

## OPENING THE CHURCH FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

**VISITING THE CHURCH** Now that we have been allowed to re-open - do take the opportunity to pay a visit and spend some time in the peace and tranquillity of our church. A few rules have to be followed to limit the possibility of infection: two stewards have to be on duty during the hours we are open; hands ought to be sanitised (gel is available at the entrance); social distancing (keep 2 metres from anyone you do not live with); sit, kneel or stand at appropriate places (some pews are taped off); maintain religious hygiene (by not touching or kissing statues, images, icons, objects).

If the opening times are not convenient, it may be possible to open the church for you at another time of day – please phone Father Philip to see if this can be arranged.

**STEWARDS** We are grateful to the 40 volunteers who have offered to act as 'church stewards' so that we can be open for private prayer. If you are not considered 'vulnerable' and could volunteer to join the rota, that would be a great help. Give us a call at Church House (749050) if you could help cover any of the following times:

TIME	DAY OF WEEK AND NUMBER OF PEOPLE NEEDED			
10.00 – 11.00 am	Sat (1 person)			
11 am – 12 noon	Tues (1 person)	Thurs (2 people)	Sat (1 person)	Sun (2 people)
3 pm – 4 pm	Thurs (1 person)	Sun (2 people)		
4 pm - 5 pm	Fri (1 person)	Sat (1 person)	Sun (2 people)	
5 pm - 6 pm	Sun (2 people)			

**PARISH OFFERINGS** During the past month, standing order contributions came to £2007.75 – thank you for your continuing financial support.

*Please remember in your prayers*

**On Monday** we remember a special prayer for Father Gary Dench, as he celebrates the first anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. *Ad multos annos!*

**Those who are ill . . .**

Neil Abrahams, Isabella Ayres, Mary Brennan, Lesley Carroll, Tom Coddington, Pat and Janet Defreitas, Brenda Duke, Compton Glasgow, Father Tom Jordan, Eddie Margot, Gary Martindill, Maureen Mongan, Helen Murray, Sue Read, Stephen Smithers, Sue Spelling and Mary Treston.

**Those whose anniversaries are recalled at this time . . .**

**20-26 June:** Michael Casey, Edward Keane, Betty Mason, Ruby Martin, Stephen Carroll, Michael Harrison, Sean Fahy, James Burns, Fiona Therese Sargood and Mary Enid Ince.

## THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK . . .

Monday is the **National Feast of SS John Fisher and Thomas More** – John Fisher is best known for his martyrdom under Henry VIII in 1535; he also deserves to be admired for his outstanding example as a pastor. Bishop of Rochester, his first concern was always for the people entrusted to his care. Thomas More was a great Englishman, statesman, scholar and saint. His own words on the scaffold are now famous: "I die the King's good servant, but God's first". He was able to face death in this way – because that was the way he had lived.

Tuesday is the **Memorial of St Etheldreda** – daughter of the king of East Anglia and sister of Saints Ethelburga, Sexburga and Withburga, she married twice but allegedly refused to consummate either marriage. The second time she was supported by St Wilfrid, who encouraged her to become a nun at Coldingham in 672. She then founded a great double monastery at Ely, and her pilgrimage-shrine at the cathedral there was popular in the Middle Ages. Her hand survives in the Catholic church at Ely. Also known as St Audrey, the word 'tawdry' is a corruption of her name and refers to the poor quality of the merchandise once sold in her honour at Ely.

Wednesday is the **Solemnity of the Birth of St John the Baptist** - we recall how, after the Annunciation, Mary went to visit and stay with her cousin Elizabeth. About three months later, this good woman, the wife of Zechariah, gave birth to John the Baptist. This ancient festival celebrates that happy event.

## CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

This week, the light in honour of Our Lady is in memory of Ruby Martin.

