

Reflection— Do Not Be Afraid

Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.
Matthew 10:26-33

We often underestimate our worth, but this gospel tells us that we need to realize that we have our origin in God, our destiny with God and our lives constantly under the care of God. We matter to God. We do not have to live with fear. A person's worth is not compared to that of another person or based in accomplishments but is in the heart of the Creator. Even the smallest creature matters. It seems then that if everybody and all creation matter to God, they should matter to us as well.

"From my point of view, God is the light that illuminates the darkness, even if it does not dissolve it, and a spark of divine light is within each of us."

Pope Francis

"The Christian does not think God will love us because we are good, but that God will make us good because God loves us."

"You are not what others think you are. You are what God knows you are."

Shannon L. Alder

"But the man who is not afraid to admit everything that he sees to be wrong with himself, and yet recognizes that he may be the object of God's love precisely because of his shortcomings, can begin to be sincere. His sincerity is based on confidence, not in his own illusions about himself, but in the endless, unfailing mercy of God."

Thomas Merton



THE TWELFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

SATURDAY 20th June 2020

Vigil Mass 4.00 pm

SUNDAY 21st June

Mass 9.30 am



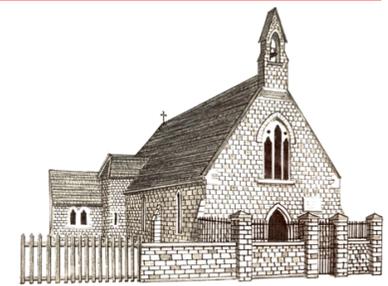
Are not two sparrows sold
 for a small coin? Yet not one
 of them falls to the ground
 without your Father's
 knowledge.

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|-----------|------|---|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 20th | The Twelfth | Vigil Mass 4 pm | Parishioners |
| Sunday | 21st | Sunday of Ordinary Time | Mass 9.30 am | Douglas & Rita Wilson RIP |
| Monday | 22nd | Ss John Fisher & Thomas More, | Mass 10 am | Eileen Johnson RIP |
| Tuesday | 23rd | Feria | Mass 10 am | Kathy Baker Anniv RIP |
| Wednesday | 24th | Birthday of John the Baptist, | Mass 10 am | Thanksgiving birth of baby Morris |
| Thursday | 25th | Feria | Mass 10 am | Thanksgiving birth of baby Johnson |
| Friday | 26th | Feria | Mass 10 am | For an end to the Pandemic |
| Saturday | 27th | THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME | Vigil Mass 4 pm | Parishioners |

**Next Week : The Solemnity of
 St. Peter & St. Paul
 Saturday 27th June 2020 Vigil Mass 4 pm**



ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
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Archdiocese of Birmingham is a Registered Charity 234216

Covid 19 – The Pandemic and the Closed Churches We hear all kinds of news in the social media. Recently I have received guidance from the diocese on what we need to do when the churches are to be open. It looks like we would have to have a deep clean before we can open the doors. Then social distancing will have to be in place. Arrangements for people to exit and enter and so on. I know Cardinal Nichols has talked about being open for private prayer, but many of our churches are closed most days normally. **As I have read the Risk Assessment document from the Archdiocese I am not convinced that with only one entrance/exit we can maintain social distancing. So the church will not be opening for private prayer.** I think it will be some weeks before the church will be open for us to gather together to celebrate Mass. See the other news about praying together in the church front garden. Stay safe, stay home, keep praying.

Private prayer in the front garden of the presbytery.

As we can't open church safely for private prayer, I'm suggesting the following.

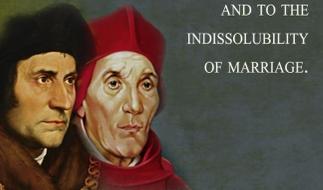
Those who wish to could meet in the garden with me on the two benches allowing social distancing. This would be on the Friday morning from 10.30 to 11.30 if weather is dry. A **telephone call to arrange you're coming** will eliminate too many people arriving at once!

Also I thought we could arrange to say the Rosary together in the garden. Perhaps at 11.30 am on the Friday after the meeting time with me. Being outside is safer than inside. We can sanitize the benches/ chairs and keep gate open to minimise danger. Maintaining social distancing is possible in this situation.

On Sunday morning I had my first social distancing visitor on the benches, a visitor who brought the pencil drawing of the Church which is now on the front of the news sheet this week.

Feast Day this Monday Mass at 10 am

SAINT JOHN FISHER AND HIS FRIEND
SAINT THOMAS MORE GAVE UP
THEIR LIVES IN TESTIMONY TO
THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH
AND TO THE
INDISSOLUBILITY
OF MARRIAGE.



Father God,
Thank you for today. Thank you for another day to live. Thank you for constantly reminding me that I should not be afraid. Lord, sorry for being afraid of a lot of things. Sorry for living in this world too much that I get attached to things and become afraid of losing them. Lord, there are a lot of things I am afraid of – failure, death, sickness, etc. but Lord, I know that you are more powerful than these things, and I surrender to you. I trust that you will continue to be with me, that you will continue to watch over me and protect me as I serve you. Strengthen my faith, Lord, that I may continue to serve, love and trust in you no matter what situation I am in. Amen.

The Association of Christian Counsellors

HAVE SENT AN EMAIL it reads

Dear Friend

We hope this email finds you well in these challenging times.

We wanted to let you know about a new service set up by the Association of Christian Counsellors (ACC) in response to the evident distress and suffering of many people as a result of the situation caused by COVID-19.

ACC's COVID-19 Crisis Counselling Support Service is for anyone in the UK, whatever their faith, who has been bereaved during the time of the epidemic and anyone working within an NHS setting in a frontline role.

The service offers anyone who is eligible up-to ten sessions of counselling on a no-fee basis from a professionally trained counsellor. All the volunteer counsellors belong to ACC or an equivalent professional body for example: BACP, UKCP and NCS.

Further information is available by visiting ACC's website <https://www.acc-uk.org/news/hidden-holding-pages/covid-19-crisis-counselling-support-service.html>



Mass each day continues to be shown live on my Facebook page—Paul Roy Lomas. It is also available to use after the Mass has ended in case you can't be on your computer, smart phone or lap-top at the exact time.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

May the Communion we share today with the members of our parish family who are at home or in hospital, remind us to live for one another and give them a sense of belonging to our family and to this celebration.

Please don't forget to hand in your Mass requests in an envelope with the name and date on and with your donation inside. Fr. Paul has no outstanding Masses.



Archbishop Bernard Longley will be celebrating Mass this morning 21 June at 11am (on the day the 'physical' Pilgrimage to Lourdes would have taken place). It will be live streamed from St Chad's Cathedral.

Full details, and how to access each event, are available on the Diocesan website: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/>