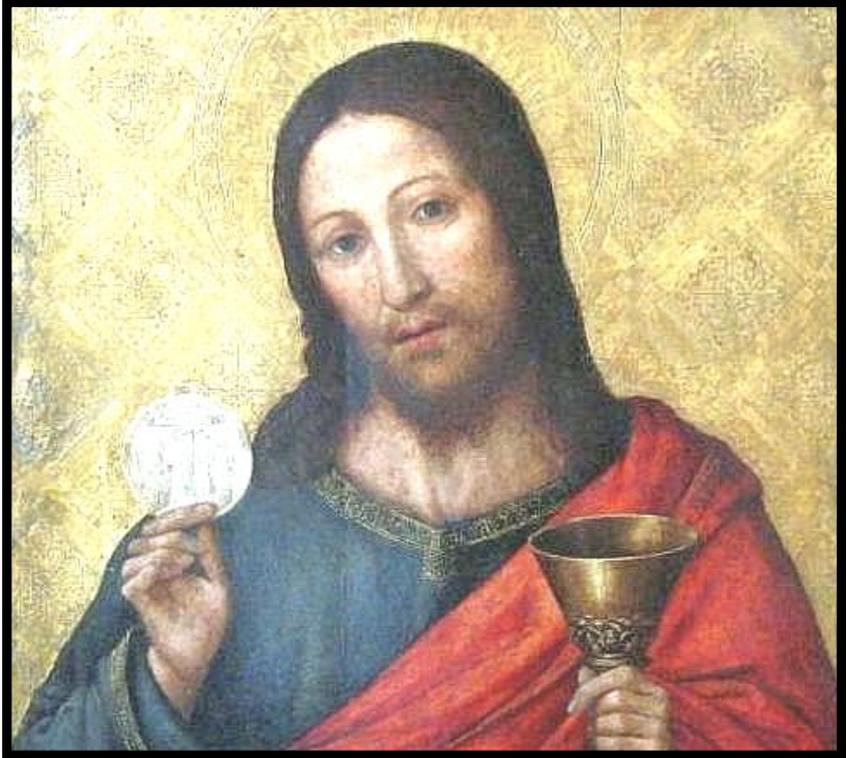


Our Parishes Newsletter

19th Sunday of Ordinary Time 8th August 2021 (B)



This Week's Readings

First Reading	Kings 19:4-8
Psalm	33:2-9.Rv.9
Second Reading	St Paul 4:30-5:2
Gospel	John 6:41-51

Parish Priest: Father Ned Wall

Retired Priest Fr Bernard McDermott

The Presbytery, 164, Carrington Lane

Permanent Deacons: Anthony Caffrey and John Conway

The RC Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity No. 234025

Website: <https://ourparishes.church>

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NEXT
WEEK'S
READINGS

First Reading
Apocalypse 11:19,12:1-6,10

Psalm
Psalm 44(45):10-12,16

Second Reading
Corinthians 15:20-26

Gospel
Luke 1:39-56

Reflection

In our first reading Elijah was frightened and dispirited. He had come back to find the Israelites being unfaithful to the one true God. So, he became miserable. He prayed to God to give immediate death to his worthless self. But a quiet touch from God's angel awakened the man and told him to eat. Which Elijah did and then settled down to sleep again? The angel whispered tenderly, "Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you." Elijah did and was strengthened.

The other readings too are about God's kindness, his goodness even in small things.

Concentrate on the deliberate kindness of God: feeding the people, giving them drink, pursuing then again and again to offer the greatest gift of all, God's sacrificial love for us.

God follows us quietly, gently.

How might we respond? Receiving communion? Pray on the kindness of God? Perhaps, simply slowing down, stopping the running away and instead letting the Lord find us.

Today's Mass

Psalm

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Oh Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you
your fill of finest wheat.

All Parishes

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR NED!

Fr Ned celebrates his birthday on Friday, we wish him every blessings for an enjoyable day and we thank him for all that he does for our two parishes.

Let us remember him in our prayers.

PANDEMIC /CHURCH

Could we thank you all for your assistance in the last few weeks, as we continue to keep church a safe place to be. As you will have noticed we have not changed many things and all will be reviewed the end of August. Thank you for your acceptance and understanding. We must not forget our amazing stewards, whom without we would not have progressed at all.

BAPTISMS

Due to the pandemic and the backlog of Baptisms in waiting, we are now booked up until next year, unless there are cancellations. You are more than welcome to contact another Parish and if permissions required, just get in touch with us, and we will forward it on.

SECRETARY TIMES

Cathy will be available and in the office on Thursdays 11.15am to 2pm until the end of August. Days and hours will be reviewed in September. We will inform you of any changes nearer the time.

