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The Parish Office is open:

Tues 9:30am - 12:30pm

Wed 9:30am - 12:30pm

Fri 9:30am - 12:30pm

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**Mass this Sunday: Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 20th September 2020**

**Today's Readings**

*Isaiah 55:6-9* Isaiah preaches to the people, urging them to return to the Lord who is rich in forgiving.

*Philippians 1:20-24. 27* The apostle calls us to avoid anything in our everyday lives that would be unworthy of the Gospel.

*Matthew 20:1-16* Even at the eleventh hour the Lord calls people to work in his vineyard.

**Mass This Week**

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> 9:00am

10:30am

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> 7:30pm Weekday

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:15am St Pio of Pietrelcina

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> 9:15am Our Lady of Walsingham

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> 9:15am Weekday

**Intention**

For Our Parishioners

Our RCIA Candidates

Maureen Richardson (RIP)

Evangelisation in England and Wales

Spiritual Directors

Pilgrims

Those impacted by Covid-19

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** by appointment only

**The Sanctuary Lamp** burns for the Holy Places in Palestine

**The Church will be open for private prayer** for one hour after the morning weekday masses (9:45am-10:45am, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and for Exposition from 5:30pm on Saturday (on the presumption there are sufficient volunteer stewards)

**The Holy Oils** were blessed at the delayed Chrism Mass on September 14<sup>th</sup> and will be used for the first time this weekend.

**Recent Government restrictions** As things stand the current restrictions should not affect our present protocols (although we should be aware that these may change at short notice). Please keep up your good habits! It is so important we work together to keep everyone safe, even although this does involve some inconvenience. It is necessary that we ask for peoples contact details and that we limit numbers in Church to the capacity we agreed upon in our risk assessment. It is essential that everyone books in before mass. Do use the online booking-in system; if you find this difficult please ask someone to help you or let Fr Philip know in good time and he will book you in. To keep everyone safe inside Church:

- use the hand sanitiser provided, on entering the church.
- wear a face covering, over nose and mouth, all the time whilst in Church
- Follow the one way system for entering and leaving the Church
- We continue to operate a 'track and trace' system, so if you wish to attend a weekend Mass, ensure you book in beforehand at <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/royston/events/>  
NB Volunteers will also need to book in through this system.
- **Do not come to church if you are feeling unwell.**

**The Parish Office** has now re-opened with its usual opening days and times. However, please do not visit in person. Should you wish to contact the parish office, it must be done by telephone or email only. If you have items for inclusion in the newsletter please make sure that they are in by Tuesday night.

**Last Week's Offertory** Many thanks for all your generosity.

**Our Finances** remain a major concern. Thank you to the generosity of those who have helped maintain some income during these very difficult times. We are still advised against receiving cash or cheques. Please, if you can, give electronically via your bank or <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/royston/donate/> We have installed contactless giving in the Sacristy.

**Volunteers** Thank you to all who have helped keep things going. At this time we need more help but do seem to be drawing from a smaller pooler of willing volunteers. For the last several weekends it has been touch and go as to whether we can celebrate Mass or not. We will strive to keep Exposition and the schedule of Masses as planned but we may need to cancel at short notice if we do not have sufficient stewards *et al.* If you can help at this time when we need everyone to pull together please do volunteer. [A sign up rota](#) is available online for those who can help as cleaners, stewards, sacristans, readers and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. Please note that this is an open document and so please protect yourselves and your private data by not giving your contact details but just your name or even initials. The rota is to be found at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H4qwiorMMd7z9kM7SICs1RbNwWitBs4epVfMWNCNX8/edit?usp=sharing>

**Red Box Holders** The time has come again to empty your red *Missio* mission boxes. If possible, please could you do your donation on line. Alternatively, there are envelopes in the sacristy for you to take home. Please put your name on the envelope, empty the box into it and return it to the red box in the sacristy. It will be much appreciated at this time.

**RCIA** We are picking up the processes leading to the baptism, confirmation and first Holy Communion of our adult candidates. The rite of anointing with the oil of catechumens will take place at the 10:30am Mass on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September. The sacraments of initiation will be celebrated at 10:30AM ON Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October. Please keep Ashley, Toby and their sponsors in your prayers.

**Sacramental Preparation 2021** Over the next few weeks we shall be collecting names and contact details for First Holy Communion, Confirmation and RCIA next year. The forms are in the sacristy.

**School Transfer** Several Catholic schools ask practising Catholics to provide *A Certificate of Catholic Practice*. If you are eligible for this and would request such evidence of your practice, please arrange an interview with Fr Philip ([philipknights@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:philipknights@rcdow.org.uk))

**Second Collections** Throughout a normal year we have several collections for many very good causes. 2020 has disrupted these and several which would have happened earlier in the year were lost and there is now a congestion of very worthwhile things to contribute to in the Autumn. The diocese has asked that we keep those collections which are mandated by the Holy See and the Diocesan collection for Sick and Retired Priests. All other collections are to be optional. Discussions in the PPC have led to the following decisions:

This weekend (Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September) there will be a retiring collection after Mass for the Holy Places – this collection would normally have been on Good Friday.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October will be the Collection for Peter's Pence (normally the Sunday nearest 29<sup>th</sup> July)

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October will be World Mission Sunday

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November will be a collection for the Diocesan Sick and Retired Priests' Fund

Clearly there are several other laudable causes for which we usually have collections. Our plan is NOT to have retiring collections for the following but to provide information on the appropriate weekends about how parishioners may contribute directly to the relevant charities.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December Sea Sunday, collection for Stella Maris UK

Christmastide Catholic Children's Society (Westminster)

We regret if a cause you passionately support is not covered this Autumn. Our hope is that 2021 will be a more normal year.