

	Church	Service Times Masses marked L/S will be livestreamed on YouTube.
Sat 3 OCT	OLR	6pm Vigil Mass -Thanksgiving Desiree and Stefan Wedding day
TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		Readings. 1. Isaiah 5:1-7 [Ps.79] 2. Philippians 4:6-9 3. Matthew 21: 33-43
Sun 4	OLR	9.15am Mass [L/S] - Ana Paula Aveiro RIP (R. Aveiro) Baptism: Rosie Elphick
	St Gregory	NO MASS
	OLR	11.30am Mass - People of the Parish
		5.30pm Mass - Mary Gibbons RIP
Mon 5	OLR	6.30pm Mass - James Moulding RIP (Sheppard)
		NO MASS
Wed 7	OLR	11am Mass-Betty Johnny RIP (Zarian-Oakes)
Thurs 8	OLR	11am Mass– Michael Nugent RIP (Pluckrose)
Fri 9	OLR	11am Adoration and Confessions
Sat 10	OLR	6pm Vigil Mass -Norah & Ronald Sherlock RIP & Terry Dillon-White RIP
TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		Readings: 1. Isaiah 25:6-10 Psalm 22 2. Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20 3. Matthew 22:1-14
Sun 11	OLR	9.15am Mass [L/S] - People of the Parish
	St Gregory	9.30am Mass-Kevan Regan RIP (Regan family)
	OLR	11.30am Mass - Betty Hobbs RIP (Hiley) First Holy Communion : Ariana Plata-Hallijah and Emilia Salea
	OLR	5.30pm Mass - Special Mass (Martha Byrne)

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 3rd/4th October 2020

THE PARISH OF OUR LADY OF RANSOM
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Fr Tristan Cranfield, Assistant Priest

‘Doom and gloom’ is the phrase that sadly seems to capture the current *Zeitgeist*: everyone is using it! As the UK heads into autumn—darker, wetter and colder days, overshadowed by the coronavirus, and other crises, it’s hard to shake off the general malaise. Autumn, of course, is a beautiful season – but October especially can seem too far from summer, too far from Christmas to lift the spirits. The modern commercialisation of this month, too, plays on escapism and the courting of dark forces (Halloween) which contributes, in my opinion, to its bitter aftertaste.

Yet for Christians even the darkest night is never totally so. The Church’s celebrations look beyond the natural cycles of growth and decay, to the supernatural cycle of the liturgical year: seasons of grace that blossom from the saving mysteries of Christ’s Incarnation, Life, Passion, Death and Resurrection. October, for us, is a luminous month, resplendent with feasts. To name a few: it is the month of the two great “Therasas”: of Lisieux (1st Oct), who taught us that even the smallest and most hidden sacrifices can be a joyful expression of love; and of Avila (15th). They are joined by other great saints of prayer like St Bruno, founder of the Carthusians (6th), and men of action, like St Anthony of Claret who fought against slavery (24th). It is the month of two great Polish saints of modern times: St Faustina Kowalska (5th) and St John Paul II (22nd), as well as of two Brits: St John Henry Newman, (whose memorial has just been ‘upgraded’ to a feast in England on 9th Oct) and St Philip Howard, Patron of the Diocese on 19th October. October also celebrates apostles Simon and Jude, and the Guardian Angels (2nd Oct). Above all, thanks to the presence of Our Lady of the Rosary on the 7th, it is an “autumn May”, a month of total dedication to Our Lady. Why not try to pray the Rosary every day for the month?

Finally, (Sunday 4th Oct) is the feast of Francis of Assisi, lover of poverty and true simplicity. Francis reminds us that Christians love nature and are deeply concerned with the state of this world - but they do not worship it or tie their fate to it. It is God the Father who is our Beginning and End; Christ, Our Saviour. Living in the world, we are submerged in decline: natural, political, emotional: but we should not allow ourselves to sink with it. In Christ, October is a month of victories, allowing us to glimpse the triumph over sin and death which has already been won for us.

ENQUIRERS FOR THE CATHOLIC FAITH 'RCIA' begins 8th October at 7.30pm Our Lady of Ransom hall, access via the car park. See OLR website for further details. Please let us know if you are coming so that we can make the arrangements necessary for social distancing. Please ring Ann - 07790 208889.

