



Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians and St Lawrence

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13th September 2020 – Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year

Psalter Week 4

Second Collection – For the Holy Places in the Holy Land

First Reading:	Ecclesiasticus 27:30 – 28:7
Psalm:	<i>The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.</i>
Second Reading:	St Paul to the Romans 14:7-9
Gospel Alleluia:	<i>Alleluia, Alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!</i>
Gospel:	Matthew 18:21-35

Saturday 12th September **6.30pm** **Vigil Mass** (*The People of the Parish*)

Sunday 13th September **10.30am** **Mass** (*Francis John Morris RIP*)

Monday 14th September **10.00am** **Mass** (*Jean & Michael Griffin RIP*)
THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - Feast

Tuesday 15th September **10.00am** **Mass** (*Sydney Ayles RIP*)
Our Lady of Sorrows

Wednesday 16th September **No Mass**
Ss Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

Thursday 17th September **10.00am** **Mass** (*Bernadette Barrett-John Int*)
St Robert Bellarmine, Bishop & Doctor

Friday 18th September **10.00am** **Mass** (*Fr D Hildebrand Van Reyk OSB RIP*)
Feria
(Bozeat Cemetery) **3.00pm** **Funeral of Margaret Agnes Holt**

Saturday 19th September **10.00am** **Mass** (*Olufela Ogunro Int - sick*)
St Theodore of Canterbury, Bishop – Op Memoria

Saturday 19th September **6.30pm** **Vigil Mass** (*The People of the Parish*)

Sunday 20th September **10.30am** **Mass** (*Delfin & Crispina Sermonia RIP*)



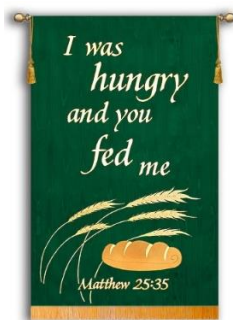
PUBLIC MASSES AND LITURGIES – The obligation to attend Mass on a Sunday continues to be dispensed, by the Bishops of England and Wales, at this time, therefore we will continue to ‘Live Stream’ all Masses except on Wednesdays. Those of you that do attend the church for Mass are asked to carefully follow the guidance of the Stewards. The booking-in system for Mass, particularly at weekends, is still in place. If you haven’t already done so, please contact Denise with your preferences. We cannot guarantee a place to anyone who is not booked in. If you have any concerns, please contact Fr David or Deacon Peter.

The new Government Restrictions coming into force on Monday will not affect what we do here at Mass. We have kept rigorously to the 2 metre distance rule, regularly clean the church, ensure that people sanitise when they enter and leave the building, have restricted movement around the church as much as possible, ensure everyone entering is wearing a mask, and have a booking-in system for attendance.

Government Guidelines require the wearing of a Face Mask in all places of worship.

Thank You

A huge thank you to everyone who was involved in the organisation of last Sunday’s Mass in the garden – especially the stewards and those who were able to come to the Mass or watch it via the live stream. It was a lovely occasion and we were blessed with some lovely weather – Deo gratias!

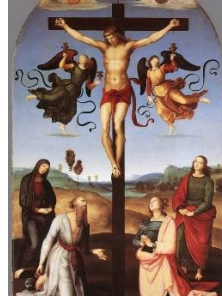


We continue to be very grateful to all of you who have been supporting the Food Bank – Catholics, Anglicans and others. The donation box remains outside the presbytery door and is checked frequently. The Food Bank continues to need donations of:
Long Life Milk – Long Life Juice – Tinned Rice Pudding – Tinned Custard – Tinned Meat – Tinned Vegetables – Tinned Tomatoes – Pasta Sauce - Spreads

MASS OFFERINGS (STIPENDS) – If you have any Mass intentions to be offered, please contact Fr David, Deacon Peter or Denise. Please do include the full name of the person for whom you want the Mass to be offered, whether they are alive or deceased. There are available dates during September and October.



SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION – If anyone would like to go to Confession, please contact Fr David by email or call round to the presbytery. Confessions will not be held in the confessional but in a safe place and with appropriate distancing, in compliance with the guidelines.



