

St Michael and All Angels Catholic Church

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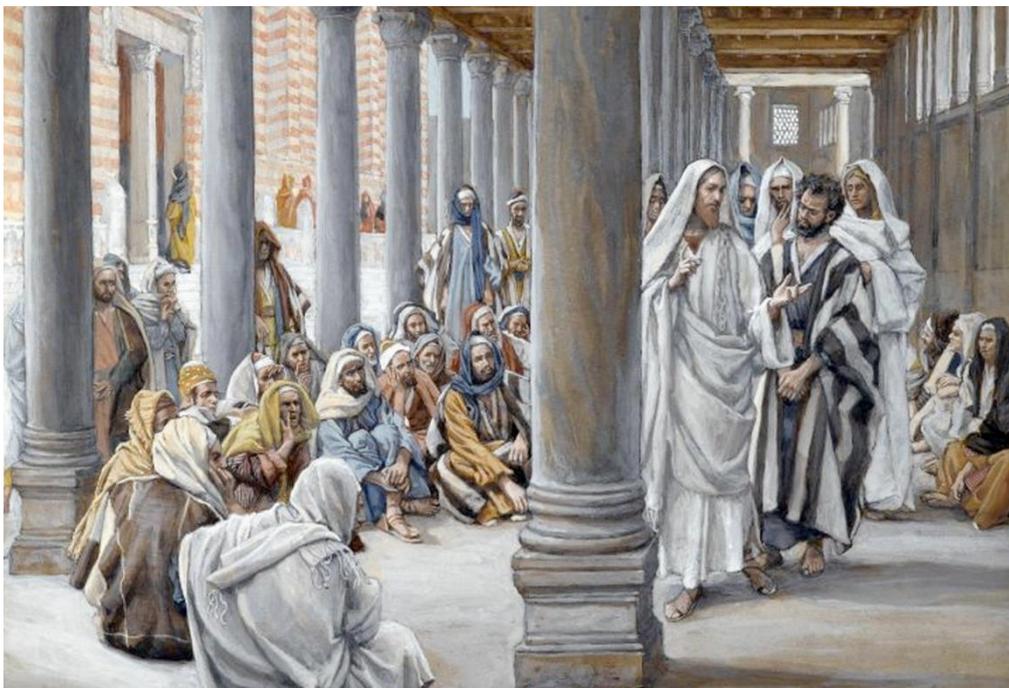
Newsletter for the week beginning 4th July 2021

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Scriptures at Mass

God sends a prophet to his people to ensure that they do not remain in ignorance of their disobedience. Ezekiel 2:2-5

In his weakness Paul experiences the power of God's grace. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Jesus is rejected by the people of Nazareth. Mark 6:1-6



Jesus walking in the Portico of Solomon, James Tissot 1886-96

Right To Life UK writes: The abortion lobby, led by the UK's largest abortion provider, BPAS, has worked with Diana Johnson MP to bring a hijacking amendment to the Police, Crime, Sentencing & Courts Bill to introduce abortion on demand, for any reason, up to birth. This would be the single biggest change to abortion legislation since 1967. This would leave England and Wales with one of the most extreme abortion laws in the world. It is expected that this radical proposal will be voted on by MPs this Monday. Right To Life UK has launched a tool on their website to make it easy for supporters to send an email to their MP asking them to vote against the motion. This tool can be accessed [here](#).



Stella Maris We take a collection for the work of this great organisation, formerly known as the Apostleship of the Sea, next weekend, 10th & 11th July, which includes Sea Sunday. Deacon Nick O'Neill is the Senior Chaplain for Stella Maris in the south of the country. It would be great if we could show our positive, practical and generous support for all that he does. **Stella Maris** have asked Nick to attend the vigil Mass and two Sunday Masses at St George's Cathedral, Southwark on that weekend. A couple of weeks later Deacon Nick will speak about his chaplaincy work at our own Masses.

