

Parish of St Mary, Middlewich & St Margaret Ward, Holmes Chapel

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Dutton, 2 New King Street, Middlewich ☎01606 832359 Deacons: Rev Tony Ford, 01270 759511
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 Shrewsbury Diocese is a Registered Charity St Mary's School 01606 832164 E mail admin@2nd February

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 21st June 2020

Sunday	21st June	10.30am	Mary Comer b'day
Monday	22nd June	9.00am	Winefride Laverack Anniv. SS John Fisher & Thomas More
Tuesday	23rd June	9.00am	Private Int.
Wednesday	24th June	7.30pm	Fr Ambrose Nicholson 50th Anniv Nativity of J the Baptist
Thursday	25th June	9.00am	Private Int.
Friday	26th June	9.00am	Private Int.
Sunday	28th June	10.30am	Clarence Costello Anniv.

Sacrament of Reconciliation : On request in extreme need
Sacrament of Baptism On hold until further notice.

Please Pray for

ALL who are sick at home and in hospital: Stephen Grey, Margaret McCallum, Sara O'Brien, Jamie Connor, John Bomford, Nathan Carter, Larry Porter, Gillian Robinson, Tim Bradbury, Roy Yearsley, Peter Hannon, Stan Rosiak, Sadie Everard, Alex Randall Jenny Ogden, John Evans, Shirley Gaskell, Joan Upton, Karen Potts, Mary Morris, Michael McCluskey, Jan D, Margaret Scarlett, Fr Paul Hughes, Deacon Philip White, Martin Armitt, Fr Jim McGrath, Ursula Finn,



ALL who have died recently, especially Vincent Fanning

ALL whose anniversaries occur at this time: Thomas Bratt, William Gray, William Curtis, Bill Hartley, Catherine Smith, Frederick Bratt, Bob Milliken, Ellen McHale, Elizabeth Craven, Bernard Tyrell, Francis Kilkenny, Anthony Pirazzo, Noreen Adderley, Margaret Frances McGrath, Mary Vose, Jean Nicholson, Helen Goodier, Rev Michael Murray, Rev Edward Doyle, Rev Desmond Friel

Unite Against Coronavirus: As we cope with coronavirus in the UK, we think of our brothers and sisters in developing countries who are facing the pandemic with fragile health systems, some of which have almost no intensive care beds or ventilators. Food prices have already risen with borders closing, the poorest are losing their jobs and income with wholesale shutdowns. Furthermore, inadequate health care, lack of access to washing facilities and limited ability to social distance will result in loss of life on an intolerable scale. The likely impact will be devastating. We are one global family. Please will you sign the CAFOD petition to ask the government to work with other world leaders to help the most vulnerable people in our world to cope with this crisis? To sign the petition visit cafod.org.uk/coronaviruscampaign

The petition asks our PM to work with other leaders to: Make sure that any vaccine developed with UK public money is made available to everyone regardless of income or where in the world they live: Provide urgent financial and technical support to help developing countries deal with this crisis: Cancel all debt payments by developing countries in 2020 so that they can spend that money on much needed healthcare rather than debt repayments: Put plans in place to build a fairer, more just society after the crisis so that the world's most vulnerable people can live in dignity and restore our common home for future generations.

Dear Parishioners,

We are delighted that we now have all the requirements in place and have permission from the Diocese to open St Mary's from Monday 22nd June. This is for private prayer only, organised prayer is not allowed, and Exposition is only allowed if the Blessed Sacrament is exposed before church is open and deposited after it is closed, so there will not be set times but it will happen when Fr Peter is available

Thank you all who have volunteered to be stewards. We now have enough to cover the proposed opening hours, on duty for an hour each, and a couple of "spares", but as the situation is likely to continue for some weeks, more would always be welcome. All stewards have now received instructions and will be provided with disposable gloves, aprons and masks and hand sanitising gel. Soapy water and disposable cleaning cloths and sanitising wipes will be available.

Only 10 people are allowed in church at any one time, so we have decided to use only half the church for each session so that there is less cleaning necessary each day. There is a suggested time limit for prayer of 15 minutes, but this will only be enforced if there is a queue!!

We have divided the porch with a screen to create separate entrance and exit, and there will be a one way system inside the church, in down the side aisle and out down the centre aisle. Everyone will be required to sanitise their hands on entering and again on leaving., and benches will be sanitised between each use by the stewards. Some benches will be blocked off to ensure social distancing and we are also required to put up various signs and instructions.

Ken Page, who is our Health and Safety Rep, has agreed to be our Covid Co-Ordinator. He has already helped us to work out the best logistics for our building, and our Risk Assessment has been approved. All the necessary equipment has now arrived. It sounds complicated.....it IS complicated, but it will be worth it to have our church open again.

A reminder of opening times: **Monday and Thursday evenings, 7.00-9.00pm and Wednesday and Friday mornings 10.00am —12.** Stewards must be under 70 and in good health. If you can help, please email the parish office.

Please do not ask for access at other times as this is not possible, even for one person, without the presence of two stewards.

Fr Peter, Deacon Tony, Deacon Chris.

