Our Faith on Sunday

LITURGY

7th Sunday in OT (A)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Ps 12: 6

**O Lord, I trust in your merciful love.
My heart will rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me.**

FIRST READING: Leviticus 19:1-2.17-18

You must love your neighbour as yourself.

PSALM: Ps. 102:1-4.8.10.12-13. R.v8

R) The Lord is compassion and love.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R)**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and
compassion. **(R)**

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **(R)**

As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **(R)**

SECOND READING:

I Corinthians 3:16-23

All are your servants, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Jn 14:23
**If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:38-48

Love your enemies.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Ps 9: 2-3

**I will recount all your wonders,
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name,
O Most High**

VOCATION

Prayer For Marriage:

Lord God you call many of us
to be husbands and wives, parents,
and children, in youth and old age,
in sickness and in health.
You call us to love and holiness.
Help us be a living image of you,
and bring life to the world.
Amen.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



"Love is the keeping of the Law" – or we could say, 'the keeping of the Law is love of Christ.' Jesus' teaching in today's Gospel passage, is demanding. It is demanding of men and women in their weakness, yet offers a way to confidence and fulfilment. Jesus himself IS the Way, in the sense that his love for us and our faith in his love and the grace of his Holy Spirit, make all things possible. The saints in their multifarious lives, make this clear. St. Paul said, *"The love of Christ drives me"* and all the saints would echo that statement. They love Jesus, they believe who he is, they listen to what he teaches, they trust him. Recognizing their weakness but confident in his grace, they obey. If they fear, it is the fear of awe and love in the face of the holy. Monica, S Augustine's mother, suffered greatly from a violent and adulterous husband, Patricius, who refused to allow his children to be baptized; following the teaching of Jesus, she remained faithful to her marriage and her loving and patient example finally brought her husband to Faith.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



III. The Common Good and Peace in Society

Time is greater than space

225. This criterion also applies to evangelization, which calls for attention to the bigger picture, openness to suitable processes and concern for the long run. The Lord himself, during his earthly life, often warned his disciples that there were things they could not yet understand and that they would have to await the Holy Spirit (cf. Jn 16:12-13). The parable of the weeds among the wheat (cf. Mt 13:24-30) graphically illustrates an important aspect of evangelization: the enemy can intrude upon the kingdom and sow harm, but ultimately he is defeated by the goodness of the wheat.

The Sacrament of the Present Moment*

ACCEPTING SUFFERING

Nobody likes bitter medicine, but when the doctor prescribes it we must take it, and trust that we will recover our health. In the same way, bitter medicine from God has to be taken without fear of being poisoned. We may not swallow it gladly or easily, but take it we must.

Bitterness and suffering have to be accepted in faith as sent by God. But we do not feel very heroic about it, especially when we make a face taking this medicine and don't seem to be brave at all. We feel so remote from the saints and their wonderful example of generosity. And yet, if we do what has to be done, in that is our true glory and destiny, even though we feel so totally inadequate.

God hides in order to increase our faith, as Jesus was unrecognized by Mary Magdalen in the garden of the Resurrection, even though she had earlier sat at his feet.

*Jean Pierre de Caussade's Self-Abandonment to Divine Providence for everyone by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard and published by New City ISBN: 978-1-905039-11-1

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THE GOD WHO SPEAKS. A YEAR OF THE WORD

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 23RD FEBRUARY 2020

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday (Saturday)	5.30pm	
Sunday	9.00am	Anna Khurwal (RIP 5th Anniv)
	7.00 pm	**Churches Together in Redbourn**
Monday 24th February	11.45am	feria – Intentions
Wednesday 26th February	**ASH WEDNESDAY**	
	Redbourn	**Wheathampstead**
	11.45am Mass with Ashes	9.30am Mass with Ashes
	7.30pm Prayer Service with Ashes	8.30pm Prayer Service with Ashes
Friday 28th February	11.45 am	lent feria
Sunday 1st March	**First Sunday in Lent**	
(Saturday)	5.30pm	
Sunday	9.00am	

Confessions are available after Saturday evening Mass and on request.

Please remember in your prayers: Sick; Nigel Clark, Judy Atkins, Sofia Mayorga, Una Hewitt, Mary Jones, David Ruth, Maria Maynard, Liz Mevin, Rachael Rimmer and Diane Boba.

Please remember in you prayers this week in The Churches Together List the residents of:
St. Mary's Close, Waterend Lane, Holts Meadow, Brache Close, Crown Street, Pipers Close, Cavendish Road, Dammersley Close, High Street, Old Watling Street, Summer Walk, Chequers Hill, Linnins Pond & River Walk.

St. Albans Abbey Gateway Orchestra will be performing a charity concert at St. John Fisher Church, Redbourn, on Saturday 28th March at 7.30pm. Tickets, adults £10 and children under 16 £5, are available after all Masses.

Coffee Morning Rota for 2020. This is a once a month community gathering.
We need more volunteers, especially for July & August.
Please add your name to the list on the table at the back of the Church.

World Day of Prayer takes place on 6th March at 11.00am at the Methodist Church.
This year the service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Zimbabwe.

Throughout the year 2020, the Catholic's Bishop Conference of England and Wales will be celebrating a Year of the Word called ***The God who Speaks.*** This special year marks not only the 10th anniversary of Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini,* The Word of the Lord, but also the 1600th anniversary of the death of St. Jerome, known for translating the Bible into Latin, the Vulgate.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal runs throughout the time of Lent.