

The Parish of St Dunstan and St Jude

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Philip Harrop
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Sunday 30th January 2022

www.stdunstanandstjude.co.uk

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|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Sat 29 th | <i>Our Lady</i> | 11.00am | Holy Mass | Kate Reilly (RIP) Pro Populo |
| | | 11.30am-1.00pm | <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i> | |
| | | 11.30am-12.30pm and 4.45pm-5.15pm | <i>Confessions</i> | |
| | | 5.30pm | Vigil Mass | Bernadette Andrews (RIP) |
| Sun 30 th | FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 9.15am (<i>St Jude's</i>) | Holy Mass | Carew and O' Leary Families |
| | | 10.30am | Holy Mass | Liam Burns JNR (RIP) |
| | | 12noon | Holy Mass | Louise Sullivan (RIP) |
| | | 6.30pm | Holy Mass | Martin Monaghan |
| Mon 1 st | <i>St John Bosco</i> | 9.30am | Holy Mass | Josephine Evans (RIP) |
| Tues 2 nd | <i>Feria</i> | 10.00am (<i>St Jude's</i>) | Holy Mass | Philomena Tracy (RIP) |
| | | 7.00pm | Holy Mass | Susan Melvin (RIP) |
| Wed 3 rd | The Presentation of the Lord | 9.30am | Holy Mass | Legion of Mary |
| Thurs 4 th | <i>Feria</i> | 7.00pm | Holy Mass | Mary Cloherty (RIP 1 st Anni.) |
| Fri 5 th | <i>St Agatha</i> | 9.30pm | Holy Mass | Sr Ursula Doherty (RIP) |
| | | 7.00pm | Holy Mass | Liam Ryan (RIP) |
| Sat 6 th | <i>St Paul Miki and Companions</i> | 11.00am | Holy Mass | Anne Marie Doherty (RIP) Pro Populo |
| | | 11.30am-1.00pm | <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i> | |
| | | 11.30am-12.30pm and 4.45pm-5.15pm | <i>Confessions</i> | |
| | | 5.30pm | Holy Mass | Eileen Dixon (RIP Anni.) |
| Sun 7 th | FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 9.15am (<i>St Jude's</i>) | Holy Mass | Kathleen Bowyer (RIP) |
| | | 10.30am | Holy Mass | Patrick and Nora Cooney (RIP) |
| | | 12 noon | Holy Mass | Thomas and Margaret McCarthy (RIP) |
| | | 6.30pm | Holy Mass | Angela Dunn (RIP) |

Wednesday is the Feast of Candlemas - also called *The Presentation of the Lord*. In the Jewish custom of the time, a firstborn son was taken to the Temple on the 40th day following his birth when the parents would present their son before the Holy of Holies and offer sacrifice in thanksgiving. At the Temple Mary and Joseph are met by Simeon and Anna. These two characters of Simeon and Anna are both elderly, and yet they see what many younger eyes around them seem to miss – the presence of God in Christ among them, the promised Messiah. This serves to remind us of the importance of the more senior and experienced among us – that the old, as well as the young, are an important part of the Church of today and tomorrow. We see this especially in the role that grandparents frequently play in the passing on of the faith to their grandchildren, especially when parents show a lack of commitment or desire to pass on the faith themselves.

Simeon speaks to Mary of the sorrows that will come to her because of her son. Candlemas, therefore, is not only a last look back towards the crib, but a feast which turns our eyes towards Lenten journey to come, which in turn leads us to the cross.

Simeon calls Jesus ‘the light to enlighten the gentiles’ and so, at Mass this day, we begin with the lighting and blessing of candles, after which the priest processes to the altar – the holy of holies of the new covenant. The *Liturgy of the Word* culminates in the Gospel - describing the wonderful events in the Temple – for on this day the Lord, to whose glory the Temple was built, enters its gates in the flesh. Finally, we come to the Eucharistic Liturgy where Christ comes seeking his altar-throne, and where we welcome him with joy, as did Simeon and Anna on that first Candlemas Day.