Our Liturgies this week
Prayer of the Church Week 2

Saturday 3rd July, St Thomas, Apostle

10 am Mass Carole Welch RIP (at the request of Eddie Griffiths)
6 pm Mass for the people of the Parish

4th July, Fourteenth Sunday of the Year

10 am Mass in thanksgiving for Bernard who makes his First Holy Communion today
11.30 am Mass for those who are housebound
The additional 11.30 am Mass continues until a review late in July.

Monday 5th July, Feria

10 am Mass Fr Louis Mendy RIP

Tuesday 6th July, St Maria Goretti

12.15 pm St John's Cathedral, Chapter Mass

Wednesday 7th July, Feria

10 am Mass for a private intention
10.30 -11.30 am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 8th July, Feria

10 am Mass Angela Burns RIP

Friday 9th July, Feria

As Canon Gerard visits Allen Hall Seminary today there is no Mass at St Michael's.

Saturday 10th July, Our Lady on Saturday



10 am Mass for all who work in our schools
6 pm Mass for the intentions of the Parish

11th July, Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Sea Sunday

10 am Mass for all who work at sea
11.30 am Mass for Connie, Poppy, Archie and Harry: First Holy Communion

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available during the half hour before Mass.

We livestream on Facebook and our website.

<http://www.stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk/>  <http://www.stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk/>

Thank you for helping us all by adhering to the requirements to wear a face-covering,
to use sanitiser & to sit where our stewards & signs indicate.

Please pray for all those who are sick, bereft or in any particular need.

First reading Ezekiel 2:2-5

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

Responsorial Psalm

*Our eyes are on the Lord till he shows us his
mercy.*

To you have I lifted up my eyes,
you who dwell in the heavens;
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves
on the hand of their lords.

*Our eyes are on the Lord till he shows us his
mercy.*

Like the eyes of a servant
on the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes are on the Lord our God

till he show us his mercy.

*Our eyes are on the Lord till he shows us his
mercy.*

Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

We are filled with contempt.

Indeed all too full is our soul
with the scorn of the rich,
with the proud man's disdain.

*Our eyes are on the Lord till he shows us his
mercy.*

Second reading 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.' So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us:
to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!



Gospel Mark 6:1-6

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country, among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

14th Sunday of Year B, 4th July 2021, Homily notes, GDF

Is anything, or anyone, really bugging you just now?

Everyone has a story to tell.

One of the great privileges of being a priest is that I hear many peoples' stories.

Often it's not the story so much as the way that it is told that tells me about the story teller.

People tell me all about their childhood and growing up.

I might not remember all the names and dates and details

but I can be struck by the way that the story-teller remembers.

I hear about the best and the kindest and the most loving qualities of the people they talk about.

And that tells me a great deal about the story-teller.

Sometimes I hear the worst, the meanest and the most hateful qualities

of the people about whom my story-teller is reminiscing.

I hear about how wrong things have been and how everything has always been somebody else's fault.

A little example, from long ago and a parish far, far away;

Someone who had bad next-door neighbours told me the whole tale.

Whenever we spoke, it would always come back to these dreadful neighbours.

I would hear how miserable they made my story-teller's life.

And of course, there are noisy and thoughtless neighbours.

The effects of being close to them can be very wearing indeed.

But, as I listened to that tale, all those years ago, I had the sense

that my story-teller's life was now being determined for her by those dreadful neighbours.

Nothing my friend did or said could stand by itself.

It had to be measured by what the neighbours thought and felt

and how my story-teller thought and felt about them.

Situations can often be tough;

what makes them so much worse is when we give in to resentment.

We can let that take on a bitter life of its own.

I'll tell you what I mean.

In time, my story-telling friend told me that her neighbours were going to move ... and they did.

For the next three months I heard nothing more;

until eventually my friend returned to tell me that her new neighbours

were as bad as the last lot.

She hated them just as much. She couldn't wait for them to leave as well.

We all have a story to tell. We all have strengths and weaknesses too.

Paul had a thorn in his side.

