

The Parish of St. Edward the Confessor

Registered Charity no. 234025

Father Peter Cryan

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Newsletter for the week of 24th July 2022

Sunday Readings Cycle C

Weekday Readings Cycle II

Readings for 17th Ordinary Sunday Genesis 18: 20-32; Psalm 137; Colossians 2:12-14; Luke 11:1-13

Saturday 23rd July 5.30pm 1st Mass of the 17th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Sunday 24th July 10.30am 17th SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME *Day of Prayer for Grandparents & Elderly*

Monday 25th July 9.30am Mass *FEAST: ST. JAMES the APOSTLE*

Tuesday 26th July *Ss Joachim & Anne, parents of the B.V. Mary*

Wednesday 27th July 1.00pm Funeral Mass: Mary Matson

Thursday 28th July

Friday 29th July 11.30am Mass *Ss Mary, Martha & Lazarus*

Saturday 30th July 5.30pm 1st Mass of 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 31st July 10.30am Mass: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings for 18th Ordinary Sunday Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23; Psalm 89; Colossians 3:1-5,9-11; Luke 12:13-21

A face mask/ covering is **not essential** but is **recommended** in the church & community Room during the present surge of Covid19. Hand sanitizing continues to be **desirable**. Care for **safe physical distancing** for oneself & fellow worshippers especially not placing oneself directly behind another worshipper is needed.!

ARRANGEMENTS AT MASS

- individual invitation & response at Holy Communion ; - an offertory collection and procession; - a non-tactile sign of peace ; - an entrance procession at Sunday 10.30am Mass.

FUNERAL MASS

Next Wed 27th July 1.00pm Funeral Mass for *Mary Matson*. Committal at Macclesfield Crematorium. Refreshments at the St. Alban's Parish Hall. Mary died peacefully on Sat. 2nd July age 97 years. May she rest in peace!

SUNDAY MORNING MUSIC

As usual during the Summer this week there is a reduction in music with now no organ & CD music used instead.

PROPOSED RENEWAL of MEMBERSHIP of the PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

For the last two pandemic years, the present PPC have provided crucial help & support to Fr. Peter in the continued running of the parish. All PPC members are aware of how few are the possible parishioners who feel able to serve on the PPC. The proposal the PPC members suggest is that, as 3 of the members come to the end of a 3 year term and others have actually continuously served for longer than 3 years, *the number of elected PPC members are reduced this year to 6: then 3 would be open to new nominations for a 3 year term and the other 3 would be drawn from the existing 6 remaining members by their mutual agreement.* In this way there would be a balance between continuity and newness. It would be for this year and then for the following year, it is possible to have 3 more new members elected for a 3 year term. Would this proposal be acceptable? Let members of the PPC know what you think of this proposal as we look to the end of August & PPC renewal.

SATURDAY MASS TIME WARNING

It's quite likely that the traffic & parked cars from the increased attendance at Macclesfield Town FC matches in the new football season will block access to the church both before & after a match. It is likely to force us to put back the Saturday Mass time to 6.00pm. The first 3pm Saturday afternoon proper home match fixture in the club's new league is on 13th August & will give some indication on the need to change the Mass time or not.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIVING

Last Sunday's Offertory £171.30

RESOURCES from the ANSCOMBE BIOETHICS CENTRE

The Anscombe Bioethics Centre is an organisation which does research on behalf of our Bishops & education for the Catholic community on moral matters in medicine. A new website has resources to benefit parishioners especially, doctors, nurses, or others who work or study in fields related to health & social care. Take advantage of their work & access it through their website & social media: www.bioethics.org.uk You can also sign up to their monthly digest for the latest news, events, and accessible briefings on moral matters in medicine, here: <https://bit.ly/ABC-Subscribe>

GET IN TOUCH QUICKLY –IF YOU ARE SICK If you or your relative enters Macclesfield Hospital let Fr. Peter know as soon as possible tel: 01625 423576 or by e-mail st.edmacc@gmail.com

The Grandparents of Jesus, Saints Joachim and Anne- 21st Century Saints



All creation is indebted to them

Christians have been celebrating Saints Joachim & Anne, whose memorial day is next Tuesday 26th July, since the dawn of Christianity. And rightly so, since Joachim and Anne, the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, are partially responsible for the dawn of Christianity. But their lives have a special message for us in the 21st century.