Online giving to the Parish

For those Parishioners who normally give in the collection at Mass and wish to help the Parish at this time, an online donation page to allow you to donate to the Parish has been added to the Parish website. Please be aware that a minimum donation of £5 is requested if giving in this way.

You can also Gift Aid your donation to help the Parish further. If you want to Gift Aid your donation, please tick the box shown on the screen even if you have previously completed a Gift Aid Declaration form in favour of the Parish for regular giving made by Offertory Envelope or Standing Order. Thank you for your support.

Fr Peter will stream Morning Prayer of the Church at 8.45 every Friday. Deacon Chris will stream the Rosary every Monday at 6.30pm. Because of the opening of church for private prayer on Monday evening from 7—9, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will now be streamed after Mass on Wednesday evenings for half an hour and not on Mondays

Thank you for your continued generosity. The past two weeks envelopes yielded £512. During May £375 was given on-line. Thank you

Scripture Group: Several people have expressed an interest in a scripture group so Deacon Chris is going to start one every Tues at 7.00pm starting on Tues 23rd June. We will use Zoom and look at the scripture (particularly the Gospel) for the following Sunday. If you would like to join in send an email to: stmarysmiddlewichvents@gmail.com as we will need your e-mail address to send the Zoom invitation (e-mail addresses will not be used for any other purpose). This is open to anyone, not just parishioners.

If you wish to set up a Standing Order either permanently or in order to continue to make your regular Offertory giving to the Parish during the period when Mass is not being celebrated in public, please contact Ken Worthington on 01606 737070

From Mon 22nd June Funeral Services (not Requiem Masses) can be held in churches which have permission to open, but with a very limited number of close family, following social distancing guidelines. A Requiem Mass can be celebrated later in private if desired by the family.



But we are not naïve, our lives of discipleship are not free from suffering. Following the generous and other-focused way of Jesus will bring its own crosses. No life is free of some pain and failure and disappointment and of encounters with evil, but Jesus reminds us all this can be faced with faith in the loving Father whose love never abandons us. In that love we can face the real world and take responsibility individually and communally, and with courage and creativity face the challenges that come our way.

MANY FEARS

Our country and our contemporary world have many fears, and recent politics has shown us that many feel insecure. People deal with this in different ways: some go out and shop, some look for semi-permanent entertainment and stimulus to help them dull the burden of reality, some become disillusioned and feel powerless, some look for strong leaders who will tell them what to do and a strong state to keep everything in control. But all of these are cop-outs.

Faith and hope are what help us to live with the fears that rise in all of us. But faith and hope are not based on our gifts and strengths, but on the one who lived and died for us and for all, the one who calls us into the circle of the divine love which we celebrate in every Mass. This, that we share today, is the circle of free divine life, of love and fellowship that he has promised to all who accept his offer.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 20:10-13

PSALM Psalm 68

RESPONSE **In your great love, answer me, O God.**

1. 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. **R.**
2. 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. **R.**
3. 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. **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 5:12-15

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of truth will be my witness; and you too will be my witnesses.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 10:26-33

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the Good Shepherd, and I lay down my life for my sheep, says the Lord.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Acts 12:1-11
2 Timothy 4:6-8. 17-18
Matthew 16:13-19



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DO NOT BE AFRAID

“Do not be afraid” is a theme of Jesus throughout the Gospels and especially in the post-resurrection appearances when he encounters very fearful people indeed: Mary in the garden, Peter on the beach at Lake Gennesaret, the couple of disciples on the way to Emmaus...

The disciples inevitably meet opposition in following Jesus, and he acknowledges this. They are to share the knowledge of his inner circle, the good news of God’s revelation in Jesus, with the wider world. Christians have been doing this ever since across the centuries, in new contexts and cultures and languages.

But you can’t pass on the good news in fear. Fear makes us insecure, untrusting, suspicious. Encounter with Jesus, then as now, inevitably heals and forgives. It lifts burdens and leads to an inner freedom in knowing him. Jesus reveals God as Abba, a loving parent who chooses to simply welcome back the prodigal and in doing so removes the fear of failure and rejection and opens up renewed confidence in the new living space that is the divine mercy; what Paul will call grace. Abba, like the God Moses encountered in the burning bush, cannot be limited by our sad little mistakes and concerns and fears. “I am who I am,” “I will be where I will be,” is a God we can’t limit either by our ideas and concepts or our images. God thankfully breaks out of the limits of our fears and so opens up hope for us so that we might know love and joy. The community of discipleship is invited to live out of trust in the living God, to live lives beyond the inevitable fears that come our way or that well up within our subconscious.

But to do this we sometimes need to be shocked out of our accommodations. Our world demands we earn our keep, pay our way, are productive, but Jesus’ life and teaching validates a different way of seeing things. We don’t, we can’t, earn God’s love. It’s given in our very existence, freely, and is never taken back. If we can come to accept this, and the way to do this is to fall in love with the life and teaching of Jesus where we see this writ large, then we become free to be what we are called to be, the fully alive sons and daughters of God.

Catching the kingdom



David McLoughlin is a teaching theologian who has spent nearly forty years helping to train Christian teachers, ministers and activists. Over the next few weeks he will be reflecting for *Sunday Bulletin* on the Sunday readings.



21 JUNE 2020

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK IV