THURSDAY EVENING MASSES IN AUGUST

There will be no Thursday Evening Masses in August. Thursday night Masses will resume in September.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

Once again can we say a big thank you for your weekly donation. Last weekend was £776.13. This does not include standing orders with us. Your giving and generosity is so much appreciated and needed more than ever.

HOUSING FOR OUR REFUGEE FAMILY

We now await for the house to be handed over to us and we thank all of you who have already donated items, from now on we will have baskets in church where you may leave a donation. This will help us with purchases that we will need for the house and family, such as a fridge, cooker etc and in help with anything that may arise once they are with us. So please give if you can.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH UPDATE

Unfortunately our number of helpers has been reduced so that we now have 3 teams instead of 4, They are as follows:

TEAM A: Mary W and Anita H

TEAM B : Sue U and Lynn B

TEAM C: Eileen S and Marjorie

As a consequence, the rota has also changed and new copies will be available from the Sacristy next week. In the meantime, here are the dates etc for August:

AUG 6th Team C Eileen and Marjorie

13th Team A Mary and Anita

20th Team B Sue and Lynn

27th Team C Eileen and Marjorie

Thank you so much for your continued support and help. It really is valued and appreciated. If anyone feels they can help out at all please do contact Fr. Ned or Anita H. We really do need your help.

MARGARET LILLIS

Margaret is now starting her treatment and she is so appreciative of our thoughts and prayers. She also says thank you to those of you who sent cards. Some of you have been asking for her address, please see below:

179 Moss Lane

Macclesfield

SK11 7XE

Thank you to those who wrote, cards and messages, at times like these it can be a great boost. Let us continue to keep her in our daily thought and prayer.

CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA

Do you know any children struggling with asthma? Then this video is for them. Sports scientist Professor John Dickinson has collaborated with BreathChamps to produce asthma and exercise advice delivered by puppets!

<https://youtu.be/fda2o6w8MMw>

If organisations in Sale would like training to become 'asthma friendly' then contact BreathChamps@brightnessmanagement.org.uk



The Cause of Mary Ward

Prayer for Mary Ward's Beatification

God, creator of all that is good,

We thank you for giving Mary Ward to the Church and to the world

Impelled by the fire of your love,
She did not shrink from risks, labours or sufferings.

She lived and worked for your greater glory,
For the good of the Church, for the nurture of the faith
and for the dignity of women.

She was a pilgrim, who spread the joy of the Gospel.
A woman for our times.

Grant that through the solemn testimony of the Church
the example of her life may be a light for all who seek God's will.

Amen

TRAIDCRAFT – YEARLY REPORT
In 2020, by purchasing Fairtrade goods from us,
YOU helped to generate £23,900 in
Fairtrade Premium; helping producers to fight for a fair deal in their
communities.



£10,200 + **£9,100** + **£2,200** + **£2,400**
TEA COFFEE COCOA OTHER

PREMIUM GENERATED
= £23,900
GRAND TOTAL

As you can see, the majority of Premium generated came from our wonderful, best-selling range of tea. To dig a little deeper, here is where the Premium was invested from sales of Fairtrade tea:

136 thousand hectares under cultivation

£4.1 million in fairtrade premium earned by tea producers

9,837 metric tonnes of fairtrade tea sold

“Farmers can use their Premium funds to become more resilient to climate change, to educate their children and to improve their communities.”

Fairtrade Foundation

News from Solihull – Fr Bernard bernymcdermott@gmail.com
7th August 2021



I have enjoyed watching the events from the Tokyo Olympics these past 2 weeks and there have been many exciting moments, but the moment when the 2 high jumpers from Italy and Qatar, who were equal winners at the end of their contest and decided to share the gold medal rather than have a jump off was a big highlight for me. That sporting gesture symbolised what the Olympic movement is all about, or rather what it should be all about!

There are many anomalies in the modern games that seem so distant from the spirit and the values that epitomised Olympic Games of the past. I always believed that the Olympics were for athletes who were amateurs and competed solely for the enjoyment and satisfaction of taking part. In recent Olympics millionaire professional golfers and tennis players have been included, competing for medals in their own sports, which seems to be against the original value of amateurism which inspired the Olympics in the first place.

Money as always plays a big part not just in staging the games but in the preparation too.

Many of the athletes representing GB in Tokyo have been supported with funding from the Lottery and sponsorship from large commercial companies, which has enabled them to train and prepare for their various events without having the worry of supporting family at home with ordinary /everyday jobs. They have had the opportunity to train in countries where the climate is conducive to their preparation and so I wonder to what extent can we say they are part of the amateur ranks? I am sure athletes from other nations have similar benefits to ours but the poorer nations, as always, have had to fend for themselves and 'make do!'

