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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: Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) 11th July 2021

Today's Readings

Amos 7:12-15 Amos, a shepherd and a tender of sycamore trees, totally unqualified to be a prophet, is called by the Lord.

Ephesians 1:3-14 We are chosen in Christ "before the world was made".

Mark 6:7-13 Jesus sends out his twelve disciples.

Mass This Week

Mass This Week			<i>Intention</i>
Saturday 10 th	6:30pm		For Our Parishioners
Sunday 11 th	9:00am		Benedictine vocations
	10:30am		Patricia Brazier (Intention)
Tuesday 13 th	7:30pm	Weekday	Those self-isolating
Wednesday 14 th	9:15am	Weekday	Santé Furlan
Thursday 15 th	9:15am	St Bonaventure	Theologians
Friday 16 th	9:15am	Our Lady of Mount Carmel	Spiritual Directors

PLEASE BOOK IN FOR ALL THE SUNDAY MASSES AT parish.rcdow.org.uk/royston/events

Volunteers Your willingness to help has been key in enabling us to open and worship together safely. If you can help please volunteer at <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iQtl2N9UxRBqDiABO2uL-Sei4XX8uj9HkGfRN2cd5c/edit?usp=sharing> or sign up on the paper copy in the Sacristy

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for The Apostleship of the Sea

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment only

Things are a little clearer this week and we shall know more after this coming Monday. There are good reasons to celebrate and see this as a moment of release and yet, there are also good reasons to stay careful.

It seems probable that most legal restrictions introduced this last 18 months will be lifted.

However, the pandemic is not over, infection rates are high, there are pressures on the NHS and many are obliged to self isolate. There is much talk about freedom, often phrased in terms of individual liberties; however, our priority at the moment must be freedom from infection and disease. Our greatest freedom must be the 'glorious liberty of the children of God', part of this is expressed in our freedom to serve others. In this situation we may no longer be under legal penalties but we are still under moral obligations to care for each other and protect the most vulnerable.

We will have greater personal freedoms but we must exercise our freedoms for the common good.

In moral philosophy there is often a need to balance rights with responsibilities. In our practical actions over the next period our personal freedoms must be acted upon with due respect for the rights of others: our responsibility for each other and the wider community must focus our decision making.

We will have an **open meeting on Zoom on Wednesday 14th July at 7pm** to plan our immediate next steps and begin to look forward to September. Please let Fr Philip know if you would like to be sent the invitation to this.

Amongst things we shall need to discuss are:

- What we can and shall do after July 19th. It is hoped that by 14th July we should have greater clarity on advice from the Government and guidelines from the Diocese and Bishops Conference. We will need to publicise our decisions by 17th/18th July to be up and running for their implementation on the weekend of the 24th/25th.
- Our summer programme: in a 'normal' summer, we have a bit of an aestivation during the holidays, with many people away and various activities just ticking over and managing with far fewer regular volunteers – this year might be different but late July and August are still likely to be quiet.
- Planning some appropriate liturgical marking of this extraordinary time and giving an opportunity to reflect on what we have been through and what we would wish for in the future. This may well be something we can share with our friends and neighbours in *Churches Together in Royston and District*.
- Considering how to appropriately continue our digital offerings and livestreams.
- It is probable that we should think of planning a complete reset of our parish activities and our full 'welcome back' after the school summer holidays, i.e. the first weekend of September.
- The re-introduction of (safe) home visiting and regular home communion, reviewing who would be able to do this ministry and who would appreciate visits. (If you know of people who would wish to be visited please let Fr Philip know.)
- The training and refreshing of our servers, readers, ministers of Holy Communion and welcomers and the re-introduction of more formal rotas for these and other ministries.
- A parish General meeting, probably in September, to formally review our activities, consult on the next year's programme and elect new members of our Parish Pastoral Council.
- Setting up our sacramental programmes and other events for 2021/2022.

The Parish Office is open. However, we are **NOT** yet open to visitors please contact by phone or email.

Counters As we gradually move to more normal times we do need to begin again the important regular rota of counters. If you are willing to help please let the Parish Office know.

Prayers of the Faithful We are now permitted to have bidding prayers at Mass. It is always a good thing when the Prayers of the faithful are prepared by the faithful! If you would be willing to be on a rota to help with this please let Fr Philip or the Parish office know.

Sea Sunday Today is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them, we would not have most of the items we buy in the shops. Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea), is the Catholic Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually and

is dependent on voluntary donations. To donate and for more information, please visit: www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Thank you.

Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for July:

Social Friendship We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

Foodbank Please remember that non-perishable food donations are gratefully received and can be placed in the pink box outside the sacristy. We have been advised that the Foodbank are currently appealing for tinned meat, particularly meatballs, rice and pasta sauces, and coffee. Donations of pasta are not required at present. Many thanks for your continued generosity.

Pope Francis sent a tweet on Wednesday thanking people around the world for their kind messages and care regarding his health, as he continues his recovery at Rome's Gemelli Hospital following his surgery.

The Pope writes in his tweet: "I am touched by the many caring messages received in these days. I thank everyone for their closeness and prayer." @Pontifex

Please continue to hold our Holy Father in your prayers.