# Catholic Church of Corpus Christi

Lowshoe Lane, Collier Row, Romford, Essex RM5 2AP

**Parish Priest:**

Father Philip Denton

☎01708-749050

✉collierrow@dioceseofbrentwood.org

**to contact Church House:**

## Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time *Prayers & Readings* 20-21 June 2020



**PARISH WEBSITE**

[www.corpuschristicollierrow.org](http://www.corpuschristicollierrow.org)

*Due to the Coronavirus pandemic,  
all public acts of worship are suspended.*

*This week the church will be open for private prayer  
at the following times:*

**Sunday**

9.00 am to 12 noon

**Monday to Saturday**

9.00 am to 12 noon

3.00 pm to 6.00 pm

*See note on the back page of this sheet.*

*This newsletter includes readings from Sunday's Mass,  
which you might like to use  
as an aid to prayer and reflection.*

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

available at any time on request

(for use at home)

## Sign of the Cross

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Prayer

Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name,  
for you never deprive of your guidance  
those you set firm on the foundation of your love.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## First Reading

Jeremiah 20: 10-13

**A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.**

Jeremiah said: I hear so many disparaging me, " 'Terror from every side!' Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All those who used to be my friends watched for my downfall, "Perhaps he will be seduced into error. Then we will master him and take our revenge!" But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero; my opponents will stumble, mastered, confounded by their failure; everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs. But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice, who scrutinise the loins and heart, let me see the vengeance you will take on them, for I have committed my cause to you. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the needy from the hands of evil men.

## Psalm

Psalm 68

It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face,  
that I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons.  
I burn with zeal for your house and taunts against you fall on me.

This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour.

In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never fails:

Lord, answer, for your love is kind; in your compassion, turn towards me.

The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive;  
for the Lord listens to the needy and does not spurn his servants in their chains.  
Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, the sea and all its living creatures.

## Second Reading

Romans 5: 12-15

### A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Romans

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of "law-breaking", yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law. Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 10: 26-33

### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: "Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

"Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

"So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven."

## Commentary

Matthew presents this passage as part of Jesus' instructions to his apostles prior to sending them out on their preaching mission. In fact, he has probably brought together various sayings of Jesus uttered at other times and in other places. For instance, he shows Jesus telling the apostles in rather odd words not to be afraid to preach from the housetops. The original context of this saying may well be in Luke's gospel, where we find Jesus warning the Pharisees that they will not be able to keep hidden their own secret procedures. This makes the Lord's statement a good deal less strange. Matthew's use of the passage is interesting in that it seems to show quite clearly that Matthew did not believe that Jesus intended to reduce his teaching to a small, select circle of followers.

No doubt, when Matthew was actually writing down Jesus' assurances to his disciples about death, he must have had in mind the steadily increasing hostility of official Judaism towards the early Church. They do not need to be afraid of those who can kill only the body; the one to fear is God, who can destroy the soul in hell. It is extremely unusual to find anywhere in the New Testament this

view of human nature as being composed of two principles: the body (which can perish in the grave) and the soul (which is capable of eternal life). It is particularly surprising to find it in this, the most 'Jewish' of the gospels, since Jews, in general, did not accept this concept of a human being.

The gospel teaches that the guarantee against such eternal destruction is unhesitating and open profession of belief in Jesus. Faith in him leads to union with God, whom Jesus presents to the disciples not as a tyrant intent on the destruction of human beings, but as a loving Father who loves and cares for them, as he loves and cares for the least of his creation.

## Prayers of Intercession

That people surrounded by terror may not respond with violence  
but may yet prevail in God's justice.

*Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.*

That those whom circumstances have made fearful  
may find in our community respect for their human dignity.

*Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.*

That those wounded by the whispers of gossip  
may find comfort in God, who knows the truth and probes the heart.

*Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.*

That the Lord Jesus  
may acknowledge before his Father in heaven our beloved departed.

*Lord, in your mercy: hear our prayer.*

Our Father . . .

## Spiritual Communion

*written by St Alphonsus Ligouri*

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.  
I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come spiritually into my soul  
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and for ever. Amen.

## Prayer

To us, Lord of the harvest, you entrust a share in the mission of Jesus,  
who sent the twelve to proclaim the good news and to bear witness without fear.

With your love sheltering and surrounding us,  
may we proclaim from the housetops the gospel we have heard  
and acknowledge before all the One whom we confess as Lord,  
your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

## Sign of the Cross

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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*The Lord left us the Sacrament of His real, tangible and permanent Presence, so that, remaining united to Him, we may always receive the gift of fraternal love. "Remain in my love" (John 15:9), Jesus said. And it is possible thanks to the Eucharist. Remain in friendship, in love.*

**Pope Francis, Angelus Address, Sunday 14 June 2020**