1. God blessed their “normal” marriage.

It's true that many of the saints in the Church calendar are unmarried, which is understandable and it's also true that many of the married saints we celebrate parted amicably to enter religious life late in their lives. But not Joachim and Anne. They lived as husband and wife their whole lives, and not only that but their “normal” married life is also celebrated by the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. That's the day we celebrate the fact that Mary was preserved from sin from the very first moments of her conception by Joachim and Anne. There has been an effort in the 21st century to canonize more lifelong married couples like them, but they are the original and greatest.

2. Though they were married, they put God and the poor first in their lives.

We know Joachim and Anne put God first in their lives because “by their fruits you shall know them.” Their fruits were the immaculate conception of and what must have been their holy upbringing of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

A legend about them adds more. The story goes that they had celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and had failed to have children. During their long life together they had split all of their income into thirds: a third went to the Temple, a third went to the poor, and they kept a third for themselves. God blessed their lifelong generosity by multiplying their flocks — and, eventually, sending them the most accomplished daughter in history.

3. They gave their daughter Mary her freedom.

Women were not given a lot of freedom in the ancient world, but Mary was.

If it's true that Joachim and Anne waited that long for a child, it must have been difficult when Mary pledged her virginity — or maybe they expected and encouraged it. In either case, they were willing to sacrifice their hope of grandchildren by consenting to her life of celibacy.

4. Joachim and Anne remind us the importance of grandparents (and aunts and uncles).

No grandparents have a greater claim to boast about their grandson than Joachim and Anne: He was the son of God. And perhaps they could boast about their nephew also. Legend says that Anne was sister to Zoia, the mother of Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. At a time when family ties are fraying and disappearing, Joachim and Anne show the promise of family better than anyone.

5. They show that our life is not about us.

Last is a great message for our time, when so many feel anxious and worry that life is purposeless, because our culture pushes us to be self-absorbed. Joachim and Anne are a good reminder that our life is not about us. If we are faithful and generous, our life will touch others, whether we see it or not, and we will be players in the great story of God's salvation of the world. If we are faithful, every one of us will hear our own version of the pronouncement St. John Damascene made: “*Joachim and Ann, how blessed a couple! All creation is indebted to you.*”



Below is a simple prayer that can be prayed on a daily basis for grandchildren. It is also a reminder of the great task that grandparents have and a daily call to conversion, recognizing the fact that grandchildren will always look to their grandparents for inspiration, whether they admit it or not.

The Grandparent's Prayer,

*Good Saint Anne and Saint Joachim, parents of Mary and grandparents to Jesus,
be with me and all grandparents
that we may be wise and loving, may share our time and stories and sense of humour,
and may enjoy and not spoil too much the grandchildren who are close to our hearts,
for they are the sign of God's life to us.
Jesus, Mary and Joseph, be with our grandchildren and all other grandchildren
that they may love and respect their grandparents and all older people,
may they remember to call, visit or write, and grow in wisdom, age and grace before God. Amen.*



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 24th July 2022 - The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Relax & Remember

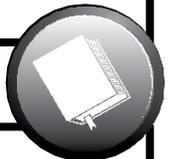
Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.



