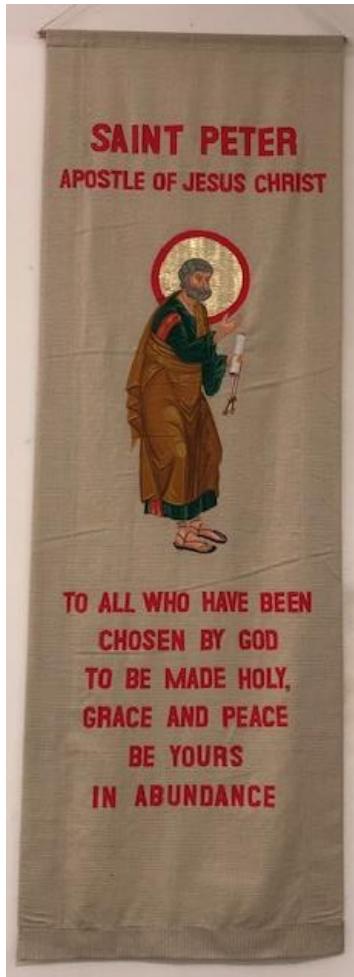


St. Vincent de Paul (Osterley) Newsletter

Parish Priest: Fr. Mark Leenane, 2 Witham Road, Osterley, TW7 4AJ.

Tel: 020 8560 4737 E-Mail: osterley@rcdow.org.uk Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/osterley/>

This parish is part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee Registered Charity No. 233699



29th June 2020

Saints Peter & Paul Yr A Vol. 2 (Pg 170)

Today we celebrate the feast of the princes of apostles, Saints Peter and Paul, from whom we derive our faith.

Acts 12:1-11. Now I know the Lord really did save me from Herod. The Lord has chosen Peter for a ministry within the Church and he sustains him in his difficulties through his guardian angel.

2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18. All there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me. Paul is a model of discipleship: he has kept the faith till the end in spite of difficulties, setbacks, and persecutions.

Matthew 16:13-19. You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Peter makes the great statement of faith in Jesus: You are the Christ the Son of the living God.

PSALM 33: From all my terrors the Lord set me free.

**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). Please check each week for opening hours as these change. Procedures are in place which comply with government advice to limit the spread of Covid-19.

28th June 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul. The two banners shown above were the last made for the parish by the late Sister Bernadette. They are currently hanging in the church and there are also two vases of flowers a picture of one of which I have posted here for you to enjoy.

St Peter has in his hands his symbol of the keys, representing the authority vested in the church to lead us to Christ. St Paul's symbol of the book acknowledges his importance as the great preacher of God's word. The letters of Paul and those of St Peter guide us still today.

A child remarked some time ago that your parish priest was the person who had "the keys" hanging from his belt. The child of course was right. As we grow we are given the key of our parents/guardians house. We may be given the keys to a flat or a house and we may then be given the keys of the church or shop or office or car. We take on responsibilities in our lives like St Peter and seek to serve others.

All baptised Christians have been given the keys of God's kingdom and we can open the door of faith to others by the example of lives "lived in Christ" and by witnessing to God's word like St Paul by our own words of faithful encouragement. It is always good to use phrases like "Thanks be to God" mindfully or say grace before meals as a prayer and a witness to our faith. The making of the sign of the cross and the wearing of religious symbols are also "words" that speak to people, as did the words and actions of St Paul.

Reopening for Mass

You will know from the news that it is permitted to celebrate mass after Saturday the 4th 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

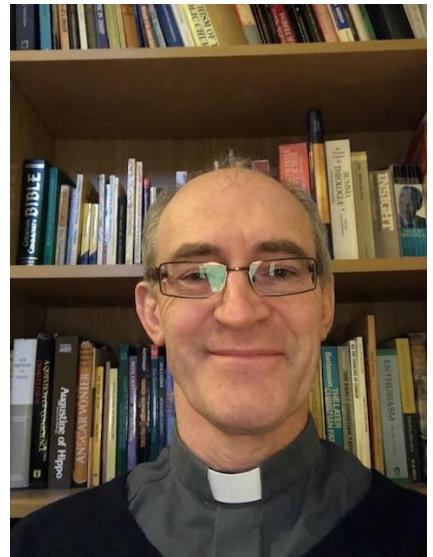
The bishops of England and Wales have also written an important letter about how we are to celebrate mass in these new circumstances. I encourage you to read this letter which can be found beside this newsletter in the Newsletter section of the website.

In the Cardinal's video and the bishops'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 it will be necessary to devise a way for people to do so in a way that accords strictly with the government guidelines on social distancing. The factors to consider 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 63 parishioners per service.



