



Our Lady Help of Christians & St Helens

Sunday 6th August - 27th August 2017

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Whisstock 27 Milton Rd, Westcliff-on-sea, SS0 7JP.

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Reflection for 6th August 2017 By Fr Adrian Graffy

The Transfiguration of The Lord - Year A

Gospel reading: Matthew 17:1-9)

Other readings: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14, 2 Peter 1:16-19

Since it is a Feast of the Lord, the Transfiguration takes precedence over the ordinary Sunday celebration whenever 6th August falls on a Sunday. The Gospel of the Transfiguration is read, as it is every year on the Second Sunday of Lent, when we recall the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, all of whom recount the incident, it is found just as Jesus is beginning his journey to Jerusalem, where he will be arrested, tortured and executed. The Transfiguration provides a glimpse of something beyond the apparent tragedy of the Cross. Jesus is at prayer and it is at this moment that the disciples witness a transformation. In Matthew both his face and his garments are miraculously changed, suggesting something beyond our experience.

The vision seen by the three disciples is further enriched by the presence of Moses and Elijah, who can be understood as bearing witness to Jesus. It is they who along with so many prophets and holy people have prepared for the coming of the Messiah.

The cloud and the voice are also part of this experience. As on so many occasions in the Old Testament they speak of the presence of God. The climax comes when God speaks, calling Jesus his 'beloved Son', and commanding the disciples to 'listen'.

As Jesus makes his way to Jerusalem, courageously facing whatever will meet him there, the disciples are encouraged to follow his way. They may well face suffering and even death, but the way of Jesus truly leads to life. The event so struck the three disciples that they never forgot it, and it became a valuable part of the gospel witness to Jesus, assuring all faithful disciples of future glory.

Why do we celebrate the Transfiguration of Jesus?

What is the sense of the presence of Moses and Elijah?

We thank God for the faithful witness of Christ, who encourages us on our journey.

We pray for a deeper appreciation of the witness of the prophets and evangelists.

MARRIAGE MATTERS (www.twainoneflesh.org.uk)

The Transfiguration of the Lord- *Seeing you in a new light*

At His Baptism and His Transfiguration, Jesus appeared to His disciples in a new light. That happens in relationships. We are all 'different'. Our background and experiences affect our responses to situations and reveal different 'sides' of our personality. Sharing thoughts and feelings about these can be painful or joyful, yet can lead us to make new and better choices.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for August

Artists – That through their creativity, artists of our time may help everyone discover the beauty of creation.

Please pray for the sick especially;

Vincent MacCormac, Ivan Litynski and Betty Jay

PARISH DIARY: Sunday 20th August

2pm - Lourdes Reunion in the parish hall.

Time to catch up with everyone over a cup of tea and show photographs of the pilgrimage. **Contact Sue Baillie 07979 746707**

Instruction in the Catholic Faith

Are you over 18 and wishing to find out more about the Catholic faith or do you know somebody else who does? Looking for a friendly and supportive group to help you with your enquiries? Then come to an introductory meeting on **Tuesday 12th September 2017 at 7pm in the small hall.** No need to book, just turn up! *Fr Joseph*

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 6th August – Transfiguration of The Lord

9.30am Carol Woods RIP
11.15am People of Parish
6pm Patricia Kelly (Anniversary)

Monday 7th August

9.15am Mass @ Nazareth House

Tuesday 8th August – St Dominic

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Wednesday 9th August – St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Thursday 10th August – St Lawrence

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Friday 11th August – St Clare

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

1pm – 4pm Exposition in the Adoration Chapel

Saturday 12th August

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

No Confessions

6pm Polish Mass

Sunday 13th August – Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am C.W.L – Member's Intentions

11.15am Maria Perca RIP

6pm Parish Community

Monday 14th August – St Maximilian Kolbe

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Tuesday 15th August – Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Day of Obligation

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

12.15pm Holy Souls (Burzotta)

No Mass @ 8pm (see box)

Wednesday 16th August

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Thursday 17th August

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Friday 18th August – St Helen

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

1pm – 4pm Exposition in the Adoration Chapel

Saturday 19th August

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

No Confessions

6pm Polish Mass

Sunday 20th August – Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am People of Parish

11.15am Canon Peter Gilbert RIP

6pm William Bannon RIP

Monday 21st August – St Pius X

9.15am Holy Souls (Parish)

Tuesday 22nd August – The Queenship of the Mary

9.15am Ann Durrant RIP

Wednesday 23rd August

9.15am S J David Durrant RIP

Thursday 24th August – St Bartholomew

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Friday 25th August

12.15pm Mary Agnes Durrant RIP

Followed by Exposition in the Adoration Chapel until 4pm

Saturday 26th August

10.30am Mother de Sales Driscoll RIP

11am Confessions & Exposition

6pm Polish Mass

Sunday 27th August – Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Jane Bannon RIP

11.15am Parish Community

6pm Private Intention

Mass Times for the Assumption @ John Fisher Prittlewell: 7.30pm Our Lady of Lourdes, Leigh: 8pm

Please note the times of Masses are correct at time of print. Announcements of any changes will be given during Sunday Mass.