2 Read

Taken from the Gospel for 24th July 2022 (Luke 11:1-13): The Lord's Prayer

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "Say this when you pray: 'Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test.'" He also said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, 'My friend, lend me three loaves because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him;' and the man answers from inside the house, 'Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you.' I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants. So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"



3 Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

Luke is the evangelist of prayer. Again and again he shows us Jesus praying. At all the important moments of his life Jesus needs this intimacy with his Father. So he is praying at the baptism; before the choice of the disciples he prays through the night; at the Transfiguration he is praying. Now the prayer which is so often used by Christians is one he gives us himself. Luke's rendering of the prayer he taught the disciples is slightly shorter than the version in Matthew. It begins with the simple call 'Father' (rather than 'Our Father in heaven') - a noble and affectionate way of speaking to God. 'Thy will be done' is omitted, for it is Matthew who often insists on doing the will of the Father: Instead of 'give us this day our daily bread' Luke presents the insistent 'give us each day', which stresses the continuity of our dependence on God. After this prayer follows a series of parables and images which underline the importance of persistence in prayer and continual prayer after the model of Jesus himself. Elsewhere Luke will give us other parables about prayer: the Unjust Judge (again teaching perseverance in prayer) and the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector (teaching the importance of humility in prayer). What do Jesus' words in the Gospel teach us about prayer? Have there been occasions when God has answered your prayers in a way you did not expect?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

4 Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph.



*The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph*

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS



Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 24th July 2022

First Reading: *Abraham Bargains with God*

Genesis 18:20-32

The Lord said, "How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know." The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, "Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them; will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?" The Lord replied, "If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them." Abraham replied, "I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?" "No," he replied, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there." Again Abraham said to him, "Perhaps there will only be forty there." "I will not do it," he replied, "for the sake of the forty." Abraham said, "I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there." "I will not do it," he replied, "if I find thirty there." He said, "I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there." "I will not destroy it," he replied, "for the sake of the twenty." He said, "I trust my Lord will not be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten." "I will not destroy it," he replied, "for the sake of the ten."

This delightful story continues the episode of last Sunday's first reading. It is reminiscent of a scene of bargaining in an oriental bazaar, a scene of deadly earnest, yet playful negotiation. Abraham goes on pushing his luck, using laughably inadequate logic, until he has gone well beyond the point of any sort of reason. His partner in this game continues to show good-humoured tolerance, and above all an unbelievable willingness to forgive. Some might find this haggling process lacking in reverence for the almighty power of God, but it is an expression of Israel's intimate affection for the LORD. This attitude towards God is expressed in the special Hebrew name for God, which is never pronounced. The LORD himself will later reveal to Moses the meaning of this intimate name of Israel's own God as 'God of mercy and forgiveness'. This sacred personal name of the LORD is never pronounced, partly out of respect (for the glory of the LORD is too awesome for that name to be on human lips), but partly also out of fondness, just as we do not noise around in public the intimate terms of affection which are used only within our close family circle.

What does this reading say to us about our relationship and conversation with God?

Second Reading: *Baptized into Christ*

Colossians 2:12-14

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him; he has forgiven us all our sins. He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

In this striking passage from Colossians we are presented with the compelling force of Paul's powerful image about our sharing in Christ's death and resurrection. Our life is hidden with Christ in God; since we were baptised into Christ's death we are raised in his resurrection; we emerge with Christ from the tomb, sharing his life, co-heirs with him and calling God our Father. Paul sees the sin of Adam not as something which happened long, long ago, but as a metaphor for our own sin, because 'Adam' means 'man' or 'humanity'. This sin, every sin, is a sin of disobedience to God. Christ is, in Pauline thought, the Second Adam. By his obedience to his Father on the Cross he wiped away, dissolved or overrode the sin of disobedience of the first Adam, the sin of humanity. The sacrifice of Christ on the Cross is the complete expression of obedience to the Father, which restores our loving relationship with him. This is strongly expressed when Paul says that Christ nailed to the Cross the record of our debt to the Law. Circumcision was of no avail; it was only by being baptised into Christ's death and raised in his resurrection that we could be restored.

What does this passage teach us about our life in Christ?

“The sacrifice of Christ on the Cross... restores our loving relationship with the Father.”

The Wednesday Word: *Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God* w:
www.wednesdayword.org e: info@wednesdayword.org