

ST JOSEPH'S, STONEHOUSE & THE ANNUNCIATION, WOODCHESTER

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For Hall Bookings at St Joseph's please contact Mike Gibbons: ☎ 01453 824332 or: mjpg53@btinternet.com

THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR - PSALTER WEEK 1 – 15TH NOVEMBER 2020

THERE ARE NO PUBLIC MASSES TAKING PLACE THIS WEEK

There is a live daily Mass from the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Clifton Cathedral. The Mass is 9.30am and can be viewed on the Diocesan website:
<http://cliftondiocese.com>

LECTIONARY

Sun	Prv 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31	Psalm 127: 1-5	1Thes 5: 1-6	Matthew 25: 14-30
Mon	Apoc 1: 1-4, 2: 1-5	Psalm 1: 1-6		Luke 18: 35-43
Tues	Apoc 3: 1-6, 14-22	Psalm 14: 2-5		Luke 19: 1-10
Wed	Apoc 4: 1-11	Psalm 150		Luke 19: 11-28
Thurs	Apoc 5: 1-10	Psalm 149: 1-6, 9		Luke 19: 41-44
Fri	Apoc 10: 8-11	Psalm 118: 14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131		Luke 19: 45-48
Sat	Apoc 11: 4-12	Psalm 143: 1-2, 9-10		Luke 20: 27-40

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL AT ST JOSEPH'S

Vi. Burrage, Mike Gibbons and Olga, Julie Wood, Elizabeth Carr, Mary Evans, Rosemary Mabud, Aine Anderson, Mary Scully, Maggie

AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED ABOUT THIS TIME

Thomas Rawlinson, Marijan Tomic, Howard Watkins, Brigid Payne, Stefan Collins

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL AT THE ANNUNCIATION

Fr. Richard Finn O.P. and family, Rebekah Hollingshead, Brendon Conboy, Della Cox, Barry Norris, Cynthia Stevens, Peggy Chapman, Barry Taylor, John Presland, Tony Thompson, Georgina Mazzone, Frances Little, Christopher Notley, Trese Hulbert, Elizabeth Lillinton, Tina Hathaway, Chris Jay, Penny Gear

AND FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED ABOUT THIS TIME

Thomas Rawlinson, Violet Roseblade, Joseph Little, Lawrence Wilson, Francis Watts, Stanley Smith, John Lloyd, Marie Hartley, Jean Rigby, Denis Dangerfield, Dominic Sire OP, Dennis McGinley, Laurence Murphy, Sr. Patricia Frances O'Sullivan

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

That the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind.

DIOCESAN PRAYER LINK

Alexander House / Diocesan Departments / St Ambrose

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Both Churches are currently closed for Mass and also for private prayer. Obligation to attend remains removed. National shared prayer is taking place daily at 6pm. We are currently expecting to open again for Sunday Mass on Sunday 6th December at both Churches, if the government advises it is safe to do so.

IN GENERAL

MULTI-TASKING

This beautiful first reading reminded me that women are able to multi-task (while men aren't supposed to be) – so they say! The perfect wife cited here can not only multi-task, but is multi-talented, too, God bless her. Multi-talentedness is something that may not be very openly manifest in a person, but it is how the talents are applied that should distinguish Christians ('She opens her arms to the needy'). And that comes with the person's acknowledgement before God of those blessings from which springs thanksgiving to God for them. We might feel embarrassed when someone points out a talent that we have, but in truth it is an acknowledgement of something God-given: God's work, not ours (though we might have invested a lot of our efforts on honing it and improving it). So, we can be praising God when we accept the compliment: we might even reply with genuine humility: "yes, I *am* quite good at that!" Perhaps failure to do that is what prevented the servant who had just one talent at his disposal from giving it a go instead of burying it!