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 during the week we will publish on this website the means by which we are going to ensure that each parishioner can attend Sunday mass at least once a month.

There will also be masses during the week and we will also devise a way to enable parishioners to attend a weekday mass whilst limiting the numbers in church. Parishioners should be able to attend mass at least once a month on a Sunday and at least occasionally during the week.

If these arrangements work safely and well then after the first month we will try to increase the opportunity to go to mass on a Sunday to more than once a month.

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

Whatever way we limit the numbers coming to the church we will need people to volunteer as stewards in the church. If we assume three stewards per mass X three masses per Sunday on a four week rota we will need $3 \times 3 \times 4 = 36$ stewards. In order to be a steward you must be:

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 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 after the 4th July.**

The Parish needs your help to reopen Cleaners – one hour once a month

In addition to stewards we will also need people to volunteer to clean the benches after every mass. We need four people per mass for one hour on a four week rota. This means we need 4×3 masses $\times 4$ weeks = 48 cleaners.

In order to be a cleaner you must be:

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 cleaner please e-mail the parish at 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 after the 4th July.**



Private Prayer in Church

Since Monday 15th 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 to install and in the meantime we are providing 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 (there is no mass in any case at the moment) and you are not obliged to attend the church for private prayer.

The times for individual prayer change each week (Please see below) so please check the website or newsletter. In addition to reopening for mass permission has been given to have non-Eucharistic funerals in Church but these have many restrictions on the numbers who can attend. 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.



Confession

Permission has also been given to advertise times of Confession in Church. Details of this will be published in next week's newsletter.

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 hope to send out new boxes of planned giving envelopes (which start from the 12th April 2020) by post in the next week or so.

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.

Whilst we wait patiently to be re-united fully in body as a community, I ask God to bless you all in the following words. (Your response 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 29th June 2020

Monday 7pm to 8pm

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 11 am -12 noon and 7 pm to 8 pm

Wednesday Closed

Saturday 9 am – 11 am

Sunday 10 am to 12 noon and 5pm to 6pm

CAFOD, our Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

CAFOD, our Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, launched its coronavirus emergency appeal on 30 April. Coronavirus (Covid-19) has now spread worldwide, with confirmed cases in many countries where CAFOD works. The effects of coronavirus on developing countries are likely to be devastating.

Many countries have very weak healthcare systems and will not be able to cope. Families without enough to eat and without access to clean water, possibly living with other diseases, will be particularly vulnerable to coronavirus.

It is not just a public health emergency. Many of the world's most vulnerable people will lose their jobs and be unable to support their families. The poorest and most marginalised communities, working hard to transform their lives, will be pushed further into poverty. CAFOD is adapting its programmes to help manage the risk of coronavirus in communities and working with local Church aid agencies on the frontline of this crisis. They are already working to get food to where it is needed most; to improve hygiene, handwashing and sanitation in communities and households; producing radio messages, posters and leaflets in local languages on risks and prevention; and training community volunteers to carry out awareness campaigns.

In order to continue protecting and improving the lives of those in poor communities, your prayers and gifts are needed now more than ever. While we are not able to hold collections in our church, you can donate at cafod.org.uk/coronavirus appeal.

PARISH CAT EMERITUS “ROSIE” AND “BUNTY”



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 5th 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 or 079 3278 3647. Thank you. *Fr Monk*.

POPE FRANCIS: Pope Francis called for all Christians to respond to the coronavirus pandemic “with the universality of prayer, of compassion, of tenderness”, adding, “Let us remain united. Let us make our closeness felt toward those persons who are the loneliest”. Speaking after the traditional recitation of the Angelus, the Holy Father called on all Christians to join together in prayer. “In these trying days, while humanity trembles due to the threat of the pandemic, I would like to propose to all Christians that together we lift our voices towards Heaven

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 masses will be allocated to the nearest free mass.*

SERVICE TIMES & INTENTIONS
28th June – 5th July 2020

SUNDAY 28 th June Ss. Peter and Paul	In honour of the Most Chaste Heart of St Joseph
Mon 29: Weekday	Special Intention
Tues 30: Weekday	In Honour of St Anthony of Padua
Wed 1 st July: Weekday	People of the Parish
Thu 2: Weekday	Truda Weiler RIP
Fri 3: St Thomas Apostle	In honour of the Infant Jesus of Prague
Saturday 4: Weekday	People of the Parish
SUNDAY 5th July Fourteenth Ord Time	Henrietta Henrika Marzecka R.D.

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

- **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
- **300 CLUB:** Enquiries to Parish Office.

ADMIN

- **PARTH 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.