The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

The one symbol most often identified with Jesus and his Church is the cross. On Monday we celebrate The Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This feast traces its beginning to Jerusalem and the dedication of the church built on the site of Mount Calvary in 335. But the meaning of the cross is deeper than any city, any celebration, any building. The cross is a sign of suffering, a sign of human cruelty at its worst. But by Christ's love shown in the Paschal Mystery, it has become the sign of triumph and victory, the sign of God, who is love itself. Believers have always looked to the cross in times of suffering. People in concentration camps, in prisons, in hospitals, in any place of suffering and loneliness, have been known to draw, trace, or form crosses and focus their eyes and hearts on them. The cross does not explain pain and misery; it does not give us any easy answers; but it does help us to see our lives united with Christ's. We often make the Sign of the Cross over ourselves; we make it before prayer to help fix our minds and hearts on God; we make it after prayer, hoping to stay close to God. In trials and temptations, the cross is a sign of strength and protection, it is the sign of the fullness of life that is ours. At Baptism, too, the Sign of the Cross is used; the priest, parents, and godparents make the sign on the forehead of the child – 'claiming the child for Christ'. On this special feast let us look to the cross often; let us make the Sign of the Cross and realise we bring our whole selves to God—our minds, souls, bodies, thoughts and hearts; everything we are and will become.



Harvest Mass – Sunday 27th September

Advance Notice – we will be celebrating a Harvest Mass on **Sunday 27th September at 10.30am**. Weather permitting, we are hoping to hold this in the garden at Our Lady's. All contributions will go to the Food Bank – non-perishable items please.

Academy of the Annunciation

This new teaching institute has been set up to help Catholics deepen their knowledge of their Faith and to assist the Church in the New Evangelisation. Our world needs the message of our Faith but it also needs believers who know about the Faith and who can give answers when faced with questions. If you would like to know more, then click on this link: <https://www.aoa-edu.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Invitation-to-AoA.pdf>

The Academy is holding an informal Opening Evening on Zoom on Wednesday 16th September at 8.00pm. For more details, please see their website: <http://www.aoa-edu.com>

From Fr David's Desk..... Reflection: Memorial of Pope St Cornelius and St Cyprian

*On Wednesday the Church celebrates the memory of two great Bishops – Pope Cornelius of Rome (d. 253) and Cyprian of Carthage (210-258). Both died during persecutions. Both wrote to each other and supported each other in difficult times. From Cyprian we gave a deep sense of the respect in which the Church of Rome was held by Christians and the importance of the Pope as a rock of unity for the Church. You can find some of their writings and those of early Christian thinkers at <https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/>
The following reading is taken from St Cyprian's own trial and martyrdom, written by eyewitnesses and taken from the official records of the trial.*

On the morning of 14 September a huge crowd gathered at Villa Sexti as the proconsul Galerius Maximus had ordered. The proconsul commanded that Bishop Cyprian be brought to trial before him as he sat in judgement in the court called Sauciolum.

When the bishop appeared the proconsul asked him: 'Are you Thascius Cyprian?'

The bishop replied: 'I am.'

'And have you acted as leader in a community of impious men?'

'I have.'

'The sacred emperors have ordered you to sacrifice.'

'I will not sacrifice.'

'Consider your position.'

'Do what is required of you. I have no need to deliberate; the issues are clear.'

Galerius consulted briefly with his advisers and reluctantly pronounced sentence in the following words: 'You have lived in an irreligious manner for a long time now and have gathered about you a large congregation of criminals and unbelievers. You have shown yourself hostile to the gods of Rome and the rites by which they are worshipped. The pious and sacred emperors Valerian and his son, Gallienus, and the right noble Caesar, Valerian, have been unable to recall you to the practice of the official religion. Furthermore, you are the instigator of abominations, a veritable standard-bearer for criminals and as such you have been brought before me. Your death will be an example to those whom you have gathered into your criminal conspiracy. Your blood will uphold the law.' He then pronounced the following sentence from his wax tablet: 'It is our decision that Thascius Cyprian be put to death by the sword.'

Bishop Cyprian simply said, 'Thanks be to God.'

When sentence had been passed the assembled brethren cried out: 'Let us be beheaded with him!' and followed him in a huge and tumultuous crowd. Cyprian was brought to the plain of Sextus. There he removed his cloak and kneeling down he humbled himself in prayer to God. He disrobed and gave his dalmatic to the deacons. Clad only in his linen tunic he awaited his executioner.

When the executioner arrived Cyprian told his followers to give him twenty-five gold pieces. His brethren spread before him linen cloths and towels. The blessed Cyprian blindfolded his eyes with his own hands. The presbyter Julian and the subdeacon Julian tied the ends of the handkerchief since he was unable to do so himself. So died blessed Cyprian.

His body was exposed nearby to satisfy the curiosity of the pagans. During the night the body was removed by the light of wax candles and torches, and with prayer and great pomp it was brought for burial to a piece of open ground belonging to the procurator Macrobius Candidianus near the reservoirs on the Mappalian Way. A few days later the proconsul Galerius Maximus died. The blessed Cyprian suffered martyrdom on 14 September, under the emperors Valerian and Gallienus, but in the reign of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory for ever. Amen.

May Our Lady, Help of Christians, St Joseph, St Lawrence, Ss Cornelius and Cyprian, and St Rita pray for us all.

With our love and prayers,

Fr David and Deacon Peter