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**25<sup>TH</sup> & 26<sup>TH</sup> August**

**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B**

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

**Ministers of the Word:** Craig & Una; Joan J & Rosie M; Paul & Jeremy

**Ministers of Communion:** Mary C & Kevin; Mary F, Rosa & Pat M; Ian & Nicky

**Eucharistic Prayer Preface II Preface IV**

**Please Pray for the Welfare of our Sick People  
and those who care for them.**

Ian King, Steve Ebsworth,

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES - PRAY FOR US**

**Bitesize**

Character is higher than intellect. ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

## **Gospel Reflection for the Twenty First Sunday of Ordinary Time**

### **The Jury's Out**



The barristers have presented their case. All the facts are on the table and every bit of evidence has been examined and re-examined. The jury is sent out to make a decision, and if the decision is a difficult one, the jury can be out for some considerable time. Difficult decisions have something in common; there will always be a sticking point that will keep us dithering. Even if we know deep down what our answer should be, there is something stopping us from reaching it. Counsellors have a well-worn phrase that helps clients make decisions. "What," they ask, "would make our decision easier to make?"

In today's gospel Jesus' followers find themselves with decisions to make and sticking points to overcome. Jesus has presented all the evidence. He has healed the sick and worked many miracles. He has taught many lessons and promised everlasting life for those who choose the bread that endures. Now it's decision time, but there's a sticking point. The crowd find it difficult to believe that Jesus has come down from heaven. How will they deal with the sticking point? For some the sticking point is too great and they turn their backs on Jesus' teaching and walk away. Others doubtless would have liked more convincing, but Jesus doesn't seem to offer any. We too might have our sticking points. We too might look for extra evidence, but all the evidence is on the table. Peter employs his own inimitable way of surmounting the difficulty. "Master," he says, "to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life..." In Peter's mind the decision as whether to follow Jesus or not is a bit of a 'no-brainer' because for him there is no alternative. What would it take to make your decision easier to make?

## **World Water Week**

**"Water, ecosystems and human development".**

**26th August**

Together we can achieve clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene for all. Help lobby MPs and help influence governments and their policies.

To get involved in **Water Aid's** campaign to make clean water a reality for everyone on our planet visit [www.wateraid.org/uk/publications/your-guide-to-campaigning-for-wateraid](http://www.wateraid.org/uk/publications/your-guide-to-campaigning-for-wateraid)

## **Saint Monica**

### **27th August**

*A Christian saint and mother of Saint Augustine.*

Monica's parents brought her up as Christian and married her to an older, pagan man named Patricius. He was a man with a great deal of energy, but also a man given to violent tempers and adultery. Augustine reports that Patricius beat St. Monica. Furthermore, her mother-in-law was against her and caused a lot of trouble. However, St. Monica attended church daily and found patience. Monica finally converted her hot-tempered husband, her cantankerous mother-in-law and her brilliant but wayward son, Augustine. *Monica is the patron saint of wives, mothers, and abuse victims.*

## **The Beheading of John the Baptist**

### **29th August**



Although Herod feared John, he would not kill him because he knew John was a righteous and holy man, and he liked hearing John speak. Herodias, Herod's wife, did not share his respect for John and looked for any chance to have him killed. Herodias' chance came when her daughter Salome's dancing so pleased Herod and aroused such irrational lust in him that he promised her anything she desired. Herodias prompted her daughter to ask for the death of John the Baptist. Herod granted her wish and John was killed.

"The king was greatly distressed but because of his oaths and the guests he did not wish to break his word to her. So he promptly dispatched an executioner with orders to bring back his head. He went off and beheaded him in prison. He brought the head back on a platter and gave it to the girl.... When his disciples heard about it they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb."

## **Funny Money**



Most of us come back with a pocketful of foreign coins which will sit on a shelf somewhere for a couple of years gathering dust. It probably seems neither here nor there, but if you can imagine every other home coming holiday maker in the country doing exactly the same thing, you can easily

see how that kind of money adds up. Most big name charity shops now accept donations of foreign coins, so find out which ones and pay them a call.

