

From Sunday's Gospel



Jesus said to his friends, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who hired some workers in the morning and agreed to pay them a silver coin for a full day's work. At about midday he hired some more workers to work on his land, and then with just an

hour to go before work would end for that day, he had some more. When it came to paying the workers he started with the last ones and gave them a silver coin. Those who had worked all day expected to receive more, but he gave them the same. They were unhappy with this but the landowner said to them, 'I paid you what we agreed. Why be envious because I am generous?'



Sacred Heart & St William

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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 20th 2020 (Matthew's Gospel)

The intentions are as follows:

- Sunday: Richard Rudd (Recovery)
Monday: People of the Parish
Tuesday: **9.30am** Joan Bradbury (**Church open for Mass**)
Wednesday: November Dead List
Thursday: **9.30am** Elizabeth Powell (**Church open for Mass**)
Friday: Yorkshire Brethren
Saturday: **6.00pm** Janet Heaton (**Church open for Mass—Booking necessary, please see newsletter for details**)
Sunday: People of the Parish

The Church is being opened for three Masses a week 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 Francis writes, "My dear young people, God is generous! God shows us all his love and encourages us to be generous." Today's word is Generous.

In this Sunday's gospel we are reminded that God has important work for each of us to do, helping us to make the world a better place by building God's kingdom. We are also reminded of God's generosity. God loves us and is more generous to us than we could ever imagine, wanting to take care of all our needs. Being generous brings us closer to God. God wants us to be generous, and, as the parable makes clear, it is never too late to start. We can be generous by sharing our possessions, and we can also be generous by sharing our time and our love. How can we be generous in this coming week? Perhaps we can: give some of our time to talk with a person who is lonely or in need; perhaps we could look through our clothes or our toys and see which ones we no longer use and take them to a charity shop; perhaps we can look out for someone at school who doesn't seem to have many friends. All of us will have experienced someone else's generosity and know how good that makes us feel. Can we do the same this week?

Re-opening the Church for the celebration of Mass



Thanks to the generosity of our stewards and cleaners we have been able to celebrate Mass on Tuesday and Thursday of this week. The attendance has been excellent with nearly 20 people turning up for both Masses. It was wonderful to hear people being greeted in the porch and then being shown to where the seats were available. The benches have been arranged in such a way that it is easy to keep the 2 metre distance.



At the time of writing the newsletter we are still to celebrate the Saturday evening Mass for which booking is required. **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 (and subsequent Fridays)

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.g. 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.

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. For the church to be open for Mass we are required to have TWO stewards present. If you feel able to offer your services as a steward please let Fr Bernard know as soon as possible. Thank you.

The Distribution of Holy Communion



The Bishops of England and Wales have given guidelines for the distribution of Holy Communion which have to be observed. The hosts have to be placed in a ciborium/large patten in the sacristy by a person wearing a 'one use' glove. The ciborium/patten must

then have a covering. At the time of consecration the covering is to be removed either partially or completely, and then replaced. After the celebrant has received Holy Communion, he will hold the ciborium/patten containing the consecrated hosts and say 'The Body of Christ' to which all present are invited to reply, 'Amen'. Communion will then be distributed without any words spoken, and with arms outstretched. This week people have remained in their places and Holy Communion has been brought to them. This seems to have worked well and will remain the practice for now.



Remedial work on the tower of the church started on Monday and the first phase was completed successfully. Before further work can continue the topmost scaffolding needs to be removed. This will happen the weekend after next with work resuming on Monday 28th September.

Offertory Collections



A sincere thank you to all who have been sending in their envelopes or making donations to the parish during the time of closure. On Wednesday of last week £1,725.00 was paid into the parish account in the HSBC bank in Oldham. £150.00 of that sum was a donation in memory of Jim Kenny who died recently. May he rest in peace. Now that we have re-opened the church for a limited number of Masses each week, baskets will be left at the back of the church for anyone who wishes to leave their offertory envelopes. One of the current requirements is that we have **not** to take the collections as we have normally done, but simply to leave baskets available for parishioners to use. This is to avoid contact as much as possible.