

The Parish of St Dunstan and St Jude

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Philip Harrop

Assistant Priest: Rev. Fr. John Waters

Curate in Residence: Rev. Fr Simon Baker

Deacon: Rev. Mr. David Fairbotham

Pastoral Assistant: Sr Catherine Burke

Telephone: 0121 444 1386

Email: saintdunstan@btinternet.com

Facebook: St Dunstan and St Jude's

Parish Twitter: stdunstanandstjude

Sunday 27th September 2020

www.stdunstanandstjude.co.uk

Sat 26 th	<i>Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	5.30pm	Holy Mass	James Redmond (RIP)
		<u>9.15am</u> (St Jude's)	Holy Mass	May and Michael Shuttleworth (RIP)
Sun 27 th		<u>10.30am</u>	Holy Mass	Monica Jena and Baby Victoria Scott
		12noon	Holy Mass	Larkin, McLaughlin & Rogers families
		6.30pm	Holy Mass	Black Family
Mon 28 th	<i>Feria</i>	9.30am	Holy Mass	Jonathan Keelan (Ints)
Tues 29 th	<i>Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels</i>	10.00am (St Jude's)	Holy Mass	Manuel Coelho (RIP)
		7.00pm	Holy Mass	Doherty family (Ints)
Wed 30 th	<i>St Jerome</i>	9.30am	Holy Mass	Jerome Keane
Thurs 1 st	<i>St Thérèse of Lisieux</i>	7.00pm	Holy Mass	Teresa Clifford (Ints)
Fri 2 nd	<i>Guardian Angels</i>	9.30am	Holy Mass	Jaden Thomas (Ints)
		7.00pm	Holy Mass	Special Intention
Sat 3 rd	<i>Our Lady</i>	11.00am	Holy Mass	Carolyn Cunningham (RIP)
		11.30am – 1.00pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
		12 noon	First Saturday Devotions to Our Lady	
		5.30pm	Holy Mass	John Gill (RIP)
Sun 4 th	<i>Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	<u>9.15am</u> (St Judes)	Holy Mass	Fr Simon (Ints)
		<u>10.30am</u>	Holy Mass	Nora Cooney (RIP)
		12noon	Holy Mass	Joe Lynch (RIP)
		6.30pm	Holy Mass	Mary Connolly (RIP)

Fr Simon writes....

The time has come for me to bid farewell after four happy years at St Dunstan's and St Jude's. Before my ordination in 2016, Archbishop Bernard said, "I am going to appoint you to a parish where they have known you, supported you and one in which I know you will continue to be very happy." For a moment I thought I was returning to the parish where I spent six months on my extended placement. The Archbishop then added, "I am going to appoint you to St Dunstan's and St Jude's: how do you feel?" "Wonderful I said, but I've never been there before in my life!" However, as my time comes to an end here and I reflect on the last four years, his words seem to have been prophetic. The only thing he didn't mention, was pastoral care of chickens!

Four years have flown by and as the saying goes '*tempus fugit*.' There have been moments of laughter and joy; sometimes of challenges, but above all there have been moments of growth, both for me as a newly ordained priest and for us all as a parish. I thank Deacon David, Sr Joan and Sr Catherine for their friendship and support; Dawn for her guidance in all things administrative; the staff and pupils of our schools, and of course, all of you as parishioners. A final thanks to Fr Philip, who over the four years has in so many ways guided, encouraged and exercised great patience, and who has successfully mastered a unique facial expression which says without needing to add words, 'what on earth is he doing now?'

It is certainly a strange time to be moving and given all the restrictions which are in place there has not been the opportunity to say goodbye in the way one might have liked and hoped for. Hopefully in the future I will be able to return and offer a Mass of Thanksgiving – perhaps followed by a Gin and Tonic (or two!), even if it is served at a social distance.