COVID restrictions: As you will know, many of the restrictions stipulated by the government came to an end last week. Certain businesses and transport organisations will be recommending the continuation of some practices until the present Omicron surge has ceased. The Bishops Conference too have been deliberating about the way forward, and how we are to walk together to normality. The bishop’s guidance acknowledges that the virus is changing from the pandemic phase to the endemic phase, thus there are still risks with gatherings in enclosed spaces for sustained periods. This has to be balanced against the need to move forward safely towards a normal lifestyle and a return to normal worship. These two things have to held in tension.

There will be a meeting for our stewards (who can attend) after the 7pm Mass on Thursday St Dunstan’s to reflect on this. Some people will be ready to embrace a loosening of measure, whilst others will be more cautious or fearful. It’s important as a parish that we acknowledge both. More details will come next week.

Synod on Synodality.

You might remember from some time ago information regarding the ‘synodal process’ taking place. There is a questionnaire that you are encouraged to take away with you to reflect on the questions asked. A pandemic is perhaps not the most opportune time for this, and due to

GUIDANCE FOR MASS

As the Covid virus is still circulating in our community the diocese is recommending continuing with **social distance, face coverings, and to sanitise our hands** as we enter and leave church.

Please remember to bring a face covering with you to church.

Please consider other people and leave some space from the person next to you. Please also only sit on the pews with the green ticks on.

Receiving Holy Communion. There have been increasing occasions where people have walked away with the sacred host without consuming it. So:

- 1. It is very important for the respect we ought to give to the most Holy Sacrament, that if you do receive the holy eucharist in the hand, consume the host immediately before stepping away from the priest.**
- 2. Please remove your face covering from your mouth immediately before so that you can receive.**
- 3. It is also respectful to leave a reasonable space before the person in front of you. There’s no rush, and we won’t run out of the Blessed Sacrament.**

Omicron doing the rounds quite markedly in the community here it seems unwise to organise non-essential meetings, yet responses are requested in the coming days. If you would like to ‘contribute to the picture’ (and this is an invitation to all) could you return them by February 20th. You don’t need to answer all the questions, but any reflections will be greatly appreciated. You can find more information on birminghamdiocese.org.uk/the-synod-2021-2023

The process for sacramental preparation for this coming year has begun. Please remember all those, both adults and children, who are being prepared for the sacraments.

On the evening of the 17th of February Bishop David Evans will be coming to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Dunstan’s for a large number of our young people. Numbers are still restricted at the moment due to the prevalence of the virus in the community, but we can still accompany them with our prayers.

For children not in Catholic schools, or those who for whatever reason missed the sacraments earlier, preparation for **First Confession and First Holy Communion for Children** will start on Saturday 19th March from 11.45am to 12.45pm in the Conference Room and finish on Saturday 25th June. Parents are asked to stay with their children for the first session. For more information and to order the required books, please ring the Parish catechists Nuala Bielby on 689 2917 or Pat Thorpe on 449 4002.

For children in Catholic schools in the parish our schools have already begun the preparation and will be

OFFERTORY HYMN

1. Safe in the shadow of the Lord
beneath his hand and power,
I trust in him,
I trust in him,
my fortress and my tower.
2. My hope is set on God alone
though Satan spreads his snare;
I trust in him,
I trust in him,
to keep me in his care.
3. From fears and phantoms of the night,
from foes about my way,
I trust in him,
I trust in him,
by darkness as by day.
4. His holy angels keep my feet
secure from every stone;
I trust in him,
I trust in him,
and unafraid go on.
5. Strong in the everlasting Name,
and in my Father's care,
I trust in him,
I trust in him,
who hears and answers prayer.
6. Safe in the shadow of the Lord,
possessed by love divine,
I trust in him,
I trust in him,
and meet his love with mine.

COMMUNION HYMN

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.
2. Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.
3. Come, Almighty, to deliver,
let us all thy life receive.
Suddenly return, and never,
nevermore they temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
4. Finish, then, thy new creation;
true and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

making their first confession in March, and first communion in June.