GOSPEL REFLECTION

A story is told that on one warm summer's morning a hiker was walking along a road when he came upon a sparrow lying on its back in the middle of the road. Slightly concerned he bent down to the little creature and asked: "Why are you lying down like that?" "I heard that the sky is going to fall today," the little bird replied. The hiker began to laugh. "I suppose you think your spindly little legs are going to hold up the big sky?" The determined little sparrow replied simply, "One does what one can." 'One does what one can' is the message that Jesus wants us to learn from today's parable. All of us have talents and it is for us to decide how we will use them. Talents are often associated with successful people. When we hear someone referred to as being 'so talented' it is unlikely that we are referring to someone who spends every night, awake, caring for a sick child or parent. It is unlikely that we are referring to the young person who works in a soup kitchen or talks to the homeless. Yet what these people do stems from a desire to use what God has given them; the capacity for compassion, for gentleness, for concern, for generosity of heart, for their commitment to over-coming injustice and oppression in the lives of others, for not giving into the pain of personal disability. It takes skill to bring healing and hope to others and this can be just as rewarding as the adulation that comes from being a successful superstar performing to the best of their ability.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Currently it is planned that four Christmas Masses will take place this year:

Christmas Eve

4pm – Woodchester, 7pm – Stonehouse

Item for the Bulletin? You can send items for the bulletin (by the Wednesday) to stonehouse.stjoseph@clifftondiocese.com or post them through the presbytery letterbox. For The Annunciation, email: woodchester.theannunciation@clifftondiocese.com or post in the church letterbox (by front gate) or leave a message on 01453 822121. Any financial matters for Stonehouse, please email admin.stonehouse.stjoseph@clifftondiocese.com. Any health and safety matters for Stonehouse, please email HS.stonehouse.stjoseph@clifftondiocese.com

Christmas Day

9am – Stonehouse, 11am Woodchester

So we can have a rough ideas of numbers expected, please could you email either stonehouse.stjoseph@clifftondiocese.com or Woodchester.theannunciation@clifftondiocese.com or call the office on 01453 822121 depending on which Church you plan to attend. We will obviously have to adhere to the government guidance at the time.

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Additional representation is being sought for Churches Together in both Stonehouse and Woodchester. If you are interested, please could you contact Bogdan in the first instance.

THE ANNUNCIATION

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL, NYMPFIELD

Governors at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Nympsfield have agreed to a request from the Diocese to add the Parish of the Annunciation to the designated parishes we serve, to ensure that Catholic children within your parish do not have a lesser chance of being allocated a place at a Catholic school in the future. With current COVID restrictions we are not be able to offer an 'Open Day' this year, but we are pleased to invite you to visit our school through a virtual tour which is available on our website: http://www.st-josephs-nympsfield.com/website/our_virtual_open_day/519444. Telephone enquiries are also welcome: 01453 860311

ROAD CLOSURE

Please be aware that in order to repair the boundary wall adjacent to the lane it has been necessary to close the lane leading to the church from the main road. Access to the church and graveyard can be made from the top of St Mary's Hill via either Convent lane or Cow lane. The works we are hoping will be complete before Christmas.

BOUNDARY WALL REPAIR PROGRESS UPDATE

Many of you may have noticed that repairs to the boundary wall has started. The wall adjacent to the car park entrance has progressed well, and work is to start on the wall adjacent to the road. We have however discovered that the wall to the road is in need of repair beyond the original scope and this has led to an increase to the original tender. This has come in at £22,000 and means that the wall in effect is rebuilt from the sign up to just short of the wooden gate, it also includes for a road closure to the end of January. This does however mean that the boundary in total should not need any additional works for a very long time, subject to us properly maintaining it. To summarise, original tender £50,000, addition work £22,000 total £72,000 plus VAT (we are not claiming this back, too complicated) total £86,400. However, we have received a grant to assist in this repair work, which is £58,000, which means true cost to us is £28,000. We will now have as stated above a boundary wall which will not require major work, if maintained properly. To put this into perspective the original price for repair to the whole wall was in the region of £170,000, we are doing this for £28,000.

- Bogdan