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### Mass this Sunday: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) 13<sup>th</sup> February 2022

#### Today's Readings

*Jeremiah 17:5-8* Jeremiah's prophecy is uncompromising and must have challenged his hearers. Trusting in God alone rather than in human strength and wealth can seem like madness, but we are invited to do just that.

*1 Corinthians 15:12. 16-20* Paul says that without Christ's resurrection, his teaching makes no sense. Either we live and die by this, or we are simply talking nonsense. That is the challenge of faith.

*Luke 6:17. 20-26* Luke's Beatitudes are more uncompromising than those of Matthew. We don't have the get-out clause here of being blessed if we are "poor in spirit". It is poverty, pure and simple, that is blessed. The challenge for us is to dare to believe.

#### Mass This Week

Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am	
	10:30am	
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Weekday
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am	Weekday
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am	Weekday
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am	Weekday

#### Intention

Sr Maria Eunice (RIP)  
For The Sisters, Providence House  
For Our Parishioners  
Fr Seamus McGeoghan (RIP)  
Vocations to the Monastic Life  
Health and Care Workers  
The Synodal Journey

**The Sanctuary Lamp** burns for Pilgrims to Lourdes

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

**Fr Seamus** You will be sad to hear that Fr Seamus passed away on Thursday morning this week. We shall let you know about funeral arrangements as we learn them.

*Eternal rest grant to him O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.*

**Servers.** If any children who have received their first Holy Communion or adults would like to join our serving teams, please let Fr Philip know.

**BYOB (Bring Your Own Boardgame)** A few of us thought a little light relief in order now that January is behind us and brighter days are (hopefully) on the horizon. As such there is an invitation to meet in the small meeting room, Parish Hall on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30 for a board game evening. Bring your own drink and a board game for a relaxed evening of friendly competition!

**Volunteers.** We need one or two more catechists to help prepare families for baptism. We also 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.

**Catholic Women's League** Our next meeting will take place on Monday 14th February at 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall. We would welcome anybody interested in finding out more about CWL to come along to this meeting. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided!

**World Day Of Prayer** This year, the World Day of Prayer (formerly known as the Women's World Day of Prayer) **Friday, 4th March, at 2.15 pm** at our Church here in Royston. The service has been prepared by the Christian women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland and the theme is "I know the plans I have for you". All are welcome - refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall after the Service.

**The latest episode of the Westminster Record** is available on Apple Podcasts, Anchor and Spotify and at

<https://rcdow.org.uk/news/westminster-record/episode-4-a-listening-church/>

The Church is on a journey of meeting, listening and discernment, which was launched last year by Pope Francis and has been a cause for robust discussions about its future. Juliet and Maureen from St William of York in Stanmore share how their parish approached the synodal pathway. Fr Chris Vipers, Director of the Agency for Evangelisation, speaks about his perspective of the broader process and its eventual goals

**Divine Renovation** Divine Renovation and Alpha have issued an invitation to join a free online event with Bishop Robert Barron, Fr James Mallon and Rev Nicky Gumbel on the theme of "What is God saying to the Church?". This is something for all parish leaders – clergy and lay people alike – on the topic of mission, evangelisation, and parish renewal, happening on Tuesday 1st March at 6.00pm. To learn more about this event and to register, visit: [www.divinerenovation.org/events](http://www.divinerenovation.org/events)

### **Our next steps**

We are pleased to be making some further relaxations but shall also continue some mitigations for the time being. More details at:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/royston/wp-content/uploads/sites/203/2022/02/Next-Steps-Feb-2022.pdf>

Key elements are:

- For Sunday masses, where we are most crowded and have people in an enclosed space for a sustained period of time, we ask that people continue to wear face-coverings.
- For weekday masses, we are happy to leave the wearing of face-coverings to personal discretion.
- We will continue our present level of ventilation and cleaning.
- People showing symptoms or positive tests should stay at home. People who have been close contacts of people known to have the infection should only come to church if they have had a negative Lateral Flow Test.
- We will re-fill the Holy Water stoups (but change them weekly), the use of the stoups is optional.
- The choir and musicians may move back downstairs if they wish but we would recommend the use of the clear plastic screens as a barrier to prevent the spread of droplets.
- Readers do not need to wear gloves whilst reading.
- We will continue with the current non-contact sign of peace.
- Holy Communion will remain in one kind only but the communion dialogue will be restored to its proper place. Ministers will sanitise their hands before distribution.
- We will review this by Ash Wednesday (2nd March).