

The Catholic Parish of

# ST. GEORGE and the English Martyrs



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A -

24th /25th October 2020

In the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading this weekend from the book of Exodus, instructions are given as to how the Israelites should treat, with kindness, those who are vulnerable; this requirement was an important part of their covenant agreement/relationship with God.

Perhaps it was the same then as it is now, where poor and vulnerable people get exploited, often being used to make a quick buck – human trafficking, refugees, asylum seekers are just a couple of examples.

The same responsibility of care falls upon all Christians today; it is part of what it means to belong to and be 'church'. I think it is also the meaning of the Holy Communion which we receive, in that our concern and action for others is an expression of being 'holy Communion'.



I smiled at the opening line of the gospel - "When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees...": in other words, when Jesus had put them in their place – ouch!

The Pharisees retaliate with some trickery by asking Jesus to choose the "greatest commandment". This may sound harmless to us, but when you have over 600 laws which were all weighted with equal importance, to choose one would be saying that the others are not important. What was Jesus to do?

Like last week's gospel, he leads the questioners from the minutia of the various laws to the bigger picture – "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind...and your neighbour as yourself".

Jesus could see that a myriad of laws had obscured the most important which was to love God and our neighbour with everything you have got.

For Jesus, love of God is expressed in loving our neighbour, and not just those within our own family or community, but all people.

Love is not merely a warm feeling towards others; it is not an action where we hope to get something back; and is not something we do to give ourselves an 'I'm a good person' label (that becomes more about us than the other).

Love is a profound respect for the rights and dignity of all people, acknowledging that we are all beloved children of God.

In 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading, Paul praises the Christians of Thessalonica for their good example of Christian living.

May we be good examples of Christian love, a love that goes beyond the boundaries of family and friends, to touch the lives of all people, especially those in need.

Have a good week,

Fr Brett

**24th OCTOBER - 1st NOVEMBER 2020**

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

---

**Saturday 24th**

6.00pm **Stanley Smith RIP** (Marjorie and Family)

**Sunday 25th**

30th Sunday of the Year

9.00am **Betty Compton RIP** (Mary and Chris)

10.45am **Marcelle Duncan RIP - 9th Anniv.**

(Malcolm and Family) *and For All Parishioners*

St. Cedd

**Monday 26th**

9.15am **Intentions of Gwen Hindley** (Nuala Haynes)

**Tuesday 27th**

Feria

9.15am **In Abrogation of the 53rd Anniversary of the  
Abortion Act** (Ted and Anne Brown)

**Wednesday 28th**

SS Simon and Jude

11.30am **Jimmy Duffy RIP - 1st Anniv. and Ciaran Duffy RIP**  
(Margaret and John)

**Thursday 29th**

Feria

**No Mass**

**Friday 30th**

Feria

9.15am **Teresa Malone RIP and Lina Deathe RIP** (Sylvia)

**Saturday 31st**

6.00pm **Joan Butcher RIP and For All Parishioners**

(Carol, Gillian and Janet)

**Sunday 1st**

All Saints (Holyday of Obligation)

9.00am **Mark Murray RIP - 11th Anniv.** (Murray Family)

10.45am **Filomena Kettlewell RIP and Clemente Mancino RIP**  
(Margherita and Ian)

## **BOOKING FOR MASS**

This coming week, the *booking system* (please see Parish website) will be open from 9am on Monday 26th October until 12noon on Friday 30th October, for Masses on the 31st October, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th November.

Don't forget that we operate on a first come, first served basis

*Remember, if you are unable to attend Mass and have booked a place, please telephone the office on 292726 if it is Friday afternoon or later.*

## **53rd ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABORTION ACT**

Tuesday 27th October is the 53rd anniversary of the Abortion Act being passed in England and Wales. Since 1967 over nine million babies have lost their lives to abortion. Millions of women and men have also had to deal with the suffering which so often follows an abortion. Please join us in praying and fasting for the end of abortion in this country on Tuesday 27th October. For Post Abortion help and to support Pro-Life counselling see;

[www.GoodCounselNetwork.com](http://www.GoodCounselNetwork.com)

Please invite your friends and Family to join us via this Facebook event; <https://www.facebook.com/>

## **RETIRING COLLECTION**

This weekend we are collecting for the Holy Land. Normally this would have been taken on Good Friday.

As mentioned last week, please do not use the envelope marked Shoe-box Appeal. That should not have been produced.

