

## Reflection— “Let them both grow till the harvest



The desire to root out perceived evil is a universal temptation for humanity. Hitler's concentration camps, Stalin's purges, China's Cultural Revolution, the Spanish Inquisition and the witch-hunts of medieval Europe - humanity's history is littered with the bloody attempts to create by force a pure and uncontaminated society. Religion is particularly prone to the desire to create a perfect community of the saved.

We need to remember only God can judge the human heart, and if mere human beings set themselves up to be judge, jury and executioner then the long dark history of persecution, show trials and extermination camps provides ample evidence that the good are inevitably going to be destroyed along with the bad, the wheat will be pulled up with the tares.

That is not the way of the kingdom of God. It is a kingdom that grows gradually - even from small beginnings - like the mustard seed. God gives us the time to show by our lives that our fundamental choice is for the values of the kingdom - that we choose to be life-giving wheat rather than life-choking weeds. If we accept this time as a moment of grace, then we will learn from God to be equally patient and compassionate towards our brothers and sisters. Today we can rejoice that the Lord is patient and mild in judgement - and gives us all the time grow into kingdom people,

**TARES** Look **IDENTICAL** To **WHEAT**



WHEAT: before it is fully ripe.

TARES: Lolium Temulentum

## ST. BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Owen Street, Atherstone

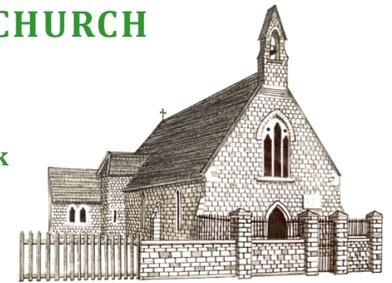
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**THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF  
ORDINARY TIME**

**Saturday 18th July 2020**

**Vigil Mass 4 pm**

**Sunday 19th July Mass**

**at 9.30am**

Saturday 18th **The 16TH** Vigil Mass 4 pm *Parishioners*

Sunday 19th **of Ordinary Time** Mass 9.30 am

*Fr. Paul & Andrea's 45th Wedding Anniv*

Monday 20th Feria NO MASS

Tuesday 21st Feria Mass 10 am *Those still shielding*

Wednesday 22nd Feria, Mass 10 am *The NHS & frontline workers*

Thursday 23rd Feria Mass 10 am *Those negotiating Brexit*

Friday 24th Feria, Ap. Mass 10 am *Those with depression*

**Saturday 25th THE 17TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Vigil Mass 4 pm** *Parishioners*

**Next Week : THE SEVENEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**Saturday 25th July 2020 Vigil Mass 4 pm**

**and Sunday 26th July Mass at 9.30am**



THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR PUBLIC MASSES THIS WEEKEND. WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD THAT WE HAVE ARRIVED AT THIS POINT. PLEASE :-

1. SANITISE YOUR HANDS WHEN ARRIVING AND LEAVING CHURCH.
2. WEAR FACE COVERING AT ALL TIMES.
3. ONLY SIT ON PEWS WHERE DIRECTED TO.
4. MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING AT ALL TIMES. (NO PHYSICAL CONTACT AT EXCHANGE OF PEACE).
5. WHEN RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION, DO SO ON HAND ONLY AND MOVE WHEN DIRECTED TO.
6. THERE ARE NO NEWS SHEETS HANDED OUT, NO HYMN BOOKS TO HOLD, NO SINGING BECAUSE OF SPREAD OF VIRUS.
7. LEAVE CHURCH AFTER MASS WHEN DIRECTED BY STEWARDS.

**COVID 19 VIRUS IS STILL PREVALENT SO KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE FROM EACH OTHER. TOUCH AS LITTLE AS POSSIBLE.**

**IF YOU ARE GOING TO COME TO MASS THIS WEEKEND YOU NEED TO INFORM FR. PAUL BY TELEPHONE –07973239942 OR E MAIL**

**Fr.paul.lomas@rcaob.org.uk which mass you are coming to as we can only safely contain 30 people in the congregation.**

**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

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.

**Church will be open before Mass for private prayer but not after Mass, as church will need to be cleaned.**

We can return to having Exposition and Benediction on a Friday morning from 10.30 to 11.45 am. Mass will be in church at 10 am each day.

**All this will happen but we must maintain the social distancing required, wear a mask or face covering. Use the hand sanitizer provided in the porch. Avoid touching surfaces as much as possible. After each mass the church will be cleaned again.**

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.

**If we are not vigilant and careful, then lock down, whether nationally or locally, could be brought back in and we would have wasted the effort of the last three months.**

**MESSAGE FROM PARISHIONER—Hi, I just wanted to say that I and my 78 year old dad went to Mass on Saturday night, I can say it was completely safe, well sanitised, social distanced and all fourteen of us were wearing masks, the doors were wide open and dad parked just outside the church. We all have to make our own decisions on when we venture out, but it was lovely to be with some of my church family. Its is much safer at church than generally out and about shopping, if I was recommending a first venture out then church would be good. Good for your mental health and your soul. God bless you all.”**

**Last weekend and our first Public Mass since Covid 19 Lockdown**

Everyone was apprehensive about re-opening church and we know why. The cleaners wanted the church to be safe. Fr. Paul and Andrew wanted people to enjoy the Mass as they received Holy Communion for first time in months. Well church was spotlessly clean, everything was in place to allow people to worship God and receive Holy Communion respectfully, safely and with dignity. We were not anywhere near to the maximum number of worshippers at either mass, so social distancing was not a problem. People knew what they had to do to keep safe and they did it. I have to say it is a little surreal to offer Holy Communion in silence wearing a surgical mask but if that's what we need to do, we do it! Looking forward to seeing you all this weekend.