## World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 1<sup>st</sup> September

*"The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation will offer individual believers and communities a fitting opportunity to reaffirm their personal vocation to be stewards of creation, to thank God for the wonderful handiwork which he has entrusted to our care, and to implore his help for the protection of creation as well as his pardon for the sins committed against the world in which we live."*

To do:-

- **Pray that politicians** and all who make decisions that affect the future of the earth may they safeguard the planet for future generations.
- **If you haven't already read it, read Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter 'Laudato Si' .**

**Next Week's Readings:** Dt 4: 1-6, 6-8; Ps 14; Jas 1:17-18, 21-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.

**Ministers of the Word:** Robin M & Ann S; Mo B & Julian D; Paul & Clare

**Ministers of Communion:** Craig & Liam; Gail & Steve with Maria G; Mary & Kay

## THIS WEEK

## Psalter 1

|                                     |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Friday 24 <sup>th</sup><br>August   | 5.30pm<br>6.30pm                           | <b>FEAST OF SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE</b><br>Lourdes Pilgrimage<br>with Bishop Declan 24 <sup>th</sup> -31 <sup>st</sup> August<br>Adoration and Reconciliation<br>Mass | Copy Date for<br>September<br>Newsletter |
| Saturday<br>25 <sup>th</sup> August | 5.00pm<br>5.30pm<br>6.00pm                 | Reconciliation<br>Mass Newent<br>Mass Coleford   | Intention: People<br>of this parish      |
| Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup><br>August   | 9.00am<br>9.00am<br>11.00am<br><br>11.00am | <b>TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b><br>Mass – Newent<br>Mass – Cinderford<br>Mass – Blaisdon<br>Past Pupils Salesians School<br>Mass – Ledbury                   | Intention: Frank<br>Cook RIP             |
| Monday 27 <sup>th</sup><br>August   | 10.00am<br>10.30am                         | <b>Mass</b><br>Adoration   |  |

|                                       |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
|                                       | 14:00pm                                    | Faith in Poetry  |  |
| Tuesday<br>28 <sup>th</sup> August    | 10.00am<br>10.30am                         | <b>Mass</b><br>Adoration   |  |
| Wednesday<br>29 <sup>th</sup> August  | 10am                                       | <b>Mass with Coffee and Chat</b>   |  |
| Thursday<br>30 <sup>th</sup> August   | 9am  | Mass<br>Fr John's day off  |  |
| Friday 31 <sup>st</sup><br>August     | 5.30pm<br>6.30pm                           | Adoration and Reconciliation<br><b>Mass</b>  | Office Printing<br>Intention : Mary<br>Caroline Harford<br>RIP |
| Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup><br>September | 5.00pm<br>5.30pm<br>6.00pm                 | Reconciliation<br>Mass Newent<br>Mass Coleford   |  |
| Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>September   | 9.00am<br>9.00am<br>11.00am<br><br>11.00am | <b>TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN<br/>ORDINARY TIME</b><br>Mass – Newent<br>Mass – Cinderford<br>Mass – Blaisdon<br>Followed by Shared lunch for Fr<br>John Eze<br>Mass – Sedbury | Intention: people<br>of this parish                            |

## **PARISH CENSUS**

Thank you to those who have handed in the census forms – I believe we are getting there. Can I remind people that we need signature of explicit consent from each person over 12 years old?

## **Byzantine Rite Mass:**

To mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of when the Ukrainian Community in Gloucester first begun to use St Peter's Church for their celebration of the Divine Liturgy, there will be a Byzantine Rite Mass in St Peter's Church, London Road, Gloucester at 7.00pm on Wednesday September 12<sup>th</sup>. Fr Mykola Matwijwskyji, Chancellor of the Apostolic Exarchate for Ukrainians in Great Britain and Fr Lubomyr Pidluskij, Parish Priest of the Good Shepherd Ukrainian Church in Gloucester will be the main celebrants with Fr Liam and other priests concelebrating. Deacon Tim Meadows will give the homily. The Divine Liturgy will be entirely in English, with a specially formed choir. All are invited to this special celebration.

## **UPTON BISHOP MILLENNIUM HALL – WI**

An evening with QUENTIN LETTS Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm  
£10 including a glass of wine.

Tickets available from Clare Bell 01989 780282

## **RAF CENTENARY**

There will be a Centenary Celebration Service in conjunction with the United Reformed Church in Newent 15<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 11am. See Tom Heseltine for more information.

## **CYMFed Flame 2019**

The biggest Catholic Youth event in England & Wales is back! Young people from across the Clifton Diocese aged 14-25 are invited to join Bishop Declan at Flame in Wembley Arena on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019. Clifton Diocese Youth Ministry are offering ticket, travel & Diocesan scarf all for just £50 per person. Places are filling up fast, so go to [www.cliftondiocese.com](http://www.cliftondiocese.com) or contact your Parish Priest for more details and to book your place.

**The Dowry of Mary Pilgrimage Triduum** During the course of 2018 to 2020 the statue of Our Lady from the Slipper Chapel at the Catholic National Shrine in Walsingham will be taken to each Cathedral in England for a three-day triduum of prayer, as part of the preparation for the re-dedication of England as the Dowry of Mary in 2020. Each visit will take place between a Thursday and Saturday. Clifton Cathedral dates TBC – for updates please see <http://dowrytour.org.uk/> It will come to Belmont Abbey 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October, with schools going on the Friday. See the website for further details.