No-one knows for sure what the *thorn in Paul's side* was,

although we can be pretty sure that it wasn't bad neighbours; Paul was always on the move.

We can only guess and we will almost certainly get it wrong.

Whatever it was it was enough for Paul to

'have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me'.

This is where the weakness becomes a most remarkable gift,

because when Paul pleaded with the Lord, *the Lord said,*

'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.'

Paul is blessed with a wisdom which goes quite against the ways of the world:

For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

Is anything, or anyone, really bugging you just now?

Here at Mass, here before the Lord, who wants to support us in our weakness,

we should think of any thorn that we might have in our own side.

It might be at home or at work.

It might be in the way that we are.

It might be our moral failure or a habitual sin.

We certainly wish we could be rid of it.

We may have pleaded with the Lord three and even more times.

Be very wary! We could be at risk of letting our resentment of the thorn take a hold of our lives.

We need the imagination, the wisdom and the trust in God to do what Paul did. We too should say:

So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

If we pray about our thorns in that spirit we can make an extraordinary difference.

In every sin that we commit we can see its remedy.

In every sin that we commit we can see how much better our life could be if we practised the virtue of which our sin is the vice.

Could those of us of a certain age think back to old photographic negatives, please?

Black stood for white and all that was dark was the beginnings of the light.

Let me give another example.

In confession people often say that they are judgemental.

They dismiss, without charity, the thoughts and the words, even the lives of their neighbours.

Whole political and social parties are founded on negative judgements of other people;

too different, too foreign, too many, from too far away, too greedy, too lazy,

or just too, too much altogether in any way that I don't like,

and not to be considered my true neighbour too.

That's judgementalism ... to too grave a degree.

It's what Jesus encountered when He went back to His own people:

'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

The people of Nazareth reject Jesus. They judge Him.

Later in His life there is a harsh, stinging echo of that moment.

Jesus is scourged, whipped and beaten by Roman soldiers ... against whom He never raises one hand.

Jesus, even in His weakness, keeps his dignity and humanity;

In His Resurrection He overcomes sin and death and every weakness of every kind.

If I am, say, prone to the sin of judgementalism, how can I find in my sin its remedy and its virtue?

How can I find strength in my weakness?

When I judge others maybe I am striving for the very best.

I seek the best and strive for what I believe to be the ideal.

But ... I need to temper my judgement with the wisdom of my faith;

to remember that Jesus urges us *'to judge not lest ye be judged'*

and to remember, as well, that Jesus urges us always *'to love our neighbour as ourselves.'*

Everyone has a story to tell. We all have a story to tell. We all have strengths and weaknesses too.

Find time to sit before the Lord, the best listener of all.

Tell your whole tale, with all the strengths and weaknesses.

Accept that only He is entitled to judge.

Accept, with gratitude, those words of our Psalm:

Our eyes are on the Lord till he shows us his mercy.

This week at St Michael's



... Liliana and Louise, Emma and Thierry made their First Holy Communion.

Our beautiful and clean church!

Mrs Judy Stringer writes: *How very generous you have been to me with your kind words, beautiful roses and very generous gift token. A very big thank you, I have been thoroughly spoilt. St Michael's Parish has been very special to me over a "few" years now - the priests, parishioners and our lovely church is like a second home and it's been a great privilege to play my small part. Thank you very much again.* Judy has been involved with cleaning our church in both the present and the former building. She is now handing over to enjoy a well-deserved 'retirement.' She goes with our very great gratitude. She is seen here with Thierry after his First Holy Communion.



Cafod and Flick Drummond MP ...



... responded to the recent meeting with her, arranged by Maureen Thomson, Cafod representative in Havant Parish: *It was a thought-provoking hour. I have taken everyone's views into account, and I am looking forward to working with CAFOD over the next few years to address environmental issues and debt relief, both of which we are working on in Government. I am very grateful for all the work that CAFOD are doing to make the world a better place.* Below you see one of the many bees presently appreciating the wildflower patch in Parish grounds, which is a contribution to making the earth a more fruitful and beautiful place.



