



Parish Priest: Fr Philip Knights
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Parish Secretary: Sharon O' Toole
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 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 27th September 2020

Today's Readings

Ezekiel 18:25-28 When sinners renounce their sin, then they will live.

Philippians 2:1-11 The incarnate Son empties himself of his majesty to become human.

Matthew 21:28-32 The tax collectors and sinners respond, but not the chief priests and elders.

Mass This Week

Saturday 26th 6:30pm

Sunday 27th 9:00am

10:30am

Tuesday 29th 7:30pm

SS Michael, Gabriel &
Raphael, Archangels

Wednesday 30th 9:15am

St Jerome

Thursday 1st 9:15am

St Therese of Lisieux

11am

Funeral Mass Bridget Newman RIP

NB attendance capped at 30 people

Friday 2nd 9:15am

Guardian Angels

Intention

Bridget Newman (RIP)

For Our Parishioners

Care for Creation

Carers

The Year of the Word

Missionaries

The anxious

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment only

The Sanctuary Lamp burns In Thanksgiving for Roger Stables

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)

New Government restrictions The announcements this week do affect us in several ways. Weddings are to be limited to just 15 people and Baptisms outside Mass to 6 people (including the baby and the priest!). The Bishops Conference advice was to avoid baptisms in the mass, both because numbers attending mass must be limited (we have a capacity of 50 people inside Church although that may be reduced) and the time inside church must be kept to a minimum. This may need reconsidering. The much heralded NHS app is now active and a QR code is displayed in church for those who wish to use it to log in.

- 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. 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. If you can help at this time when we need everyone to pull together please do volunteer. [A sign up rota](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H4qwirorMMd7z9kM7SICs1RbNWwitBs4epVfMWNCNX8/edit?usp=sharing) has been extended and is available online <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H4qwirorMMd7z9kM7SICs1RbNWwitBs4epVfMWNCNX8/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 sacraments of initiation will be celebrated at **10:30am on Sunday 18th 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. Please can these be filled in and returned by October 24th.

Confirmation Preparation Team Some of those who have previously been part of our confirmation preparation team I know are not able to do so for this rotation. If you can help please let Fr Philip know as soon as possible. New blood is always welcome! We will arrange a Team discussion of the process in the next fortnight.

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 see Fr Philip after any Sunday Mass to arrange an interview.

Second Collection Sunday 4th October will be the Collection for Peter's Pence (normally the Sunday nearest 29th July)

The Year of the Word This special year of celebration of Holy Scripture has been extended. It began on the feast of St Jerome (30th September 2019) and will now continue until the Sunday of the Word of God (Sunday 24th January [3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time])

One interesting thing I saw this week was from someone experienced in working in disaster zones. She used the image of 'the wall', that moment that marathon runners feel when their glycogen levels are depleted and they feel fatigue and negativity and are tempted to give up. The writer noted that whenever she had worked in humanitarian relief, there came a time, about six months in, when she found a 'wall', a time of struggle and slump. It was therefore no surprise to her that people going through this current pandemic would now, six months in, feel like they were running out of steam.

She also suggested ways of managing this, including:

- knowing there is life on the other side: this time will pass and we can get through it;
- don't try and force your way through the wall, but recognise it will play itself out with time;
- go with it: don't take on too many challenging projects, focus on the little victories of getting the basics done;
- treat yourself to some mental breaks: read a novel, go for a walk, appreciate beauty;

2020 has been a difficult year for all of us and a profoundly worrying time for many, especially those who have suffered through illness or the uncertainties of the economy. Lives and livelihoods have been under pressure. Clearly we should expect that these immediate pressures will continue for at least another six months and that there will be longer term after effects. However, we shall get through this.

We must do what we can. There may be further restrictions. We may have to do things in unaccustomed ways. But there will be light after darkness. **Christmas has NOT been cancelled.** Elements we associate with Christmas may well not be as we have been used to, but the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ will be celebrated. Indeed Christmas 2020 will be an essential reminder that the Word became Flesh in order to fully participate in our human lot, especially our suffering and hurts so that we may be delivered from them. October, the month of the Rosary and the month of Mission, November, the month of Saints and the Holy Souls will lead into Advent, the season of reflection and preparedness. This year we need to use these opportunities especially well.