We pray for those who have died recently: Anthony Nolan, Eamon Glackin, Jim Ranford, John Brankin and Terry Nolan.

Eamon Glackin died suddenly whilst on holiday with his family in Ireland. His funeral Mass was held there. As Eamon was a loyal parishioner and a member of the church cleaning team, it is only right for a Requiem Mass will offered for the repose of his soul at St Dunstan's on Wednesday 9th February at 6pm.

Funeral Arrangements for Jim Ranford. Christchurch C of E church, School Road, Yardley Wood. B14 4EP. Reception of the body at 6:00pm on Thursday 3rd February and Funeral Service at 10:00am on Friday 4th February, followed by Interment at Kings Norton Cemetery. Afterwards at Christchurch Social Centre, (next to the church). All welcome.

Walsingham Pilgrimage 2022:

We have finalised the date for this year's weekend pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady in Walsingham. The details are outlined below:

Date: Friday 27th – Sunday 29th May 2022

Cost: £185 per person for a standard room with shared bathroom.

£215 per person for an en-suite room {en-suite accommodation is limited}

The cost includes transport and accommodation with breakfast and dinner.

In order to secure your place a non-refundable deposit of £20 is required as soon as possible. The remaining balance must be paid in full by **Friday 20th May 2022**. Payments can be made by cash or cheque {please make cheques payable to 'St Dunstan's Church'} and placed in an envelope marked 'Walsingham'. Include your name, address and contact number. These can be handed in to the presbytery.

Please let Isabel O'Connell know if you have any special requirements e.g. diet or mobility.

If you require more information about the pilgrimage contact Isabel O'Connell on 07758004306.

For further information about Walsingham see: www.walsingham.org.uk

The next Baptism Preparation Meeting is this Tuesday after evening Mass at 7.45pm in St Dunstan's Church. If you would like to come to this meeting, please contact the Parish office and leave your name and phone number.

We pray for those who are being Baptised today: Joshua Lee-Cousins at St Dunstan's.

Prayer Group in the Conference Room every Sunday at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Lectio Divina in the Conference Room following morning Mass every Monday. You are invited to read and reflect on the Gospel of the day and think about God's word and reflect on your encounters with God and everyday life with its joys and challenges.

Little Lambs: Do you have pre-school aged children and are free on a Friday morning? Come and join us at Little Lambs. A chance for a coffee and chat with other parents, grandparents and carers whilst the children play in a COVID safe environment. Come and join us in the Conference Room from 10.15am to 12.15pm this Friday.

COLLECTIONS

| | St Dunstan's | St Jude's |
|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| Gift Aid | £518.20 | £239 |
| Non-Gift Aid | £755.03 | £109.70 |

Standing Orders are a great way to make regular donations. If you would like a standing order form for either church, please contact the Parish office.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 1:4-5,17-19

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying: 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you came to birth I consecrated you; I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.

'So now brace yourself for action. Stand up and tell them all I command you. Do not be dismayed at their presence, or in their presence I will make you dismayed.

'I, for my part, today will make you into a fortified city, a pillar of iron, and a wall of bronze to confront all this land: the kings of Judah, its princes, its priests and the country people. They will fight against you but shall not overcome you, for I am with you to deliver you – it is the Lord who speaks.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R: My lips will tell of your help.

In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, free me:
pay heed to me and save me. **R.**

Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
Free me from the hand of the wicked. **R.**

It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my birth,
from my mother's womb you have been my help. **R.**

My lips will tell of your justice
and day by day of your help.

O God, you have taught me from my youth
and I proclaim your wonders still. **R.**

SECOND READING

Corinthians 12:31-13:13

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord;
No one can come to the Father except through me.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 4:21-30

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue: 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.' And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips. They said, 'This is Joseph's son, surely?'

But he replied, 'No doubt you will quote me the saying, "Physician, heal yourself" and tell me, "We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside."'

And he went on, 'I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.

'There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah's day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha's time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.'

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.