It was refreshing to learn that Bethany Shiever, who won a gold medal in the Women's BMX event, had to fund her own preparation with the help of family and friends as her lottery funding was withdrawn. The powers that be felt that her prospects of winning a medal were not good and therefore withdrew her funding! She wasn't the only one I am sure who suffered similar treatment.

The winning of medals is the main objective and ultimate criteria for funding, and I find it slightly distasteful to witness the daily medal table...like the conclusion of 'Match of the Day' when the Premier League table is displayed! To see the delight on the face of an athlete who has achieved a PB (personal best) in his or her event even though they haven't reached 'the podium' has been wonderful to see and is clearly closer to the Olympic ideal.

So, what does all this say about our society which has become increasingly competitive in recent years? How many of our pampered athletes would share their medal of whatever colour with a fellow competitor if they achieved parity at the conclusion of their event?

Well done you high jumpers...you raised the bar not just for yourselves but for everyone.

Thank you.

Fr Bernard

7th August 2021

Love and the masks we wear



The way ahead will not be shown by legislation, but by people who are in touch with their own deepest spirit where the spirit of God resides. ~ quote from Gabrielle Jennings tweeted by [the Sisters of Mercy](#)

Sometimes, as I'm driving, I muse on the implicit contract between me and the drivers of the vehicles around me. I am responsible for my safety, of course, but so are they; just as I am responsible for theirs. We're all strangers, but as we criss-cross, overtake and interweave, we hold each other's lives in our hands, if only for a few seconds, unconsciously trusting in each other's competence and desire to get home safely in an unscathed car.

We're aware of safety as we drive, and all-too aware of the reckless or timorous, but we rarely think of driving safely as an act of love, towards others as much as ourselves - but that is what it is.

I thought of this implicit contract yesterday, as I drove along the North Circular - this time, in the light of the government's announcement about ending all social distancing measures later this month. The news that masks will become optional is worrying for many people, given the current levels of infections, and various variants. Even I, double vaccinated and in reasonably good health, feel anxious at the thought of using public transport without the protection of mandatory masks. Yes, I long to return to spontaneous hugs and friendly closeness, but fear a return to pre-pandemic crowding and jostling, especially if others are unmasked.

Masks took a while to get used to, but they have become part of our 'new normal'. They are our self-protection, but also our act of love - in case we ourselves are unconsciously infectious - towards friends and strangers alike. Steamy and uncomfortable at times, yes; but if I wouldn't dream of endangering another person's life while driving, why would I do so on a train, or in a church or shop?

We are rarely called on to lay down our lives in heroic self-sacrifice - but since the start of the pandemic we have all been able to save lives in

countless tiny, mundane ways. We've stayed at home, washed our hands, worn masks, kept our distance, and curbed our impatience in queues. Tiny actions, all supporting a greater effort: all gradually eroded over the months; now about to disappear, completely and officially. Will our love for each other disappear with them?

We do not yet know how our faith leaders will respond to this announcement. I really hope that there will not be a focus on a 'return to normal', which will favour the healthy and unconcerned; a return which will leave behind not only the less healthy, but also those who have lost so much, whether loved ones, livelihoods, confidence, faith or hope. This can be an opportunity to renew our unwritten contracts, and our sense of the Common Good; to be guided by our deepest spirit, which is the Spirit of God... an opportunity for each of us to witness to our call to love, tangibly and visibly, starting, perhaps, by continuing to wear our masks on a bus.

A PRAYER TO SHINE THROUGH

*I must admit, God, sometimes it's hard
To follow You.*

*There are so many people sick,
So many people dying,
So many people struggling
For justice, for peace, for breath,
For life's simple needs.*

*Yes,
Sometimes it's hard
To seek You,
To find You,
To praise You.*

*Yet Sunday morning dawns,
And, though virtually,
Though unorthodoxly,
The Masses,
The worship,
The prayer
Still happen.*

*You created us
To be social-
To thrive
By enjoying life
Together.*

*Pandemics
Try*



*To ruin that,
Forcing Us Into Isolation Indefinitely.
Yet the phone still rings, Voice and video calls are still incoming,
And texts still arrive.
Schools,
Offices,
Public places,
And events
Face
So many
Changes
And cancellations.*

*So many people flood the streets, Risking their lives,
Crying out for change.*

*We now live in a world that bursts
With infection,*

Injustice,

Anxiety,

And fear.

It's Everywhere,

With no end yet in sight.

