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Mass Times this Week

Saturday 20 The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mem
Mass: *Michael Carter RIP*

Sunday 21 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
10:00am Mass: *Parish; Day for Life*

Monday 22 Ss John Fisher, Bishop, & Thomas More, Martyrs, Feast

Tuesday 23 Feria

Wednesday 24 The Nativity of John the Baptist, Solemnity
9:30am Mass: *Venerable Mary Ward*

Thursday 25 Feria
6:30pm Mass: *Graziella Szymczak month's mind*

Friday 26 Feria
9:30am Mass: *Judith Gilbert Month's Mind*

Saturday 27 Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Patron, Feast
Mass: *Philip Gilbert Month's Mind*

Sunday 28 Ss Peter & Paul, Apostles, Solemnity
10:00am Mass: *Mary Garner RIP*

LAUDETUR JESUS CHRISTUS!

This is the first "ordinary-time" Sunday, in green vestments, since 23rd February! It seems as though that was in another world, a long time ago, with all the things that have happened since, and still continue. It's strange how, once again, today's readings seem to fit our circumstances. "Terror from every side!" cried the prophet Jeremiah. He was talking about terrors he could see, but we have been facing a very different sort of enemy - an invisible but lethal one. When Israel faced doom, as it frequently did, it was as a result of its sin; God was training His people and getting them back onto the right path when they gave in to their wayward tendencies. Perhaps there is, after all, something of that in our own situation, on a societal as well as a personal level.

In Romans 5, St Paul looks at the problem of sin from a new angle; ever the realist, he points out that "everyone has sinned" and that sin has spread over the whole world and put it out of joint: the world is not as it was designed to be. And yet, look at the ending of today's second reading; St Paul tells us effectively that through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ we have been saved from sin by divine grace which "came to so many as an abundant free gift".

Look, too, at what Our Lord says in the gospel reading from St Matthew. What are His first words? "Do not be afraid!" - a phrase He uses so often throughout His ministry. It is true that Christ has won the victory (that was what Paschaltide was all about, after all), but we still have the most precious gift of free will, and are able to reject that "free gift" of grace - something we do often more than we may care to admit! I am sure that in the middle of this pandemic, God is to be found; perhaps He is doing exactly what a good human father does, as he did with Israel, and is giving us a sign to put us all on the right path once again.

(cont.)

We must never underestimate the involvement of our Heavenly Father with each one of us; He created us in love and sustains in being in that same love. He knows not only how many hairs there are on our heads, and the fate of every individual sparrow, come to that - but He also knows the deepest secrets, longings and yearnings of our hearts - better than we do ourselves! As Jeremiah puts it, He probes with justice and scrutinises the loins and heart - but Our Lord is pointing out that this is not something to fear, but rather something to rejoice in: our Father is indeed *as close as that*, and we are precious in His sight ("are worth more than hundreds of sparrows").

Let us, then, join with Jeremiah and "commit our cause" to Him. Let us pray that we may use our free will only for the good - indeed, let us pray that the whole human race may learn to do precisely that - so that we may emerge from this time of testing and trial better than when we entered it. May we, to refer to Jeremiah yet again (he is one of the most humanly accessible of the prophets, and I would certainly recommend reading him.), come to that happy state - even in this world - where we "Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord," for He has delivered our souls!

God bless you all,

Fr James.

THE OPENING OF CHURCHES FOR PRIVATE PRAYER:

First session: Wednesday 24 June 2020

1. The church will be open from 11am to 12 Noon on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. The church is closed during the remaining time for thorough cleaning.
2. **IF YOU SHOW ANY SYMPTOMS OF THE VIRUS, PLEASE CONTINUE TO SELF-ISOLATE, AND DO NOT COME INTO CHURCH.**
3. There are two stewards on duty throughout the prayer session, to guide you through the process, and ensure government guidelines on hygiene and social distancing are maintained.
4. A one-way system will be in operation: please enter by the main church door and exit through the sacristy and church hall door. The two sacristy doors will be left open to make this easier.
5. Please sanitise your hands on entering and on leaving the premises.
6. Please feel free to take a bulletin away with you, but once you have touched one, do not return it to the pile.
7. Each bench in church is clearly marked to indicate whether it may be occupied or not; please - no more than one household per bench! If all benches are occupied, a steward may ask you to queue, two metres apart.
8. We are told that the lighting of candles presents a fire risk due to the inflammable nature of hand-gel; if you do wish to light candles, please take the greatest care. There is a fire extinguisher in the porch.
9. The Lady chapel may be used, but one person (or one household) at a time.
10. The balcony remains closed; the staircase is too narrow to make social distancing possible.
11. We minimise risk by minimising surfaces to be touched. Please avoid touching the statues and Wren furniture in particular, we do not wish to damage them by the enhanced cleaning necessary.
12. Please avoid using the loos if at all possible; if you do use them, please advise a steward or Kathryn/Fr James so they can be wiped down afterwards.

Thought for the Week

If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world.

C.S. Lewis: "Mere Christianity"

Eggs: Free until further notice

Please take what you need from the Porch, many thanks to Trish and Jane. You are still welcome to donate to the Poor Box if you wish, but there is no obligation.

Middlesbrough Food Bank

There are no current collections, although you can make a financial donation on-line. If you have items you would like to donate, we can arrange for them to go to the Easingwold Food Bank in lieu.

Parish Online, Information and Useful Links

- let Kathryn have your email for the bulletin
- search for our closed group on Facebook
- Please see our website for a list of on-line resources, including churches who are live-streaming Mass, and Magnificat's offer for free on-line access during this troubled time. You can also go on www.ChurchPaper.co.uk for editions of all the catholic newspapers.
- Catholic Herald will be a monthly publication from May.

Offertory Collections and Charities: Thank you for your offerings

Envelopes can be dropped through the letterbox of the priory, and if you wish to pay by standing order, Kathryn can set that up. We are most grateful for whatever you can do. This week, Kathryn counted £130 from envelopes dropped through the door. Cheques can be made payable to "Ampleforth Abbey Trust", for the Parish Account: Fr James does not have a personal bank account.

Summer Fayre

It will probably not come as a surprise, but I thought I had better mention it nonetheless, that the Summer Fayre, which was to have taken place on 4th July, has been postponed indefinitely. The current uncertainty about the relaxing of restrictions makes it impossible for us to plan the event as we would like. I am hoping, however, to have something equivalent once the all-clear has sounded - and what a celebration I anticipate that as being!!

Fr James

Virtual Flower Festival

The Anglicans have suggested this idea, with people submitting photos of their gardens or floral arrangements. Submissions by 25 June please, to Kathryn.

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday only

Kathryn will be at home looking after Benjamin on a Monday. However, she can see the emails from home, and if Fr James is not in there is an answerphone.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

the Sick, Infirm and Housebound: Sally Agar, Mattie Burke, Mary Capaldi, Kitty Carrington, Cath Cavanagh, Jenny Cook, David Craig, Paul Gallagher, Pat Grotrian, Catherine Harmer, Graham Harrand, Mary-Rose Harrison, Marta Hatfield, Vince Kelly, Darren Kennedy, Lt. Commander Matthew Kiernan, Kay Moss, Marion Myers, Teresa Catherine Powers, Marie Podgorski and Sophie Williams; *those who have Died recently:* Barbara Burnett, Dennis Connelly, Monica Garner, James Holton, Dorothy Kendra, , Harrison Torr and *those whose Anniversaries occur about this time:* Sara Jane Thompson, Lilian May Maughan, Jack Daveson, John William Roe, Mary Cecilia Redchurch, Bill Scrope, Fr Wilfred McKenzie