OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

Liturgy
6th Sunday of OT (C)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Ps 30: 3-4
**Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me.
For you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-8
A curse on the man who puts his trust in man, a blessing on the man who puts his trust in the Lord.

PSALM: Ps. 1:1-4,6. R. Ps. 39:5
R) Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

Happy indeed is the man who follows not
the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night. **(R)**

He is like a tree that is planted beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season and
whose leaves shall never fade; and all
that he does shall prosper. **(R)**

Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they like winnowed chaff shall be
driven away by the wind:
for the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to
doom. **(R)**

SECOND READING: Corinthians 5:12,16-20
If Christ has not been raised, your believing is useless.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:
Alleluia, alleluia! Mt11:25
**Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17,20-26
How happy are you who are poor. Alas for you who are rich.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jn 3:16
**God so loved the world
that he gave his Only Begotten Son,
so that all who believe in him may not perish,
but may have eternal life.**

GOSPEL REFLECTION



Most Christians could probably recite the Ten Commandments by heart. But how many could do the same for the Beatitudes? Not many perhaps. And yet the Beatitudes, which are the content of today's Gospel, are from the Gospel and proclaimed by Jesus himself, whereas the Ten Commandments are from the Old Testament. But why are the Beatitudes so important for the Christian Life? Pope Francis, in his message to World Youth Day in 2014 explains: *'In proclaiming the Beatitudes, Jesus asks us to follow him and to travel with him along the path of love, the path that alone leads to eternal life. It is not an easy journey, yet the Lord promises us his grace and he never abandons us. We face so many challenges in life: poverty, distress, humiliation, the struggle for justice, persecutions, the difficulty of daily conversion, the effort to remain faithful to our call to holiness, and many others. But if we open the door to Jesus and allow him to be part of our lives, if we share our joys and sorrows with him, then we will experience the peace and joy that only God, who is infinite love, can give.*

The Beatitudes of Jesus are new and revolutionary. They present a model of happiness contrary to what is usually communicated by the media and by the prevailing wisdom. A worldly way of thinking finds it scandalous that God became one of us and died on a cross! According to the logic of this world, those whom Jesus proclaimed blessed are regarded as useless, "losers". What is glorified is success at any cost, affluence, the arrogance of power and self-affirmation at the expense of others.'

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



The Social Dimension Of Evangelization

179. This inseparable bond between our acceptance of the message of salvation and genuine fraternal love appears in several scriptural texts which we would do well to meditate upon, in order to appreciate all their consequences. The message is one which we often take for granted, and can repeat almost mechanically, without necessarily ensuring that it has a real effect on our lives and in our communities. How dangerous and harmful this is, for it makes us lose our amazement, our excitement and our zeal for living the Gospel of fraternity and justice! God's word teaches that our brothers and sisters are the prolongation of the incarnation for each of us: "As you did it to one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40).

Day by Day with St Francis*

THOMAS OF CELANO, THE LIFE OF SAINT FRANCIS

I speak to you, as best I can, about the state of your soul. You must consider as grace all that impedes you from loving the Lord God and whoever has become an impediment to you, whether brothers or others, even if they lay hands on you. And may you want it to be this way and not otherwise. And let this be for you the true obedience of the Lord God and my true obedience, for I know with certitude that it is true obedience. And love those who do those things to you and do not wish anything different from them, unless it is something the Lord God shall have given you. And love them in this and do not wish that they be better Christians. And let this be more than a hermitage for you.

And if you have done this, I wish to know in this way if you love the Lord and me, His servant and Yours: that there is not any brother in the world who has sinned–however much he could have sinned–who, after he has looked into your eyes, would ever depart without your mercy, if he is looking for mercy. And if he were not looking for mercy, you would ask him if he wants mercy. And if he would sin a thousand times before your eyes, love him more than me so that may draw him to the Lord; and always be merciful with brothers such you as these.

***Excerpts from Day by Day with St Francis: a Franciscan Breviary Published by New City** ISBN: 9781905039166
These writings by or about Francis of Assisi are from the time of Francis which means that the language is sometimes rather archaic but it reflects the true spirit of Francis.

Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010 International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. The Psalms: A new Translation © 1963 The Grail (England) published by Harper Collins.
Excerpt from THE JERUSALEM BIBLE, copyright (c) 1966 by Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd. and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc. Reprinted by Permission.

ST. JOHN FISHER, REDBOURN with FLAMSTEAD AND MARKYATE.

PARISH PRIEST: Father Michael Mannion Telephone 01582 792270

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 17TH FEBRUARY 2019

MASSES THIS W EEK

Sunday (Saturday)	5.30pm Sr. Teresita (RIP)
Sunday	9.00am Anna Khurwal (RIP Anniv.)
Monday 18th February	11.45am **NO MASS**
Friday 22ndFebruary	11.45am The Chair of St. Peter The Apostle – Thomas Kiely (RIP 1st Anniv)
Sunday 24th February	7th **Sunday in Ordinary Time**
(Saturday)	5.30pm Nora King RIP)
	9.00am Louis Kayum (RIP) & Family Intentions

Sunday Evening Churches Together in Redbourn
February 17th At St Mary's Church at 6.30pm (Prayer Service)

Feast Days This Week: 23nd February – St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr

Please remember in you prayers : Sick: Nigel Clark, Ivor Hopla, Judy Atkins, Sofia Mayorga, Una Hewitt Mary Jones, Breda Iommi, Baby David Ruth, Maria Maynard, Liz Mevin and Lucy Swift.

Please remember in your prayers this week in The Churches Together List the Residents of:
Stephen's Way, St. Matthew's Care Home, Crouch Hall Gardens, Fish StreetFarm, Shepherd's Row, Bettespol Meadows, Caddington Hall, Cowper Road, Hicks Road, Old Victoria Gardens, Sharose Court, Chapel Road, Holtsmere End and Puddephat's Lane.

Coffee Morning Rotas for 2019 are available at the back of the Church. We need some more volunteers. Please add you name to the list. This is a once the month community gathering.

Parish Breakfast Morning. Again this is for raising funds for the building of a water well through CAFOD. The previous one was extremely successful. The next one is scheduled for 10th March.
Tickets, £7.50 each, are available after Mass.

Church Cleaning Rota for 2019 in on the notice board in the porch. Please sign your name against one of the free months. Ideally two parishioners are required each month and you can do the cleaning at a time to suit yourself.

Kitchen area in Parish Room. Two pictures are on the notice board giving an idea of the redevelopment of the kitchen area. We are reminded that the money to pay for this is our parish money from the Giving in Faith project. Please do look at the pictures and the letter which gives details of the ongoing work in the Church. Any comments can be written on the back of the letter, copies of which are on the table in the porch.

Bishop Paul McAleenan will be visiting the two parishes over the weekend of 23rd/24th February.

Admission to Nursery – Academic Year 2019-20 St Dominic Primary School
Applications for entry to St. Dominic Nursey Academic Year 2019-20 will open on **Monday 4th February 2019** and close at **3.30pm on Monday 4th March 2019.**
The school will offer 30 places in the Nursery and, by working with *Friends Together (*our Breakfast and Afterschool provider) in the afternoon, we will be able to offer parents access to 30 hours free childcare, should it be required.
Nursery morning sessions will run daily from 8.45am – 11.45am. The school then offers a Lunch Club which parents of all Nursery children will have the option to use, at a small cost.