

The Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

4 October 2020

THE ROSARY is a most beautiful and powerful prayer. Many great graces and miracles testify to its effects. But it also requires great faith. We have to believe that there truly is somebody there: someone who is loving, and listening carefully. For our Mother in the order of grace is concerned for us more than we can ever imagine; and she wishes us to turn to her, in simple trust, for all our needs, small and great. She presents them to her Son just as she did at the Wedding Feast of Cana. It was her request that enabled the Son of God to transform the water into wine, even though His public ministry had not yet begun. Let us be confident therefore.

With the Rosary, we may recite all or part, as time allows. It is a fine meditation on Our Saviour's work and upon Our Lady's share therein. We too have a part to play in this work, and intercession for others is certainly a vital element for us all. In this month of the Rosary, try to say some part each day, and allow your Blessed Mother to guide and protect you always. Amen.

Dom Michael Clothier (Parish Priest)



Our Lady of the Rosary by Luca Giordano (1634-1705)

N.B. The Rosary is recited communally on Thursdays in St Benedict's at 7.00 p.m.

Numbers at our Masses and the NHS QR Code: There has been concern that attendance at Mass during the pandemic would be low. It is therefore encouraging to see that the figures for our parish Masses reflect growing confidence in the safety of attending. Our thanks are due to the volunteer stewards who work hard to enable us to gather to celebrate Mass, the source and summit of the Church's life.

Month	No. of Masses	Best attended weekends	Average Mass attendance each weekend	Total
July	8	120 (25/26 July)	93	338
August	10	117 (29/30 Aug)	111	558
September	8	135 (19/20 Sept)	118	473

It is encouraging to see more and more people deciding to attend Mass at the Abbey. Parishioners and visitors alike have been complementary about the measures put in place to ensure everyone's safety.

Now, from Saturday 10 October, as well as stewards collecting details for track and trace, you can have the extra protection of scanning the NHS QR code with your NHS COVID-19 app on your smart phone. This additional feature is the fastest way to see if you

are at risk from coronavirus. The faster you know, the quicker you can alert and protect your loved ones and community.

The app has a number of tools to protect you, including contact tracing and local area alerts.

The QR codes will be on display at the entrances to the Abbey for you to use your phone to scan them before entering the Church and the stewards checking you in.

Peter Beaven (Chairman, Parish Pastoral Council)

CAFOD Family Fast Day and Second Collection: The Second Collection for CAFOD will be on Saturday and Sunday, 10 & 11 October.

This week on Friday 9 October our parish is marking CAFOD's Family Fast Day to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. We have all felt the impact of this terrible disease – let us come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal.

Please pray for all those affected and give as generously as you can, either by contactless donation or using the CAFOD second collection box. Caroline Lane will have a contactless device as you leave Mass next weekend (10/11 October). Alternatively, you can donate online at cafod.org.uk/give You can also give easily via text. Text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10.

Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODNOINFO to 70085.

Link to Coronavirus Appeal video: Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/453718072/66db9d386d> and YouTube: <https://youtu.be/5GagOhIBb8Y>

Migrants and Refugees: Last Sunday was the World Day for Migrants and Refugees. Bishop Paul McAleenan, the Church's Lead Bishop for Migrants and Refugees, has released a moving, engaging and illuminating video podcast called 'Into The Refugee Journey' to mark this year's World Day of Migrants. Here is the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vM6AXpNesdo>

Please pray for the following who are unwell or housebound: Jayne Afxendi, Brian Auty, Eileen Barrett, Detta Duggan, Arthur Haynes, Tony Porter and for David Smith from Keynsham, who is unwell in Paulton Hospital.

Martyrology: Friday 9 October is kept as the Solemnity of SS John Roberts and Ambrose Barlow by the Downside monastic community. Elsewhere in the country, it is the Optional Memorial of St John Henry Newman. St John Roberts returned repeatedly to England in spite of the constant threat of death by dreadful execution. He was arrested for the last time while still in his Mass vestments. He was much loved in London for the care he devoted to the sick and the poor. When his heart was held aloft by the executioner who shouted, 'Behold, the heart of a traitor', instead of cheers there was a deathly silence. St John played an important role in establishing our Community of St Gregory the Great when he was in Douai after one of his repeated



Icon of St John Roberts by Dom Gilbert of Prinknash Abbey

banishments from England. St Ambrose Barlow was also arrested immediately after celebrating Mass on Easter Day in 1641. He had served the Catholics in the Manchester area as their priest for 24 years. When the news of his hanging, drawing and quartering reached Douai, his brethren in St Gregory's monastery sang the *Te Deum*. Saint John and Saint Ambrose, pray for us.

Readings for the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

First reading

Against the Lord's vineyard

Let me sing to my friend
the song of his love for his vineyard.
My friend had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.
He dug the soil, cleared it of stones
and planted choice vines in it.
In the middle he built a tower,
he dug a press there too.
He expected it to yield grapes,
but sour grapes were all that it gave.
And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah,
I ask you to judge
between my vineyard and me.
What could I have done for my vineyard
that I have not done?
I expected it to yield grapes.
Why did it yield sour grapes instead?
Very well, I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on,
and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on.
I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug;
overgrown by the briar and the thorn.
I will command the clouds
to rain no rain on it.
Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts
is the House of Israel,
and the men of Judah
that chosen plant.
He expected justice, but found bloodshed,
integrity, but only a cry of distress. (Isaiah 5:1-7)

Second reading

If there is anything you need, pray for it.

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can

understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:6-9)

Gospel

Motivation: *This week October is beginning. Summer is over, and autumn is well underway. The days are getting shorter, colder, darker. New jobs and school terms are beginning. Perhaps you have welcomed the changes of this new season. Perhaps you are reluctant to let go of what you had before. You may well be looking forward to the next season, a distant date, an event, a holiday.*

Whatever seasons - past or present - you may be thinking about, it is only the present one that truly matters. It is here that the Lord has purposefully placed you, here that He is coming to meet you, and it is here that he needs you to do His work. Right where you are, He is calling you to something very important, and only you can do it. God made you for Himself. You are His child, living in His creation, and this is His season. Today is His day and He is coming to meet you. Are you ready to welcome Him?

This is the landlord's heir: come, let us kill him



Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the

produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders
that became the keystone.

This was the Lord's doing
and it is wonderful to see?

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.' (Matthew 21:33-43)