NEW ENQUIRIES FOR THE SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM, FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION

At the moment we are giving priority to families who were preparing for sacraments this last year, 2019-20. We are happy to discuss making a date. Please note that guest numbers are limited. **For new enquiries**, we understand that many families are not yet coming to Mass with the uncertainty of Covid-19 still with us. Preparation for these sacraments will not be the same 'course' as in previous years. These are the steps you can take:-

- 1) Email the Parish Office to register an interest, with your contact details stating which sacrament you would like to register for. Remember to always give your full name and address and which church you attend.
- 2) The principal preparation is sharing in the Eucharist (Mass) in church each week. It is the source of grace for all the other sacraments. If in the present situation you are not able to come to Mass, do not to worry: we can wait, and you will not miss any 'deadline'!
- 3) Meanwhile you can join an online course we are beginning for families to explore their faith, and how we live it in the Church. Details will follow in the newsletter and online.

VISITING: To update our records, could all those who would like to start/continue receiving visits with Holy Communion, please contact Sean Duggan (tel: 01323 504417 or sean.duggan@rapidmm.net). Also, can all extraordinary ministers contact Sean too, to confirm whether or not they are able to carry on or recommence visiting at this time?

ST RICHARD'S SCHOOL SIGNING

Tuesday October 13th: 5.30pm- 7pm
Monday October 19th:
5.30pm-6.15pm and 7.15pm - 8pm
Please come to the Parish Centre Car park and wait to be called to the door

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Don Hinchin RIP. Our sympathy and prayers are with his family.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TAKEN ILL AND ASK FOR OUR PRAYERS:

Sybil Glenister, Miles Tracey, Bob Cadwallender, Madeleine O'Brien, Carmen Pumar, Sheila Brown, Pauline Bosley, Abina Boniface, Gilbert da Silva, Marie Potts, Pat Higgins, Joan Garbet, Rosanna da Sousa, Trish Ryan, Michaeline Winterbottom, Terry Swales, Lynnette and Michael Butters, Valerie Downey, Elizabeth Dudley and all our parishioners who are suffering at this time.

OFFERINGS w/e 27th September, including standing orders: Our Lady of Ransom, St Agnes and St Gregory. £1820.31. Thank you to all parishioners who support the parish in this way. [Gift Aid Nick Price 07711243419].

SECOND COLLECTIONS this weekend: Peter's Pence and next weekend 10th/11th October: World Mission Sunday.

7 DAYS OF CREATION: Celebrating September with prayers for Creation jointly declared by Greek Patriarch Bartholomew and Pope Francis.

FRANCIS OF ASSISI

HE WAS A MYSTIC AND A PILGRIM WHO LIVED IN SIMPLICITY AND IN WONDERFUL HARMONY WITH GOD, WITH OTHERS, WITH NATURE AND WITH HIMSELF. HE SHOWS US JUST HOW INSEPARABLE THE BOND IS BETWEEN CONCERN FOR NATURE, JUSTICE FOR THE POOR, COMMITMENT TO SOCIETY, AND INTERIOR PEACE. – Laudato Si #10

OPENING PRAYER Lord, you raised up Francis of Assisi as a saint to challenge the luxury and frivolity of his age. He showed a new Gospel way of simplicity that valued poverty and care for the poor, reaching out to those on the margins and praising your gifts of Earth and in the heavens. Grow his spirit within us so that we may look to the challenges of our times, serving the alienated and a suffering planet. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

JEREMIAH 7:3-7 - REFORM WAYS

This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. Do not trust in deceptive words and say, "This is the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord!" If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever.

In 1990 John Paul II named Francis of Assisi as the patron saint of ecology. Francis modelled a simple lifestyle while showing love to beggar and animals alike, kin to them all and the planets as well. He sang in celebration. We are pushed back to reflect again on the message of the Scriptures and traditional Catholic teaching about creation. Faith says that Earth belongs to God and we are but caretakers. Each part of cosmic creation reveals something of God's own self. We are to rejoice in the Earth as a gift of God's presence knowing that it offers praise to God by its very existence. Remembering the life of Francis has radical implications for the way we live and choices we make. His life calls us to act as peacemakers, respecting both people and all species on Earth as kin. He was transformed into a saint by simplicity and compassion, suffering and joy to personify Good News.

PRAY AS JESUS TAUGHT: "OUR FATHER ..."

CONCLUDING PRAYER Creative and nurturing God, Jesus made a family gathered around a festive table as the final sign of unity with his followers. May we be united and transformed like the saints in every age. As we remember Francis of Assisi, give us with his vision and strength to dedicate ourselves to re-building your house suitable to our times and a foretaste of the eternal Jerusalem. We ask this through Christ our Lord.