



## Parish News

**Returning to Mass.** 'It is so good to be back, Father.' I must have heard those words many, many times as we opened the doors once again for Mass to be said in public. It has taken a lot of preparation by a great team of volunteers. The signs are in place, the gel dispensers full and the benches measured up. We have read carefully all the guidelines sent to us by our Cardinal. So it was on 4 July that we opened the doors to find a small queue of people for the 6:30pm Mass. Yes, they found Mass is a little different from a usual Sunday Mass. Yes, there's not quite so many people. Yes, you can't sit in your usual place. Yes, it's a bit shorter. Yes, you have to use a face covering. But it is still the Mass, still where we meet Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Some of us are getting used to receiving Holy Communion in a different way, by standing and receiving into the hands. This is very generous of you. And yes, at the moment, there can be no singing or servers at Mass.

But, as just over 200 people discovered this weekend, it is still the Mass. And I would like to say both on my behalf and Fr Sudham's: 'It's very good to have you back!' Monsignor Roger

**Collection.** Last week's collection was £1,241.60 (excluding standing orders). Standing orders for June amounted to £3,347.00. If you would like to consider giving by standing order please contact the parish office. Thank you so much for your generosity in whatever way you give. I understand that for some of you it has become increasingly difficult to work at this time, and the care of your family must be your top priority.

**Francis Thomas.** It is very good to see Francis Thomas helping out at Mass while our liturgies are so restricted by age regulations and distancing. As I'm sure some of you know, Francis grew up in this parish, is in formation for the diocesan priesthood, and is now about to start his fourth year as a seminarian at the diocesan Seminary at Allen Hall in Chelsea. Please pray for him and for all the seminarians. If you know of someone who might be considering a vocation to the priesthood or religious life, please ask them to get in touch with Mgr Roger.

**Newsletter.** Now that our church is open a paper copy of the weekly newsletter will be available in the church for you to pick up and take home with you as you leave. The newsletter will continue to be posted on the parish website as normal and can be found under this link <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/lesdengreen/parish-newsletters-2020/>

## Readings at Mass

### 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

<b>First Reading:</b>	Isaiah 55:10—11
<b>Psalm Response:</b>	Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.
<b>Second Reading:</b>	St Paul to the Romans 8:18—23
<b>Alleluia Verse:</b>	Speak, Lord, your servant is listening; you have the message of eternal life.
<b>Gospel:</b>	Matthew 13:1—23

## Diocesan News

**Pope's prayer intention for July: For families** By Fr David Stewart SJ. As we passed the year's longest day last month, many families felt that this was the longest year ever as so many suffered at various levels from the effects of the pandemic. Families grieved the loss of beloved elders and loved ones while enduring job losses and economic uncertainty. At the invitation of the Pope, in June we contemplated the wounded side of the Saviour and took solace and strength from the blood and water that flowed from his Sacred Heart. We prayed with Pope Francis that many hearts would be touched by that Heart. Now, in July, the Pope invites us to pray with him for families: **'that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance'**. To read more please visit <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/popes-prayer-intention-for-july-for-families/>

**"Apply for settled status as soon as possible!" Bishop urges European citizens who have made their homes in the UK.** Almost a year before the government's deadline for EU, EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK to apply for Settled Status, a bishop who has gone through the process is urging people not to delay in making their application. Bishop William Kenney, auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham and himself a Swedish national, says those who are eligible should apply well ahead of 30 June 2021. The government requires European citizens who have made their homes in the UK to make an application or risk losing their fundamental rights to live and work here. Everyone including children needs to go through the process. Bishop Kenney warned that while many people have found it straightforward, others have faced unexpected obstacles navigating the government's system or don't even realise they're required to apply. He's therefore urging people to get their applications in early and encouraging parishioners to look out for others who might need some support. For more information please visit <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/apply-for-settled-status-asap/>

**Bishop Sherrington cautions against 'abortion on demand' bill amendment.** Bishop John Sherrington, the lead Catholic Bishop for Life Issues, has commented on a proposed amendment to the Domestic Abuse Bill that, if tabled, would repeal sections 58 and 59 of the 1981 Offences Against the Persons Act and 'result in the introduction of abortion on demand, for any reason, up until when a child is capable of being born alive, with a ceiling of 28 weeks.' He asks people to write to their MPs urging them to oppose these amendments which would liberalise abortion. Please read what the Bishop says in his statement at: <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/bishop-sherrington-cautions-against-abortion-on-demand-bill-amendment/>

**'Marriage Care' Counselling Services** – *Marriage Care*, established in 1946 in response to the pressure on family relationships following the end of the Second World War, now offers support from trained counsellors to couples and families who need help in coping with the pressures of 'Lockdown'. Further information can be found at: <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/marriage-and-family-life/news/marriage-care-at-75---we-are-here-for-you/>