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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: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022

#### Today's Readings

*Jeremiah 1:4-5. 17-19* We are all called by God from the moment of our creation in the womb for one purpose: life with God. The opportunity is there for us to make a difference in our world.

*1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13* The greatest spiritual gift is love. Love is not just a feeling; it is a way of life that includes a commitment to others.

*Luke 4:21-30* Jesus is rejected by the people of Nazareth. They go in a short time from marvelling at his words to turning into a mob threatening to kill him.

#### Mass This Week

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> 9:00am

10:30am

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> 7:30pm

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:15am

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> 9:15am

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> 9:15am

Weekday

Presentation of the Lord

SS Lawrence, Dunstan and Theodore

Weekday

#### Intention

Anne Doyle 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday (Int)

For Our Parishioners

The Ukraine

Our Parish Pastoral Council

Those preparing for Baptism

Ecumenical Dialogue

First Holy Communion Families

**The Sanctuary Lamp** burns for the intention of Isabelle Jackson

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation** may be celebrated during exposition (5:30pm Saturday) or by appointment.

#### Our next steps

The Government's Plan B has come to an end. They have removed several mandatory requirements but continue to advise the wearing of face-coverings in 'crowded places'. We have also now received more advice from the Bishops' Conference (which is available on our parish website and the sacristy notice board). Bishop John Sherrington in our Diocese has noted: "The Guidance outlines the scientific consensus that whilst the virus is transitioning from the pandemic phase to the endemic phase, there is still a risk associated with gathering for sustained periods in enclosed spaces and so there needs to be continued caution by all against infection. However, this must be balanced by the need to

move forward towards the restoration of the fullness of the liturgy and the sacramental life of the Church. There will always be a tension between these two aspects."

We now must decide how we proceed from here. We will have a full discussion of our protocols at our PPC meeting on February 2nd. Anyone is welcome to attend that or to e-mail their contributions before then. In order to gauge something of the 'temperature of the room', please can you fill in the simple poll (link below) on the specific issue of face-coverings and whether we should continue to request all people wear face-covering in Church, recommend them, or leave it to personal choice.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XGPYH66>

**Scripture Festival 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022** We are invited to our God Who Speaks Festival at St Albans Cathedral from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022. 10:00am to 4:00pm each day. Please check for details at <http://rcdow.org.uk/scripturefestival/>

See also on Facebook:

@TheGodWhoSpeaksScriptureFestival and Instagram: @ScriptureFestival

If there are enough people interested, we may organise a Parish Trip to St Albans on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February. Please tell or email Fr Philip if you would want to join the pilgrimage.

**CWL Coffee Morning** We will be holding our regular coffee morning after the Sunday Masses **this** weekend. We will be serving refreshments in the Parish Hall and there will also be a Cake Stall and a Gift Stall. Please come and join us.

Our **Parish Pastoral Council** will meet at 7:30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> February in the Sacristy. The PPC is a consultative body which assists the Parish Priest and it has a key role in 'big picture' planning. We shall be monitoring our plans for responding to the pandemic and we shall be getting an overview of our plans for the rest of 2022, including what we may do in Lent and what Charities we will be supporting this year. Anyone is welcome to attend or may contribute via e-mail submissions.

**Holy Fathers Prayer Intentions for February**  
**For religious sisters and consecrated women**  
We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

**Servers** We have had some interest shown in learning how to serve at mass and will arrange another training session. If any children who have received their first Holy Communion or adults would like to join our serving teams, please let Fr Philip know.

**Volunteers** We are always looking for more volunteers. We have a particular need at the moment for Counters, for Fire Wardens and for Readers but there are many other areas of Church life, ministry and mission which would benefit from your active involvement. Please see Fr Philip if you can help in any way.

**Accompaniment for the separated and divorced**  
*Beginning Experience Weekend* - a residential weekend to help you to heal will be held from 8th to 10th April 2022 at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. Contact Freda 01322-838415; Maura 07795-498445 or email [besouthofengland@gmail.com](mailto:besouthofengland@gmail.com)

*Restored Lives* 8-week online course from 24th January <https://www.restoredlives.org/go-on-a-course>

RL provide workshops to support for teenagers & young adults: 13-18 yrs Wednesday 2nd March 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm; 18 – 30 yrs Wednesday 2nd March 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm, go to <https://www.restoredlives.org/yourdirection>

**Diocese of Westminster network Meeting for all who work with older people.**

*Thursday 3rd February 2022, 11:00 - 12:30 - online*

The event is for anybody who journeys alongside older people, perhaps by organising events or running projects. It is an opportunity to share ideas, discuss issues, and meet others who are engaged in the same mission.

Please contact Rosa Lewis for more information [rosalewis@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rosalewis@rcdow.org.uk)

**New Year's Resolution – Volunteer for CAFOD**

A vital aspect of church is people being willing to share their talents, experience and energy. Could your New Year's resolution be volunteering for CAFOD? We have lots of different ways you can get involved such as:

**In the parish** - where you will be highlighting CAFOD's work to support communities globally who are living with injustices and in poverty.

**In local schools** – where you'll deliver assemblies and workshops about CAFOD's work. No experience necessary. Full support, resources and regular training provided. DBS Check & references part of application.

**Coordinating volunteers** to help us support, encourage and bring together a small group of volunteers.

If you'd like to know more, please get in touch with Tony [tsheen@cafod.org.uk](mailto:tsheen@cafod.org.uk)