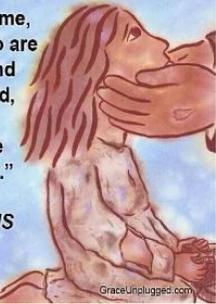


Reflection— In the gospel today Jesus says:

"Come to me,
all you who are
weary and
burdened,
and I
will give
you rest."

JESUS



"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The dictionary says that a "yoke" is an arched device laid on the neck of a defeated person, or a frame fitted to a person's shoulders to carry a load in two equal parts. A "yoke" is also a term that is used to describe slavery or bondage. The yoke of sin is also a form of bondage. But, Jesus is none of these things. In him there is no darkness at all, only light, only love. He is not harsh like the Egyptian slave masters. What a beautiful thing it is to turn to Jesus in prayer and find refreshment for our souls and a place to lay our troubles down. We do not have to struggle alone with the things that worry us, because we can come to the Lord with all our problems, suffering or pain and give it all to him in prayer. Even our sins. We no longer need to carry the guilt over our sins. Guilt can be like a huge weight on our shoulders that we can't shake on our own, but Jesus can remove it in the sacrament of confession. The yoke of sin is very much a type of bondage, and it can be a type of slavery if we are addicted to certain kinds of sins. However, the hold that sin has over us can be broken with frequent confession. Confession will help us break the addiction.

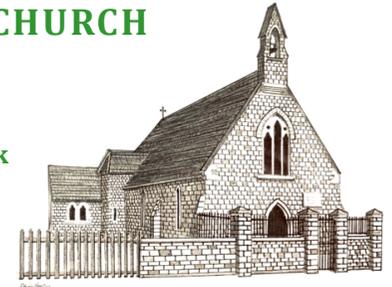
Jesus said in today's gospel to "learn from me" and this is the most excellent advice we could ever receive. Jesus' life is the best teacher, counselor, mentor, guide and model for our own lives that we could possibly want. If you are ever in doubt of what is the right thing to do, in any given situation in your life - look to Jesus. He will show you the right thing to do, by his own life. _You need contemplate the cross, because the cross is the greatest teacher the world has ever known. The suffering Jesus endured on the cross is not in keeping with the soothing words of today's gospel, but the cross teaches us everything we need to know about love and forgiveness and living a good Christian life.

We do not need to reinvent the wheel in our own spiritual lives, just follow in the Lord's footsteps. He knows the way to where we are going, just like God knew the way through the red sea too. We simply need to trust him with our lives. We really do not have to even give it much thought. Children simply trust their parents because they know that they love them. Jesus loves us the same way. We can trust him with our lives too.

We will be safe in his tender care.

ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Archdiocese of Birmingham is a Registered Charity 234216

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 4th July 2020

Vigil Mass 4 pm

Sunday 5th July Mass

at 9.30am



Saturday	4th	The 14TH	Vigil Mass 4pm	<i>Parishioners</i>
Sunday	5th	of Ordinary Time	Mass 9.30 am	<i>Joan Hazel Lomas RIP</i>
Monday	6th		NO MASS	
Tuesday	7th	Feria	Mass 10 am	<i>Victims of Covid 19</i>
Wednesday	8th	Feria,	Mass 10 am	<i>Priest's PrivateInt</i>
Thursday	9th	Feria	Mass 10 am	<i>St. Benedict's Academy</i>
Friday	10th	Feria, Ap.	Mass 10 am	<i>Peace in our families</i>
Saturday	11th	ST. BENEDICT Ab.	Patronal Festival Mass 10 am	
Saturday	also	THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	Vigil Mass 4 pm	<i>Parishioners</i>

Next Week : THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY

TIME Saturday 11th July 2020 Vigil Mass 4 pm

and Sunday 12th July Mass at 9.30am

Covid 19 – The Pandemic and the end to our Eucharistic Fast

Following the Government's announcement that churches may open for services from 4th July, we have the guidance from the Archdiocese about what our next steps at St Benedict's will be, so that we can gather as safely as possible when we are able. It looks like a maximum of 30 in church at one time and people will need masks or face coverings (provide own). Obviously, we are **not open this weekend** but I expect to be before end of July. I will keep you updated as things become clearer. **In the mean while, Mass will continue to be live streamed on my Facebook page - Paul Roy Lomas.**

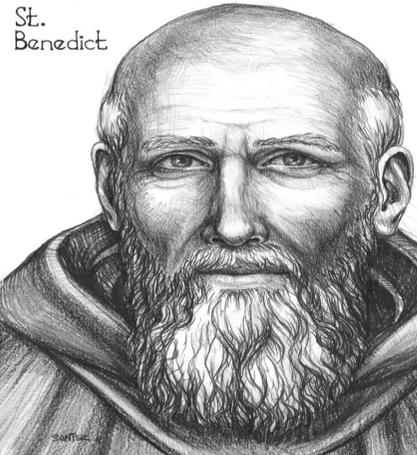
If you have any enquiries please do be in touch with Fr. Paul on 01827 736286. Thank you for your continuing support.

Private prayer in the front garden of the presbytery.

As we can't open church safely for private prayer, I'm suggesting the following for those who wish to then 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 the 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 gates open to minimise danger. Maintaining social distancing is possible in this situation.

I would also be happy to meet with a parishioner in the garden on the benches at any other time for a chat and maybe Sacrament of Reconciliation. if required. Again please call me on 01827 736286.



It is July already and we have the feast day of our Patron Saint this Saturday (11th). To celebrate there will be a Mass said at 10am and it will be available live streamed on my Facebook page Paul RoyLomas.

It is not quite the celebration I wanted or was planning for my first one here at St. Benedict's with you all, but it will have to do. Please join me live on Saturday morning, or any weekday morning at 10 am,. Or failing that catch the mass later.

There were not too many volunteers offering to help clean church, and there are many who can't. Those who have volunteered I will contact by email to arrange the initial cleaning.

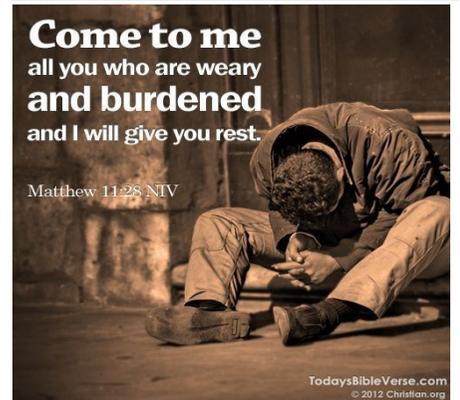
PRAYER FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

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.

Come to me
all you who are weary
and burdened
and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28 NIV



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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.