CONTACTS

- **SAFEGUARDING REP:** Mrs. A. Trigger. Tel. 07764482186
Email: osterleysg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
- **WEST MIDDX HOSPITAL RC CHAPLAIN:** Tel. 020 8321 5447.



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 6th 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

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

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 Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul 28th June 2020

Fr Robin Burgess writes

Dear Friends,

A favourite place of mine when visiting the Holy Land is a beach by the sea of Galilee, said to be the place where the risen Lord had breakfast with his apostles after the miraculous catch of fish. You can have a good paddle in the warm water (swimming is not encouraged!) near the large stone on which the food was laid out, now enclosed within the small church of St. Peter. After the meal Jesus questioned Peter, three times asking if Peter loved him. Three times, with increasing exasperation it seems, Peter said he did. ‘How many times do I have to say it?’ you can imagine him thinking, but of course the threefold affirmation redresses his threefold denial of Jesus at the Passion. Three times again Jesus gives him the commission to “feed my sheep.” The site is known as the Primacy of Peter from our understanding that Peter is the head, the chief of the apostles.

This episode is the Gospel reading for the Vigil Mass of the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, which we keep on this Sunday, for the work of Peter and his companions in establishing the infant Church is matched by the missionary work of Paul and his companions in spreading the new faith beyond its heartland in Palestine, eventually to the whole Middle Eastern world and beyond. Peter and Paul are representative of these two strands in our history, the two great pillars on which the edifice of our religion is built, and people sometimes make a distinction between their different types: Peter as the institution man holding the structures together, Paul as the adventurous outgoing type who cannot be contained within the bounds of the institution.

Whether they really do conform wholly to these stereotypes I am not sure, but it probably is true that our religion needs both types – and I think we have to acknowledge that there can be tension between the two. People who naturally like things to be clear, safe and held within exact boundaries are not always happy with those who naturally want to go beyond the boundaries into unchartered territory and do not mind things being unclear and fuzzy at the edges. They may see the need to do so, otherwise the institution can become fossilised and lifeless, but it makes them feel uncomfortable. The adventurous ones, conversely, can be frustrated by the need to hold things together, even if they recognise that this too is needed.

Throughout the history of our religion there have always been reformers, people who see that the structures have become rigid and may no longer be serving the purpose of making God known – the Church, like every other institution, can become an end in itself and its maintenance such a major preoccupation that we lose sight of what the Church is for: then people come along who say, ‘This is not how it should be. We need to reconnect with what we are really about’ - not to create something new, but to ensure that the Church is fulfilling its true purpose. We see this pattern over and over again. In the Benedictine order, for instance, after about 500 years there were monks who thought that monastic life had become too comfortable and had drifted away from Benedict’s original vision. So the Cistercian order was born, and that too in its turn needed its reformers. There is an old Latin proverb, ecclesia semper reformanda: the Church is always in need of being reformed - not just now and then, but semper – always, at every moment. We can never rest content with what we are and what we have, because God is always inviting us to move on, to discover more of his love and goodness.



In recent times people working in the field of spiritual development have become interested in the various ways of understanding human personality – what makes us tick. There is, for instance – this is quite a mouthful – the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator, which categorises personality types according to how we deal with the world around us, what our typical reactions are, what our motivations are and where we draw energy from. Some people, for example, like a lot of human contact and interaction and are energized by that, others find too much of it exhausting: they are more inwardly looking and reliant on their own inner resources. When I first came across the Myers-Briggs system I resisted the idea that you can analyse human beings according to pre-packaged types, but when I found out about it I came to see that there is a lot of truth in this and other models, though we need not take them too far: they do not tell us the whole truth about ourselves. As well as that the different models will usually say that no one type of personality is better than any other: each has its gifts and its drawbacks. The point is to recognise this is who I am and work with that, while at the same time seeking to go beyond the limitations the type imposes.

Who I am is the person God made me to be and the more we can understand of what makes us who we are the more we will be able to let God work in us, the more we can rejoice in the diversity of human personality as the gift of God, a major aspect of the variety and marvel of all creation.

On this feast of Peter and Paul you might like to ask which of these two great saints do you identify with, which one do you think you are more like. But then go one step further and say, whatever I am I accept that and rejoice in it, because it is how God has made me, and I can use that for his service and his greater glory.

As we emerge from lockdown and return to something like normality it will be even more important that each of us plays our part in the life of the Church, the unique role that God has assigned to each one of us. We may feel I would like to be a different person and be envious of others who seem to be better off than we are, but there is no need to be envious, because if I have God in me nobody can have more than I do - and I do have God! I am his unique creation, made and loved by God. We can say with the psalmist, I thank you, Lord, for the wonder of my being.

With best wishes and prayers, Fr. Robin

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