*Nowadays, it's hard To seek And follow You. Yet peace and
grace. Can still be found.*

We traipse along

Morning, noon, and night,

Watching the Earth's finest scenery,

The dandelions,

*Daffodils,
Dogwood,
And cherry blossoms
In full bloom.*

*The birds' chorus Singing Throughout the land.
And as I look up at the sky each evening,
Watching it ignite
Into incandescent shades
Of pink and gold,
Suddenly I find
You.*

*For, even on uncertain days, you reveal the beauty Of life.
You give us the hope
And the promise
Of brighter
And more beautiful
Days.*

*Keep reminding us of how. Your presence and grace
Shine through
Even the most
Trying
Of times.*

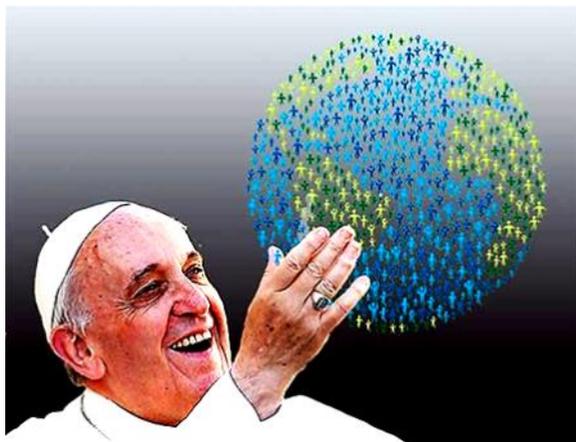
*For that Is what we need Right now.
That Is what We All Need Right now.*

Margaret Moore

Engaging the People in Pope Francis synod of Bishops and Pastors in the Catholic Church:

Pope Francis has called for engagement of the whole People of God in walking, discerning, governing, and evangelizing together to make fruitful the Synod on Synodality soon to begin on the local level this fall. It is our hope that every diocese throughout the world will hold a synod (a gathering of bishops to listen to the voices of the laity) between October 2021 and April 2022.

The early church was a community of equals, governed by Christ's "new commandment" that we love one another. The community came together in 'house churches' led by both men and women celebrating the Eucharist and keeping the faith alive. The current patriarchal and hierarchal Church patterned on monarchy, is not what Christ envisioned, for we are all one in Christ (Gal.3:28).



We call on the bishops and pastors of the Catholic Church to fully engage us, the people, in the forthcoming synodal process called by Pope Francis. Beginning at the diocesan level, we want our voices to be heard and included in all discussions continuing on to reach the national level and finally the universal synod in Rome in 2023.

[Sign this petition](#)

We are heartened by Pope Francis's comments to the Italian bishops (May 24) that the Synod must have a "bottom-up" focus with the process beginning in small, local communities and parishes.

He called for patience, allowing all to speak freely, giving space to “the wisdom of the People of God.”

We are eager to join with others in our local community to speak out in support of the changes we want and need in our Church. Even if some of us have left the Church in frustration or disappointment, we recognize that now is the time to tell you, our church leaders, what drove us away.

For the Spirit to be heard, the lay People of God must be well represented at these synods. We feel it is essential to include the following topics both (1) in the questionnaire soon to be released, and (2) in all synodal discussions at all levels.

How the Church can become more welcoming, forgiving, loving, and inclusive

Women's role in Church ministry

A path back to the Sacraments for the divorced and remarried

Place of the LGBTQ community in the Church

Role of Small Christian Communities (SCCs) in the official structure of the Church

Lay people trained to administer in parishes and Small Christian Communities where it is anticipated that no priest will be available

Should celibacy for priests be optional

Transparency and accountability in the clerical sex abuse, financial crimes, and their use of power in the Church.

Additionally, we commit to [sending a letter to our bishop or pastor](#) to ensure that the views of the laity are well represented.



Mass and Service Times this week

All Saints

Our Lady of Lourdes

19th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sat	7th	5.00pm	Fred Griffith		
Sun	8th	9.30am	Fr Don Bowdren (Golden Jubilee)	11.00 am	Margaret Murray (Int)
Sun	8th	5.00pm	David Hughes		
Mon.	9th		No Service		No Service
Tues.	10th	7.30pm	Neil Riley & Family		Mass has moved to All Saints until further notice.
Wed.	11th	7.30pm	Anthony (Intention)		No Service
Thurs	12th	7.30pm	Eucharistic Service		No Service
Friday	13th		No Service		No Service
The Assumption Of The Blessed Virgin Mary					
Sat	14th	5.00pm	John McGagh		
Sun	15th	9.30am	Ged and Lorraine	11.00 am	Terry & Tim (Int)
Sun	15th	5.00pm	Elizabeth Walker		