weeks standing orders for Easter Sunday) = £ 2,512

**CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE:** This parish operates a system of Mass Attendance Cards. This is only applicable for parents who wish to send their children to a Catholic primary or secondary school. Attendance at 75% of masses at which stickers are given out will be deemed to comply with the conditions for receiving a Certificate of Catholic practice. Parents can apply to Catholic schools without a Certificate of Catholic practice but will usually be considered after those who possess one. The Certificate of Catholic Practice should be downloaded from our website. (Do not use the form provided by the school). Please print one for every school to which you are applying.

Parents/Guardians should begin collating forms two years before the closing date for their child's application to Nursery, Reception, Secondary and 6<sup>th</sup> Form.

**IMPORTANT UPDATE: Mass attendance stickers were not distributed on Sun. 15/3/2020.**

They will not be distributed in the near future until further notice. These weeks will be omitted in our calculation of the 75% attendance for school admission

#### PARISH OFFICE:

Please do not call to the parish office without an appointment. Enquiries can be made by telephone or you can e-mail the parish at [osterley@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:osterley@rcdow.org.uk)

- **PARISH ADMINISTRATOR:** Mrs. L. Faria
- **PLANNED GIVING CO-ORDINATOR:** Mr. Steve McEvoy
- **PARISH BOOKKEEPER:** Mr. Steve McEvoy  
To contact Mr. McEvoy by email: [osterleybk@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:osterleybk@rcdow.org.uk)
- **300 CLUB:** Enquiries to Parish Office.

#### ADMIN

#### •PARISH WEBSITE ADDRESS FOR ONLINE NEWSLETTER:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/osterley/>

•**PARISH REGISTRATION:** Please take a Welcome Pack from the lobby when the church re-opens in due course. Completed Registration and Planned Giving forms should be posted through the door of the Parish house. Thank you.

•**BAPTISM:** Contact Fr. Mark to arrange a baptism date and attend a course. Please complete a form (available in the lobby or online) and submit to the Parish Office. Next course: TBA.  
NB Unfortunately courses are now cancelled until further notice.  
Collection for **Two Weeks** ending 5<sup>th</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> July

•**MARRIAGES:** 6 months' notice required. Please ring the office for initial discussion with Fr. Mark.

#### CONTACTS

•**SAFEGUARDING REP:** Mrs. A. Trigger. Tel. 07764482186  
Email: [osterleysg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk](mailto:osterleysg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk)

•**WEST MIDDX HOSPITAL RC CHAPLAIN:** Tel. 020 8321 5447.



**REDEMPTORIST PUBLICATIONS** bring the Sunday Holy Mass, celebrated by Fr. Denis McBride into your home every Sunday. Each Sunday service will be accessed at: <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online> Visit their BLOG section for a variety of reflections.

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.**

## Homily for the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2020

Fr Robin Burgess writes

Dear Friends,

I was struck by these words I came across from a letter of June 1721:

*I have every day of my life since twenty years old grown more and more of opinion that the less one has to do with what is called the world the more quiet of mind; and the more quiet of mind the more happiness.*

They were written by John Vanbrugh, a successful playwright and architect who designed two of England's grandest stately homes, Castle Howard and Blenheim Palace. He was a man of the world if ever there was one and caught up in worldly affairs for most of his life – including the labours of dealing with theatrical people and patrons alarmed by his increasingly expensive architectural ambitions.



This is perhaps the reason why he also clearly experienced what I think is the universal human longing for simplicity, stillness and quiet in which we can be aware of the presence of God, knowing that this is what will bring us real happiness and fulfilment.

There is, however, something of a paradox here. The world, we believe, is God's creation, given to us as our home. There is nothing wrong with it in itself, quite the contrary – as God's creation it is essentially good. St. Ignatius of Loyola says that everything in the world can be a means for us to know God, and often enough we do find intimations of God in the world around us.

I was, for example, staying once at a house by the sea of Galilee overlooking the lake, and some people in my group said I should get up early to see the sunrise. One morning I did wake up early and looked out just before dawn. Towards the other side of the lake the sky gradually lightened, and then almost all at once, it seemed, the sun emerged – and it was enormous, a huge radiant golden ball rising over the hills. There can hardly be any more magnificent sight to be seen anywhere. Scientists tell us that the sun is so many years old, a mixture of flaming gases and so on, but to see it in the way I did is to know that it is far more than that - a sign of the glory and majesty of the creator God. William Blake said that in looking at the sun we do not see just a golden coin, but an innumerable company of the heavenly host crying ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty!’

We look through the eye, but not with it, as Blake says, for the sign, however magnificent it may be, is not the full reality of God. Jesus in his parables uses images from the natural world to suggest the nature of God’s kingdom. It is like treasure buried in a field, or it is like a fine pearl one may search for, or it is like a net thrown into the sea which collects fish of all kinds. It is like these things, but it goes beyond them, it cannot be contained within any one image.

The paradox, therefore, is that as well as showing us signs of God, the world can just as much mislead and distract us from knowing him, especially if we get too attached to it. This is why St. Ignatius says that we should value everything in it insofar as it does help us to know God, but be prepared to sit lightly to it if it does not. We need to develop a sense of what he calls *indifference*. That does not mean not caring. It is more like a sense of poise, of being able to distinguish what helps us from what does not, of being able to go one way or another.

Ignatius has rules for this process of discernment, but it is never easy. We get things wrong, we make mistakes, we become over-attached to certain things – power, riches, fame – the worldly world in which Vanbrugh moved for most of his life. The great king Solomon is known for his wisdom and in this Sunday’s first reading we hear what this means. God commended him for his understanding heart. ‘ “Since you have asked for this,” the Lord said, “and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgment for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you have had and none will have after you.” ’

This, then, is what we need above all, a discerning heart to judge wisely the things of this world. We can ask God for it, but also the more time we can spend listening to God, being open and attentive to his presence in the world and in ourselves the more that heart will grow within us.

At the heart of a hurricane or tornado, I believe, there is always a still centre. As the world around us seems ever more stormy and unpredictable the still centre which is God is our surest refuge.

Wishing you every blessing, Fr. Robin ([robinburgess@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:robinburgess@rcdow.org.uk)).

Fr Robin is happy to receive any comments or questions you may have. He can be contacted at [robinburgess@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:robinburgess@rcdow.org.uk)

**New Sanitising equipment in the parish.**



