

From Sunday's Gospel

Peter went up to Jesus and said, "Master, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?" Jesus answered, "Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times." Then Jesus told them this story. "There was a king with many servants. One of them owed the king an enormous amount of money. The servant could not pay so he begged for more time to pay the debt. The king felt so sorry for him that he let him go and even cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him a very small amount of money; but he would not give him time to pay and instead had him thrown into prison. When the news reached the king, he sent for the unforgiving servant. "You wicked servant" he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" Then the king sent the unforgiving servant to prison to be punished.



Sacred Heart & St William

31 High Street
Uppermill OL3 6HS
www.sacredheartparish.org.uk
Please visit the website above.

For Daily Mass Readings, Video reflections and any updates go to Sunday Mass in the Newsletter

The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 13th 2020 (Matthew's Gospel)

The intentions are as follows:

Sunday: Hugh Gildea
Monday: People of the Parish
Tuesday: **9.30am** Margaret & Jack Holmes (**Church open for Mass**)
Wednesday: November Dead List
Thursday: **9.30am** Frank Holmes (**Church open for Mass**)
Friday: Sr Philippa Kohlbecker
Saturday: **6.00pm** Fr Lawrence Lister (**Church open for Mass—
Booking necessary, please see newsletter for details**)
Sunday: People of the Parish

The Church is being opened for a limited number of Masses as indicated above. Social distancing and the wearing of masks applies

Confessions by appointment.

Contact Details:

Parish Priest: Fr Bernard Bickers Tel: 01457 872603
Permanent Deacon: Revd Peter Rudd Tel: 01457 876559
Safeguarding Officers: Mrs Tessa Spalding Tel: 01457 873515
Mrs Michelle Moore



Pope St John Paul II writes, "My dear young people, Forgiveness does not come naturally. Forgiving from the heart can sometimes be actually heroic." To-

day's word is **Forgiveness**. In this Sunday's gospel Peter asks Jesus the question about how many times we should forgive. He suggests 7 times, thinking this is very generous. Jesus replies, not 7 times but 77 times, showing that forgiveness should be at the heart of our lives as Christians. God is our loving Father and we can always count in his loving forgiveness and on the freedom that this forgiveness brings us. Jesus is telling us in his answer to Peter, that we should try and imitate God the Father, but to do so we will need his help. As Pope St John Paul II reminds us, forgiving another person is not always easy, and is sometimes even heroic. We can think of people like Nelson Mandela, or the mother of a young girl killed in the Manchester Arena bombing so recently. We sometimes find it hard to forgive and carry a grudge, but a grudge very often hurts us and stops us from loving on. In the Our Father we pray both to be forgiven and the grace to forgive others. If there is someone who has hurt us and from whom we are a little estranged, can we find it in our hearts to hold out the hand for forgiveness and friendship?

Re-opening the Church for the celebration of Mass



On Friday September 11th there was a meeting for those who had volunteered to act as stewards and to clean the church after use, and it thanks to them that we are now in the position of being able to open the Church, on a limited basis, for the celebration of Mass. Having been in touch with several other parishes who have already opened, the advice given is that it is better to proceed with caution, seeing what is sustainable and building on

that. After consulting the volunteers and seeing their availability the Church will, in the first instance, be open for Mass for TWO weekday Masses and the Saturday 6.00pm Mass. **The Live Streaming of Mass on Sunday Morning at 9.00am will continue as over the past few months.** Once we have established a pattern in terms of stewarding and cleaning we will be in a better position to know the way forward.

Requirements

As a reminder, the following protocols need to be in place for a congregation to be present for the celebration of Mass:

Stewards - 2 to be present to welcome, register, offer hand sanitiser and show people to the appropriate seating

Safe Contacting - observing at present the 2 metre distance

Signage - clear signs throughout the church showing entrance and exits points, a one way system and seating arrangements

Cleaning—those benches used are to be cleaned with anti bacterial spray after use

Masks—these are now compulsory in churches for all public worship

Registration—each person present must give their name and a contact number, the details of which have to be retained for 21 days for trach and trace purposes.

Safeguards prior to lockdown remain in place—no holy water in the stoops, single use paper copies, no sign of peace, no congregational singing.

What this means in practice

This coming week, beginning Sunday 13th there will be the opportunity to come to Mass on **TUESDAY 15th** and **THURSDAY 17th at 9.30am.** The Masses on Monday, Wednesday and Friday will be said behind closed doors and in private as at present. Give the numbers who historically attend a weekday Mass, there will be no need at this stage to book a place for attendance at either of these Masses but those present will be asked for their names and contact details for track and trace. Should numbers go beyond the allocation we may have to introduce a booking System. The church will be **open 15 minutes before Mass** is due to begin.



There will also be the opportunity to come to Mass on **SATURDAY 19th SEPTEMBER AT 6.00pm.** To ensure a place at this Saturday evening Mass parishioners are asked to **'book' a place.** To do this please phone Susan Gibson between **4.00-6.00pm on FRIDAY 18th September** on 01457 878055 or 07778856089.

Currently we have 17 'places' available so our numbers will be limited, but not necessarily to 17. If people from the same household come together they take up one place, e.e. a family of 4 would occupy one place just as an individual would occupy one place. Once those 17 places have been allocated Susan has to advise any further callers that the Church is full for this Mass. In this event Susan could offer a place for the following Saturday 6.00pm Mass, but she **is not able to take block bookings for the weeks ahead!**

If the Church is fully allocated and someone arrives who has NOT booked a place they will be advised by a steward that, unfortunately, on this occasion, there is no room.

Unprecedented Times!

CORONAVIRUS None of us at the beginning of the year could have forecast the past 6 months, nor can we predict the future. All of us are asked to show patience and understanding as we move into an unknown future. For us to sustain stewarding and cleaning, in order to keep the church open, more people will be needed to volunteer.

Please remember there is still **NO SUNDAY OBLIGATION.**

Thanks to all for your understanding.