St Philip Neri is one of my favourite saints. He is well known for his great sense of joy, his humour and at times his mischievousness – a great role model I think for any priest. He shows how joy and humour enliven the spirit and our lives. He once wrote that 'the cheerful are much easier to guide in the spiritual life than those filled with melancholy'. Let us all seek his intercession, together with St Dunstan, St Jude and St Alban in the weeks and months ahead, so that as our lives change and adjust to the new ways of living, we will remain joyful in our following and service of the Lord.

Please pray for me, together with Canon Mick Neylon and the parishioners of St Austin's Stafford as I begin my time there as Curate. I will remember you all in my prayers and know that you will welcome Fr John just as warmly as you welcomed me, and continue to support him and Fr Philip in all that they do in and for the parish.

So, as the saying goes, 'au reservoir!' for now.

God bless,
Fr Simon

A warm welcome to those attending Mass today. Please follow the directions of the stewards who are here to help us finding a place and guide us to Holy Communion.

For those coming to receive Holy Communion please wait until the stewards on duty invite you to move forward to the priest. **Please maintain as best as you can social distance (1 meter) as you go up to Holy Communion. Please adjust the face covering from around your**

mouth before you reach the priest so that you can receive the host in your hand with dignity and reverence and consume immediately before moving away.

If you are not going to Holy Communion please enable others to go by (with a meter spacing)– or even better sit on the red seats at the back.

For those of you unable to come to Mass today due to sickness, frailty, or because of shielding, please be assured that you will be in the prayers of all of us as we offer Holy Mass today. Please also remember that the Obligation to hear Mass on Sundays is still lifted for the time being – alternatively you might prefer to attend Mass during the week when it will be a little quieter.

As you will know, Birmingham has now been placed under tighter restrictions. These are restrictions on visiting households for social purposes are not. However, the sacraments are not 'social occasions,' so please let us know if there is someone (or yourself) who would like a visit for the sacrament of the sick or holy communion. We are advised, however, that these visits need to be brief. For those in care homes visits are not permitted, although they are usually understanding in allowing visits to the seriously ill or dying. Contact must come from the care home however, so that they have the necessary precautions in place.

We pray for those who have died recently: Renee Kingston, Gerald McEvoy, Kathleen Griffiths and Dennis Niner.

Government restrictions for funerals have been restated. There is a maximum of 30 permitted for funerals. It is encouraged that just close family and/or friends attend. It is an important task for us all to pray for the faithful departed, so please do remember them and their families at the time of the Requiem Mass, and perhaps attend another Mass on that same day to pray for them.

Requiem Masses: One of the difficulties of the recent lockdown was that families were unable to attend the Requiem Mass for loved ones on the day of the funeral. Now that the situation is easing a little, families are welcome to contact the priest who did the funeral to arrange a Requiem Mass for family members.

The family of Renee Kingston have emailed to say that the Requiem Mass celebrated last week is available to watch at <http://youtu.be/g6ID0Z261dI>

Due to changing work or college commitments a few of our regular stewards and cleaners are no longer available to help in October with this important new role in our parish life during the pandemic. This means that there are gaps which need to be filled if the current timetable of Masses and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament continue during October. It is important to remember that public Masses and Saturday exposition cannot operate without them at this time. Neither is it fair for the same few people to do more. If you are able and willing to help as a steward, please speak with Fr Philip or Fr John.

First Saturday Devotions to Our Lady will take place at 12noon next Saturday in St Dunstan's. Our Blessed Lady promised to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all who, as an act of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, on the first five Saturdays of consecutive months, go to confession; receive Holy Communion; recite five decades of the Holy Rosary and finally keep Our Blessed Lady company for fifteen minutes meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Holy Rosary.

Church Cleaning will take place this Wednesday at 10.15am after Mass. If you can come along and help you will be very welcome.

Please note that the toilets will be closed due to COVID regulations and the Blessed Sacrament Chapel will be out of bounds apart from for Confession.

St Jude's Lottery has been suspended since the beginning of lockdown and we are aware that parishioners have been asking about what is happening with it. We are looking into the best way of completing the outstanding draw and a way of re-starting the lottery going forward.