## **HOUSEKEEPING**

The following has been brought to our attention in the last week:-

**Correct Wearing of Masks** - When wearing a mask, please ensure it covers both your mouth and nose; otherwise it will be ineffective.

**Standing Outside of Church** - can we ask that when you leave the church that you keep going and don't congregate around the steps or gate.

We have been told that there was not a lot of social distancing going on last weekend. It is lovely to see fellow parishioners again, but we have to be mindful of the fact that the dreaded Virus is on the increase.

Thanks so much in advance.

## **ADORATION AND BENEDICTION**

Come and pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays, after the 9.15am Mass. All welcome.

## SVP FOOD PARCELS

Thanks to everyone who has been so generous in supporting vulnerable people through the SVP.

They are critically low of the following at present:-

***Tinned Veg (peas, sweetcorn, carrots, potatoes, mixed veg)***

***Tinned meats/ curry/ chilli/ ravioli/ ham / Spam***

***Fruit Juice / Squash***

***Tuna***

***Coffee***

***Sugar***

***Tea***

***Crisps***

***Tinned fruit/ custard / rice pudding***

Please bring to the Presbytery by Friday and we will make sure that the food gets to them.

## OFFICE HOURS

Due to it being half term next week, Sharon will only be in on Tuesday and Thursday. On those days she will be concentrating on the Mass bookings and the newsletter.



Any non-urgent queries will be dealt with when she is back in the office on Tuesday 3rd November.



## FREE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE/TIMES

This will be the last weekend that we will receive free newspapers from the Universe Media Group. Please make the most of it and help yourself to a copy.

Like many businesses at present, they are looking for our support.

Please consider taking out a subscription by using the form included in the newspaper, or going online to their website:-

[www.thecatholicuniverse.com/](http://www.thecatholicuniverse.com/)

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice.

(Nelson Mandela)

## Virtual Ho, Ho, Ho!

Hi everyone - do you remember those balmy days in June when we said; wouldn't it be funny if we had to run a virtual Xmas Fayre!

Well, guess what, the virtual Ho Ho Ho's are nearly here 🧐 🍷 😊 🧐

We are hoping to run a virtual Xmas grand draw with ticket sales starting in early November and the draw taking place on Saturday the 5th December. The process for buying tickets will be exactly as it was in May/June for the Summer Fayre Draw. The "very, very lovely" Sharon will be running our ticket sales exactly as we did in the Summer. Full details for that process will follow shortly.

The first three prizes will be cash sums of £100 - £50 - £25 followed by, at least, seven further prizes consisting of seasonal goodies including wine, Xmas Hampers and the odd Yuletide cake 🧐 🍷 🧐 We are very grateful to the generous Parishioners who have already donated our first prize!

In the meantime, we hope we can call upon your legendary generosity for those seasonal non-cash prizes. We're looking for bottles of wine or maybe some Baileys, perhaps even some single Malt liquid that originates north of the border and other Xmas Hamper goodies 🍷.

Rumour has it that the M.C. is particularly partial to Waitrose All Butter Mince Pies washed down with some nice Malbec but that's just speculation! 🧐 🍷 🧐

There will be space for donations in the labelled cupboards in the porch at St. Georges or feel free to drop them off at the Presbytery during office hours.

If we find ourselves awash with Seasonal donations we will make sure they go to the SVP in Westcliff and/or local families.

Thanks and Bless you!

Suzanne, Brian and Shawn aka 669



## LOAVES AND FISHES REFLECTION FROM MARY'S MEALS

Dear friend,

In the face of this global pandemic our choices for good and for bad can seem particularly stark. On one hand we see an outpouring of new acts of charity and love prompted by the new needs of our brothers and sisters. On the other we see examples of division.

We see people cook meals and deliver them to vulnerable neighbours. We see others behaving selfishly.

In fear some are turning inwards, whilst others are finding ways to reach out. I feel all these choices – even if they seem insignificant – will have a profound impact on our future – and our children's too.

Mary's Meals is a choice. Each meal served is a product of a series of choices for good. And in the face of so many new challenges – many of them appearing insurmountable – each meal served is a new sign of hope. Another reminder that God is with us.

Our choices are allowing hope to enter in – at a time when hope is so much needed – and in this way our little acts of love have wonderful and important ramifications that ripple out far beyond the bowl of porridge currently being eaten by a child in an impoverished Zimbabwean township.

