



Saint Bartholomew's Catholic Church

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 Registered Charity Number: 233699

17th September 2017

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

S	16	6.00pm		the people of the Parish & their needs
Su	17	8.30am		Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor
		10.30am		Mollie Fryatt (anniv)
		5.00pm (EF XV after Pentecost)		in thanksgiving
M	18	12noon	REQUIEM MASS & FUNERAL OF MARY GILMARTIN	
T	19	9.00am	feria	Kit & Anne McCarthy (rip)
W	20	9.00am	St Andrew Kim-Taegon & Comps	Joe Deacy (rec dec)
T	21	7.30am	St Matthew	priest's intentions
F	22	9.30am	feria	the sick
S	23	9.00am	St Pius of Pietrelcina	private intention

25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

S	23	6.00pm		Harry Massey (rec dec)
Su	24	8.30am		Noel & Kate O'Reilly (rip)
		10.30am		the people of the Parish & their needs
		5.00pm (EF XVI after Pentecost)		in thanksgiving

Mass times and intentions are subject to change if there is a funeral.

Lauds (Morning Prayer of the Church) is offered every Friday at 9.15am

Confessions: Saturday 9.30-10am; 5.15-5.45pm and at call

Holy Matrimony: - in accordance with the norms of Canon Law, SIX months notice must be given, whether the marriage is here or abroad, to enable the required spiritual preparation to take place and for the paperwork to be gathered and, if necessary, submitted to the Chancellor of the Diocese. Please make an appointment to see either of the clergy.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: after Mass on Saturday morning

Parish Centre Bookings: call the Parish Office

(from 1/10/17 £20 per hour for regular bookings; £25 per hour for occasional or single bookings.

The Parish Office is **normally** open on Monday and Friday

9.00 am until 12.00noon (**term time only**)

The Parish Secretaries are Mrs. Susanna Corbally - susannacorbally@rcdow.org.uk

and Mrs. Michelle Fitzgerald - michellefitzgerald@rcdow.org.uk

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

10 September £690.51

(includes envelopes but not Bankers Orders etc which average £1602 per week).

Thank you for your generosity!

Text **PARISH STALS** to 70800 to donate £5 automatically.

PLEASE pray for all who live in the midst of violence. For Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Religious Life. For those who are sick either at Home, in Hospital or Nursing Home, especially John Clifford, and Nicki Eathorne; for the recently departed, especially Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor, Brian Hodgson, Margaret Maxwell, Mary Gilmartin; those killed as a

result of the violence and terrorism. Peace in the world and for those who govern the nations that they may do so wisely and justly.

THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

St Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang, and companions. For centuries, Korea was closed to all outside influences, and all contact with foreigners was forbidden. No missionaries went there. Nevertheless, a number of laymen sought to find out all that they could about the outside world, through the annual embassy to Peking. Some books about Christianity fell into their hands, and they were converted. Because of the secrecy involved, it is impossible to date the origin of Christianity in Korea with any precision: it may have

started in the early 17th century, but the first known baptism is that of Ni-Seoung-Houn, who was baptized under the name of Peter when he visited Peking in 1784.

The first known martyrs are Paul Youn and James Kouen, who in 1791 refused to offer sacrifice on the death of their relatives. Over the next century, over ten thousand Korean Christians were executed, with great cruelty; and many others perished.

For most of this period, the church in Korea had no priests and was an entirely lay phenomenon. The first priest, a Frenchman, entered the country in 1836 and was beheaded three years later. Andrew Kim Taegön, the first Korean priest, secretly trained in Macao, entered Korea in 1845 and was executed in 1846, together with his father. A lay apostle, St Paul Chong Hasang, and many others perished at the same time. A further major persecution occurred in 1866.

In all, 103 of the Korean martyrs are celebrated today: they are mostly lay men and women: some married, some not; some old, some young, some even children.

