

Reflection— Today we jump ahead in our reading of Matthew's



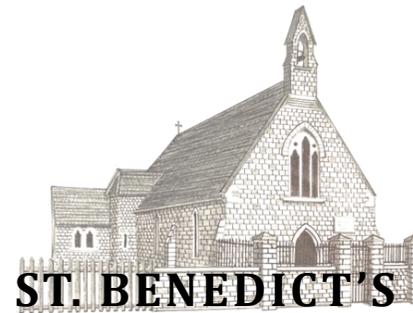
Gospel to Chapter 14. Last week we heard Jesus conclude his discourse with the crowds about the Kingdom of Heaven. In Matthew's narrative, Jesus then leaves the crowds and returns to Nazareth, where he is rejected. Matthew then recounts the story of John the Baptist's arrest and execution at the hands of Herod. Today's Gospel reading begins at this point.

Upon hearing the news of the death of John the Baptist, Jesus seeks to

withdraw, but the crowds follow him. Jesus reaches out to them in compassion and heals the sick. At the end of a long day, the disciples encourage Jesus to send the crowds away so that they might find provisions for themselves. Jesus again responds with compassion for the crowd. Jesus tells his disciples to provide food for the crowd. The disciples reply with a report of the meagerness of their own provisions—five loaves and two fish. The result is the very familiar miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish. Matthew's Gospel tells us that 5,000 men were fed, and this number does not even include the women and children.

Jesus' blessing brought abundance from the meager provisions of the disciples. In this action, Jesus offers us a sign of the Kingdom of Heaven that he has been teaching about in the parables. A feast results from the smallest of portions—remember the mustard seed and the yeast. In this miracle we witness an example for Christian life and ministry. Even the smallest of offerings can produce abundant results when placed in the service of the Kingdom of Heaven.

We find the story of Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and the fish in each of the four Gospels. In the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, Jesus performs this same miracle on two separate occasions. The story of this miracle is an anticipation of the Eucharist in which we are fed by the abundant grace of God. The importance of the Eucharist has been a defining element of Christian life from the very beginning.



**ST. BENEDICT'S
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**THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
OF ORDINARY TIME**

Saturday 1st August 2020

Vigil Mass 4 pm

Sunday 2nd August Mass

at 9.30am

- Saturday 1st **The 18TH** Vigil Mass 4 pm *Parishioners*
- Sunday 2nd **of Ordinary Time** Mass 9.30 am *All those in Education that they be refreshed*
- Monday 3rd Feria NO MASS
- Tuesday 4th St. John Vianney Mass 10 am *Sean Loma seriously ill*
- Wednesday 5th Feria, Mass 10 am *People still suffering through Covid-19*
- Thursday 6th Transfiguration Mass 10 am *Michael Coyne RIP*
- Friday 7th Feria, Ap. Mass 10 am *Brendan Duignan RIP*
- Saturday 8th THE 19TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**
Vigil Mass 4 pm Parishioners

Next Week : THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 8th August 2020 Vigil Mass 4 pm

and Sunday 9th August Mass at 9.30am



SUPPORTING YOUR PARISH DURING THE PANDEMIC

The work of the parish goes on and needs financing. We still need your support, even more so as without our weekly congregations and visitors, finances are tighter. Recognising that many parishioners may be struggling financially, there is no expectation to give where you are unable to do so. However if you can, it would be much appreciated. Either cash or a cheque handed IN AT Mass or through the presbytery door. You can donate via standing order or a single donation if easier. We are grateful to those who pay by standing order already. Thank you for your support. With only 30-35 coming to mass at weekends we are missing the cash that we usually receive each week. Soon we will be having work done on the church roof above sanctuary, also the French drain around the perimeter of the church. Also, the rented property needs urgent repair work too. We have to fund this work from the parish.

COVID-19 JUST OUTSIDE OF Chintowa in Malawi.

There have been seven deaths and an emergency action plan has been put into place. The charity is working closely with the Health department in Lilongwe. The village is in lockdown, the government health workers who have been assigned to the town are using the charity's support. Face masks have been given to villagers. They are allowed to go shopping, which is three miles away twice a week. Soap and sanitiser buckets are placed at each of the bore holes. Please keep the village and the workers in your prayers. THERE IS A DESPERATE NEED FOR HAND SOAP TABLETS SO IF YOU BRING THEM TO CHURCH AND PLACE IN THE BOX IN PORCH WE WILL MAKE SURE THEY ARE SENT TO MALAWI. Your practical support and prayerful encouragement is much needed.

Thank You Fr. Paul

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

This will resume from this weekend. 1st/2nd August 2020 It will be Saturday morning 11.30 to 12 noon. Due to the social distancing it will be on the benches in the front presbytery garden. Please telephone to let me know your coming 07973239942.

FLOWERS FOR THE SANCTUARY

Did you notice the beautiful flower display before the altar last Sunday. Well you can see it again this weekend. It is a lovely arrangement and was provided by a parishioner. If people make a donation for flowers we could have a display like or similar to that each week.

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.

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.

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