What God has done through Mary's Meals these last few months might be described best as a miracle – and many even outside of our mission are looking at that miracle and wondering. But these times can be frightening and choosing the good is not always easy. More than ever prayer sustains us and enables us to make the right choice. Prayer is where this mission of ours begins.

I thank you therefore with all my heart for your prayers for Mary's Meals and for choosing the good despite any suffering, uncertainty or fear that might be troubling you. Let us pray together, and for each other, and be encouraged by these words from Scripture, that might speak to and comfort all in the Mary's Meals family at this time:

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness shall be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.” – Philippians 4:4-9

God bless,  
**Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow,**



## REMEMBERING OUR DEARLY DEPARTED IN NOVEMBER

In the porch of the church you will find 'Holy Souls' envelopes in which you can place a piece of paper that lists the names of those you wish to pray for (it is customary to include a donation as well). Once you have sealed the envelope, please put it in either the basket on the altar, or post it through the Presbytery letter box, and we will remember our beloved departed throughout November.



### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus Christ,

You have chosen the Apostles and their successors, the Bishops and Priests of the Catholic Church, to preach the true faith throughout the whole world.

We earnestly beseech You to choose from among us in this parish, Priests and Religious who will gladly spend their entire lives to make You better known and loved.

*Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us.*

*Immaculate Heart of Mary pray for us.*

*St. Joseph pray for us.*

*St John Vianney pray for us.*

## DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL VACANCIES

At present there are vacancies for Teaching Assistants and a Head Teacher.

Please go to the following webpage for more information:-

<https://>

[www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/](https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/)

### MARRIAGE MATTERS

([www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk](http://www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk))

#### Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**(Exodus 22:20-26 1 Thess 1:5-10  
Matt 22:34-40)**

#### **How can I best love you today?**

In today's gospel Jesus says love should be at the centre of our lives, so we must ask 'How can I best love my partner today?' To know how our partner experiences our love best, we need to explore together whether it is through compliments, special time together, presents or acts of service, or simple hugging and kissing.

## ANNIVERSARIES IN OCTOBER

† Joseph Avery ,Alfred Braithwaite, Joyce Brown, Mary Bushell, Conner Campbell , Kathleen Coleman, Gladys Coombes, Samuel Cottham, Ella Crawford , Anne Cusack, Mary Denney, Les Dowie, Marcelle Duncan, Lorraine Ellis, Freya Falconer, Adrian Gallagher, Mary Gargan, Anne Goldsworthy, Harry Manfred Gravestock, Bernard Humphrey, Mark Keenan, Violet Linker, Christina McFadden, Kate Mclaughlin, Rosemary O'Brien, Eileen O' Connor, Michael Ryan, Anna Smith, Stanley Smith, Minnie Standing, Brian Sullivan, John Trainor, Tanya Walton, Fred Wicker, John Corr, Pamela Partington, Simon Zialor †

## NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE NETWORK

- ***Are you concerned about injustice in our world?***
- ***Do you feel the need to take action and make your voice heard?***
- ***Would you like support and encouragement?***

If the answer is yes, then please look at what the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) has to offer. Details available from:

<https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>

## PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

**Please pray for all those who are sick or housebound in our parish, as well as our friends and family.**

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need.

Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence.

Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits.

May these special people find lasting health and deliverance, and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts.

We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed.

Amen.

**Please be aware that given the increase in Covid-19 cases, at present we will not be allowing people into the Presbytery without an appointment, and would ask that you wear a mask. Thank you.**

**Parish Priest: Fr. Brett Adams**

96 Ness Road, Shoeburyness, SS3 9DH

**Telephone:** 01702 292726

**Website:** [www.saintgeorgeschurch.co.uk](http://www.saintgeorgeschurch.co.uk)

**Facebook:** @stgeorgeandtheenglishmartyrs

**Instagram:** saintgeorgeschurch

**School: St. George's Catholic Primary**

**Headteacher:** Mrs A. Delgado

**Telephone:** 01702 293522

**Parish Administrator: Sharon Chambers**

**Office Hours** - Office only open Tuesday and Thursday 8am until 5pm this coming week.

Office Closed - Mon, Weds, Fri

**Hall Bookings:** 292726 in office hours

**Gift Aid:** Jim Filmer. Tel. 07775 898409

**Church Email:** -

**[stgeorgesrcchurch@outlook.com](mailto:stgeorgesrcchurch@outlook.com)**