## **CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**13<sup>th</sup> October 10am to 1pm at Apostle Room Clifton Cathedral.**

This formation morning welcomes all those who work to enable the children in our parishes to hear and reflect upon the word of God through Children's Liturgy. For catechists and children's workers. All welcome.

## **CELEBRATE Bristol - 27th - 28th October 2018**

***"See, I am doing a new thing!" - Isaiah 43:19(NIV)***

A Conference for the whole family! A non-residential weekend including tailored 'streams' for all ages of children and young adults. This year keynote speakers, Michelle Moran, and David Wells, will be 'unpacking' an exciting theme. In addition there will be workshops, seminars, praise and worship, prayer ministry, Holy Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession. The event is hosted by Catholic Charismatic Renewal at St Bede's Catholic College, BS11 0SU.

Further details to be found at [www.celebrateconference.org](http://www.celebrateconference.org)

## INVITATION

Fr John's last Mass will be at Blaisdon at 11am on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2018. He will be travelling to Ireland the following day. Blaisdon are inviting us all to join them for a bring and share lunch to say a special good bye to Father. For further information watch this space or contact Clare Viner. Gift envelopes are available.



## The next COME AND S.E.E.

We look forward to Siobhan Smith coming to speak about her walk with Christ and how Spiritual Direction is an important part of her life. She is bringing Bernie Kilty with her to help with the music. The first Thursday in September.

## CAFOD school volunteers needed!

Could you visit your local Catholic school to talk about the work of CAFOD? We are looking for volunteers in the Taunton, Glastonbury and Salisbury areas to give a short presentation or talk about the work of CAFOD and inspire children and young people to make a difference. For further information please contact Liz Baldwin at CAFOD Clifton on 01179 428 328 or email [clifton@cafod.org.uk](mailto:clifton@cafod.org.uk).

**Past Pupils of Salesian School, Blaisdon** will be at Mass in Blaisdon this Sunday (Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>) for their Annual Reunion. Fr Sean will concelebrate with Fr John but Fr Aidan and Bro Joe will arrive a bit later because Fr Aidan has to say Mass at 8.30 in a parish near Farnborough.

## OUR PARISH FUTURE AND YOU

In September, following the departure of Fr John, the nature of the parish could change significantly. The "Steering Group" has been seeking to prepare for that change and has looked at various approaches which will mitigate the reversion to a single Mass every week, by maintaining and reinvigorating the life of the parish.

One action is to redefine the make-up and function of the Parish Pastoral Council.

Please note that copies are available describing the format of the new PPC to be inaugurated by the end of September.

You are invited to read the proposal carefully and consider whether you might feel able to serve on such a body, and whether there are any omissions or other changes you consider necessary.

There is no intent to take any action before September, but meanwhile all contributions of ideas etc. are welcome and if desired can be communicated to any of the Steering Group.

Julian Dowle

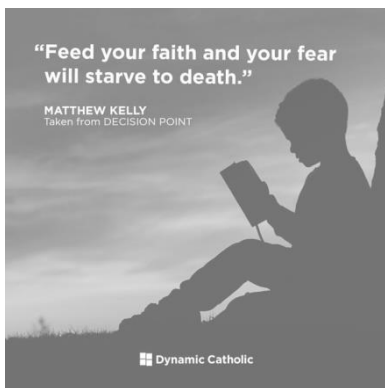
## Trust and Grant Applications Officer

*An exciting opportunity has arisen in the Diocesan Finance Team for a Trust and Grants Applications Officer. This role will involve working closely with parishes to identify fundraising opportunities and researching trust and grant funding organisations to find suitable funding for projects. The role requires experience of preparing and writing funding bids as well as excellent communication skills to deliver fundraising support throughout the Diocese.*

*The role is full-time and based at Alexander House, Bristol. Salary £27,000 per annum.*

*The deadline for applications is **15<sup>th</sup> September 2018.***

<https://cliftondiocese.com/diocese/working-for-us/>



**MAKE SUNDAYS SPECIAL:** Some people have asked what this is all about! After 2nd September, the parish will have only one (1) Mass at weekends - 11am on Sundays at OLL. This is going to cause confusion and even frustration to many people. Our aim is to make that Mass more welcoming, more inclusive, with a new approach to our music so that we can all have an uplifting and prayerful experience as we share the Eucharist. We shall also look into some activities both before and after Mass. This won't all happen at once, but we hope to develop over the time. You may have suggestions, all of which will be really welcome. We need YOU to be a part of this as Sunday Mass is OUR

Mass and needs to be a really special occasion. Fr Barnabas is supporting this initiative and working on it with us.

## PRICE RISE

The Catholic Times and the Catholic Universe have announced a price increase from 7<sup>th</sup> September from the current £1.30 to £1.50. Would those purchasing these items please make note of the increase.