Weekly offerings can be placed in the baskets in church or posted through the Presbytery letterbox. Please place offerings in either the usual Gift Aid envelopes or a plain envelope marked 'St Dunstan' or 'St Jude'.

Standing Order donations are a great way of giving to the parish and helping us to pay the bills. Details available on our Parish website. Thank you for all those who are continuing to support the parish during these difficult times.

If you have accumulated a few weeks' worth of offerings during the lockdown, and are bringing them to church, please remember that you only need to use the most recently dated envelope. Even if this means you are putting four weeks' worth of offerings into one envelope, the Gift Aid can still be claimed back. It just makes the counting less confusing!

The Sacrament of Confession will be available on Saturday morning's at St Dunstan's from 11.30am – 12.30pm and 4.45pm – 5.15pm. For confessions please go to the side chapel using the 'one way' system and use the entrance by the Sacred Heart statue.

When coming to confession during this time, please be reminded to observe social distancing as you wait, and to be as brief and concise as possible in the rite itself, both to maximise the opportunity for others to come, and to reduce the amount of time spent in the closer presence of one another.

Baptisms: Parents are welcome to get in touch to arrange baptisms. At the present time the rite will be shortened, and you are asked to only invite a small number of people whilst the virus is still present in the wider community. The baptism service will all take place around the font where space is fairly minimum. For those who had baptisms postponed during the lockdown please get in touch with us about rearranging the date.

There will be a Baptismal Preparation Meeting on Tuesday 6th October at 7.45pm. Those wishing to attend are asked to book a place by phoning 0121 444 1386.

The Annual 40 Days for Life campaign will be starting again soon. For more information about this campaign please contact Isabel on 07773 501721.

St Paul's School for Girls are holding a Virtual Online Open Evening on Thursday 1st October 2020. To find out more about the school, meet the teachers and experience a virtual tour of the school, all from the comfort of your own home, please visit www.onlineopenevening.co.uk/stpauls

Birmingham Irish Association is offering a new project, funded by Children in Need, to support children who have a family member living with Dementia. The group provides an opportunity for children to share their feelings and talk to others in the same situation. For more information, contact the Children's Support Worker Paulene on 07495 711696.

Prayer to our Guardian Angel, for when we cannot attend Holy Mass: O holy Angel at my side, go to Church for me, kneel in my place, at Holy Mass, where I desire to be. At Offertory, in my stead, take all I am and own, and place it as a sacrifice upon the Altar Throne. At Holy Consecration's bell, adore with Seraph's love, my Jesus hidden in the Host, come down from Heaven above. Then pray for those I dearly love, and those who cause me grief, that Jesus' Blood may cleanse all hearts, and suffering souls relieve. And when the priest Communion takes, oh, bring my Lord to me, that His sweet Heart may rest on mine, and I His temple be. Pray that this Sacrifice Divine, may mankind's sins efface; then bring me Jesus' blessing home, the pledge of every grace. Amen.

An Act of Contrition: My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

A prayer to St Roch, a saint invoked in times of plague and pestilence: O most merciful God, who through an angel, promised St Roch that all who invoked his name will be preserved from pestilent and contagious diseases. Grant that through his intercession we may be preserved from all dangers both of soul and body. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

An Act of Spiritual Communion: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18: 25 - 28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

R: Remember your mercy, Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. R

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. R

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches his way to the poor. R

SECOND READING

Philippians 2: 1 – 11

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no

competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus: His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21: 28 – 32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Parish Office will now be open from 9.00am until 5.00pm on Wednesday and Friday each week. In order to minimise the number of people in the office and for the safety of those at work, until further notice we ask you to observe the following:

If you have an enquiry: please phone or email first to see if it can be sorted in this way.

For those wishing to book Mass intentions: please bring a sealed envelope clearly labelled with the intention details (person's name, required date etc) and include the offering inside. This can then be handed in at the office and if requested a Mass card be signed and given.

If you need to speak to the Parish Administrator or one of the Priests: we would ask that you phone or email in advance, so that an appointment can be arranged at a convenient time for both.