"The Korean Church is unique because it was founded entirely by laypeople. This fledgling Church, so young and yet so strong in faith, withstood wave after wave of fierce persecution. Thus, in less than a century, it could boast of 10,000 martyrs. The death of these many martyrs became the leaven of the Church and led to today's splendid flowering of the Church in Korea. Even today their undying spirit sustains the Christians of the Church of Silence in the north of this tragically divided land." – Pope John Paul II at the canonization of the Korean Martyrs, May 6, 1984.

Next week sees the commemoration of the Battle of Ypres (Passchendaele). A century ago people were talking of "the war to end all wars" and how illusory that notion turned out to be. We are now faced again with the very real possibility of major conflict, this time in the Korean Peninsula. Our first response has to be to pray for peace: we must ask God to change hearts and minds so that the vision of Isaiah may finally be realised: *"He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war"*. Pope Saint John Paul II asked Catholics to pray the Rosary each day for world peace: it is an injunction that we would all do well to follow in these uncertain times, and to seek too the prayers of the Korean martyrs.

Ultimately, every question about peace and justice is at heart a theological one, taking us back to our creatureliness and our relationship to our Creator. We cannot hope to live reconciliation with one another, if we distance ourselves from the reconciliation held out to us by our heavenly Father. We cannot hope to be good stewards unless we recognise the source of the gifts we have to steward.

"In view of the risks which humanity is facing in our times, all Catholics in every part of the world have a duty to proclaim and embody ever more fully the Gospel of peace, and to show that acknowledgment of the full truth of God is the first indispensable condition for consolidating the truth of peace" (John Paul II).

St Pio of Pietrelcina (1887-1968) was born in the small village of Pietrelcina in southern Italy, and joined the Capuchin friars at the age of 16. He became a priest seven years later, and spent fifty years at the monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo, where he was very much sought after as a spiritual advisor, confessor, and

intercessor. Many miracles were popularly ascribed to him during his lifetime. He died a few days after the fiftieth anniversary of his receiving the stigmata, and over 100,000 people attended his funeral.

CONFIRMATION

Application Forms are available at the back of Church. Please return them to the Presbytery as soon as possible. **Deadline– September 30th**

HCPT JUMBLE SALE

Enormous thanks to all who helped with the Jumble Sale. A total of £511 was raised for next Easter's Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

St Adrian's Catholic Primary School Caretaker Vacancy.

Are you the person we are looking for to maintain our safe, clean and well cared for school environment? Do you have knowledge and experience of basic DIY and maintenance and are you flexible, hard-working, self-motivated and reliable? For further details please contact the school office. admin@stadrians.herts.sch.uk or: 01727 852687

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

V: Let us ask God to give worthy priests, brothers and sisters to His Holy Church.

R: O God, we earnestly beseech Thee to bless this archdiocese with many priests, brothers and sisters, who will gladly spend their entire lives to serve Thy Church and to make Thee known and loved.

V: Bless our families. Bless our children.

R: Choose from our homes those who are needed for Thy work.

V: Mary, Queen of the Clergy!

R: Pray for us. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more.

BLESSING OF CIVIL MARRIAGES

Often clergy are asked something along the lines of: *My partner and I have planned our wedding at a seaside hotel. Can the priest give us a blessing afterwards?*

The answer is NO. A Catholic must marry before a priest and two witnesses according to the form prescribed by the Church for the marriage to be recognised by the Church. A marriage entered into by a Catholic according to a civil ceremony is not considered valid by the Church. A priest cannot bless such an attempted marriage, though he can arrange for the marriage to be convalidated. This is essentially a ceremony in which the couple take the vows of marriage anew in the canonical form. This is not something that should be planned in advance but a remedy for a situation entered into perhaps through ignorance.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

8.30am & 10.30am

If the Children's Liturgy of the Word is to continue at both of the Sunday morning Masses then we need more helpers. It is up to you! Please email Susanna if you are willing to help.

LORETO COLLEGE OPEN EVENING TUESDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 2017

The College opens at 6pm. Please use the entrance in Upper Lattimore Road. Guided tours will be organised from 6pm to 7.45pm. The Headteacher will address parents at 6.15pm, 7.15pm, and 8.15pm.