**ST PAUL’S PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**25TH OCTOBER 2020 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**SUNDAY** – Please note the times of Masses.

Saturday Vigil Mass 5:30pm

Sunday Masses 7:30am 9:00am 10:30am 12:30pm

**LOVE**

The Pharisees continue their harassment of Jesus in today’s Gospel by asking him which commandment is the greatest. What follows is the most famous verses of the New Testament: ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul … And … You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ We probably can’t hear this enough. Love is the greatest commandment and this is a radical statement. Because this love is agape love, i.e. a love of those we don’t even know or even like! It is a love that binds all of humanity.

     We cannot separate love of God and neighbour; they are like two sides of a coin; they only work together. If we do not treat others with compassion, then how can we say we love God? Jesus often spoke about approaching the altar whilst holding a grudge against someone (Mt 5:24) and continuously challenged those who were hypocrites. Those critical of social justice movements in the church often say we should not be involved in doing ‘social work’. But this is exactly what we must do because this is how we love God, by loving our neighbour who is suffering, who is oppressed, who is in pain. We can love God and love people, there does not have to be a dichotomy.

     There is a beautiful practice in India of using the mystical phrase ‘Namaste’ in greetings, which means: ‘the Divine in me greets the Divine in you’. Usually this is accompanied by a deep bow towards the person. How wonderful it would be to really see God present in each other and, more importantly, in those that society would rather cast aside. In this way we are being true to the greatest commandment.

‘May today there be peace within. May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.’

 St Therese of Lisieux

**What is Alpha?**

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Typically run over eleven weeks, each session looks at a different question around faith, and the talks are designed to create conversation in small groups afterwards.

The talks are designed to engage and inspire conversation. Each video talk is around 30 minutes long. They explore the big issues around faith and unpack the basics of Christianity, addressing questions from “Who is Jesus?” and “How can we have faith?” to “Why and how do I pray?” and “How does God guide us?”

The discussion time is one of the most important parts of any Alpha – the chance to share thoughts and ideas on the topic, and discuss in a small group. There’s no obligation to say anything and there’s nothing you can’t say (seriously). It’s an opportunity to hear from others and contribute your own perspective in an honest, friendly, and open environment.

It’s totally free, it’s run all over the globe, and it will be run here at St Paul's in November.

Our Aplha will all be online, you can do it from the comfort of your home.

To register please see the parish website, call or email the parish office. ALL ARE WELCOME

**CHURCH HEATING** - As the days get colder the church will be heated, but due to the need to ventilate the church when occupied, it may not feel so. We would therefore advise parishioners to dress appropriately.

**CATECHISTS NEEDED** – We are hoping to begin some sessions to prepare the children from our parish for First Holy Communion in the New Year. For us to have smaller groups of children we need more catechists to help with the sessions. Could you undertake the work in our parish? Please see Fr Perry.

**NOVEMBER MASS** – Our annual November Mass to remember those who died in the last year will be on Saturday 14th November 2020 at 11am. This Mass is open to all parishioners.

**BLESSING OF GRAVES** – due to the present situation we will not have the Blessing of Graves this November.

**ROSARY** – During the month of October you can join us for the Rosary on Zoom – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday at 7pm. Details of the code can be found on the Parish website. Every Wednesday during October you can join us via Live Streaming at 7pm when we will have the Rosary from the church. [**Please note the church will not be open for parishioners**].

**NOVEMBER** – If you wish to write a November Dead List please take one of the brown envelopes to use for this purpose.

**CONFESSION** – At this present time we would ask those who wish to come for confession to arrange a time by calling the office. In the coming weeks we will try to have a regular time for people to come.

**MASS INTENTIONS** - All Masses for November are booked.We can send intentions for Fr Henry.

**BAPTISMS –** Please contact the Parish Office for details.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMS 2021** – We will open registration for First Holy Communion and Confirmation after half term. Please see the newsletter nearer the time for details of how you can register.

**FOOD BANK** - The SVP is collecting food bank items. We need non perishable tinned and dried foods. There is a basket at the back of the church.

**HARINGEY WINTER NIGHT SHELTER** -

This year - due to covid19 - the winter night shelter will not be able to take place in St Paul's church hall. It is still hoped by 'All People All Places' that many of us will still be involved. There will be a number of smaller venues, Woodside Avenue, Holy Innocents and possibly a house in Palmers Green each housing 5/6 guests and all these settings will need 2 volunteers a shift, evening, through the night and morning, as well as evening meals and breakfasts. We understand that many of our loyal volunteers may not feel able to volunteer in person this year so perhaps you could join the cooks' team or donate money/food towards the meals. If you feel you could volunteer to carry out some shifts please contact John or Susan, our co-ordinators, who will try to arrange a rota after we have had more details from the charity

susanorangehead@yahoo.co.uk John Bourke tel - 07955412611

**CHURCH CLEANING** – We want to keep our church Covid Secure – for us to be able to do this we need to clean the church after every Mass. Please can more parishioners help - after the 10:30am Mass last Sunday only 4 people helped. We all have a part to play.

**THANK YOU** - for last week’s collection for the support of your parish which amounted to £1172.65 (Envelopes £702.60; Loose £470.05). Standing Orders & Bank Transfers for September £4699.46

**LIVE-STREAMING APPEAL**

A word of thanks to those who have contributed to the Live Streaming Appeal – at present we have raised £2294 which is still a long way from the £5500 it cost. Please use the blue envelopes for donations or you can give via the parish website or a bank transfer. - Please identify your donation as LIVESTREAM

**Account Name**: WRCDT WOOD GREEN

**SORT CODE**: 40-05-20

**Account Number**: 81276514

**To access our live stream** visit  <https://www.churchservices.tv/woodgreen>  once the page is loaded click on the picture of the church to view the live stream. If you scroll to the bottom of the page you will be able to see the weekly schedule for all Masses, the link can also be found on the front page of our website.

**STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER** - Both St Paul’s & St Martin’s schools admit 30 children to the Reception Class and if your child was born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 and you wish to apply for a place in either or both schools for September 2021, you may do so from **Monday, 12th October 2020.** Application packs available from the schools.

**CONGRATULATIONS** – To Eugene, Amy & Jennyfer who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last Sunday at the 12:30pm Mass.

**CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK**

Wednesday 28th October – Ss Simon & Jude ; Thursday 29th October – Blessed Martyrs of Douai College

**NEXT SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER – ALL SAINTS DAY** – 1st Reading Apocalypse 7:2-4,9-14;

2nd Reading 1 John 3:1-3; Gospel Matthew 5:1-12

With our best wishes and assurance of prayers for you and your loved ones during the coming week.

Fr Perry Sykes Fr Jonathan Stogdon Mgr Canon Tom Egan

Parish Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/woodgreen/>

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