Reflection for 13th August 2017 By Fr Adrian Graffy
Nineteenth Sunday - in the Year A
Gospel reading: *Matthew 14:22-33*
Other readings: 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13, Romans 9:1-5

Three of the gospel writers, Matthew, Mark and John, give us an account of Jesus walking on the water. It is an extraordinary miracle, which seems to be a manifestation of the power of Jesus. The Old Testament reading chosen to accompany this gospel is the revelation of God to Elijah in the 'sound of a gentle breeze', the 'still, small voice'. The evangelists place the story of the walking on the water directly after the multiplication of the loaves. Just as the loaves miracle reminds us of the provision of manna in the desert, the walking on the sea recalls God's power over the sea at the Exodus.

Matthew's account of the miracle has two special features. When he attempts to walk on the water, Peter is overcome with doubt and is upheld by Jesus. The gospel in which Peter is entrusted with authority also testifies to his vulnerability. In Matthew's version too the story ends with a declaration of faith by the disciples. While in Mark's account they remain confused and questioning, here they declare Jesus to be 'the Son of God'. Matthew is surely indicating how Christians should understand this story. In the reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans Paul begins to speak about the situation of his Jewish brothers and sisters. He is profoundly grieved that they have not recognised Jesus as the promised Messiah. In the following sections of the letter (Romans 9-11) Paul will explore and explain what God's intentions are in relation to the chosen people.

How do I react when my faith is tested by the storms of life?

Do I trust in the helping hand of the Lord when I am out of my depth?

We pray for confidence and serenity amid the trials of life.

We pray for the Jewish people that they may remain faithful to God's covenant.

MARRIAGE MATTERS (www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

Nineteenth Sunday - *Walking on water...falling through fear*

Peter got out of the boat but, with fear of sinking, he took his eyes off Jesus. Life today is like travelling in a small boat on the rough sea of secularism that mocks religion and seeks to end traditional marriage. Life's storms can change into a gentler breeze when we get out of our boat and walk with Jesus.

Reflection for 20th August 2017 By Fr Adrian Graffy
Twentieth Sunday - in the Year A

Gospel reading: *Matthew 15:21-28*

Other readings: 1 Kings 11:13-15, 29-32 Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

One of the important issues in the ministry of Jesus is his attitude to foreigners, those who were not of the Jewish faith, known as 'Gentiles' or 'pagans'. The Gospel of Matthew is particularly keen to show that Jesus is the fulfilment of Jewish hopes. He is the Jewish Messiah. Earlier in the gospel, during the Missionary Discourse in chapter 10, Jesus had instructed his disciples to avoid the Gentiles and preach only to the 'lost sheep' of Israel. But Jesus has now entered the pagan region of Tyre and Sidon. When confronted with the Canaanite woman he ignores her and then affirms that his own mission is limited to Israel.

The persistence in faith of the pagan woman is sufficiently strong to obtain a healing for her daughter. We might ask why Jesus is so harsh with her. Is it simply that, knowing her faith, he tests her to express it? After all, earlier in the gospel, in chapter 8, Jesus had cured the servant of the Roman centurion and praised his faith.

The good news of the Kingdom is to be preached to all, but the initial priority of Jesus is to bring the gospel to his own people. The mission to the nations had already been hinted at in the visit of the magi from distant lands to the new-born child. It will be the mission of the Church to teach all nations, as the Risen Lord will make clear at the end of the Gospel of Matthew.

In the excerpt from the Letter to the Romans Paul declares that he has been made apostle to the nations. He is nevertheless convinced that it is God's purpose to bring his own Jewish brothers and sisters, as well as the pagans, to life in Christ. The faith of the nations will in time convince Israel that the God of all peoples has been revealed in Jesus Christ.

Is my faith resilient when I am faced with trials?

Do I rejoice in the faith of the nations which is displayed in the Catholic Church?

We pray that Christ's message of hope may reach all people.

We pray for the Jewish people that they may know the fullness of God's mercy.

MARRIAGE MATTERS (www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

Twentieth Sunday - *Trust in each other*

When we married, we promised 'to love one another until death do us part'. In this promise we are called to put all our trust in each other, to persevere, no matter what life brings. This theme of trust is evident in the way the Canaanite woman believed that, if she persevered, Jesus would cure her daughter. He did!

Deanery & Diocesan Notices

Saturday 19th August – A Day with Mary @ St Anne Line, Grove Crescent, South Woodford, London E18

Starts 9.15am in parish hall, 10.30am Sung Litany Mass (Please bring packed lunch) Finish approx. 5pm Full Information www.adaywithmary.org

Friday 25th August – A Day with Our Lady Queen of Peace @ St Cedd's Goodmayes. High Road, Ilford Essex. Starts 1.30pm until 6pm See poster at back of church or contact Carmen 01277 821886 or 07738 595534

Thursday 21st September – BCCS Afternoon Tea

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society will be holding an **Ladies' Afternoon Tea** at The Rayleigh Club, Hulbridge. Afternoon Tea will be served at 2pm, ladies will be greeted with a glass of Bucks Fizz. Afternoon tea consists of finger sandwiches, scones and clotted cream, homemade cakes and sweet treats, all served with tea or coffee. Tickets cost £20 per person, we would recommend reserving your place as soon possible. Contact Libby on 01268 784544 / lphillips@bccs.org.uk www.bccs.org.uk

Friday 20th – Sunday 22nd October 2017 - Young Catholic Adult Weekend @ Douai Abbey

Are you 18-40, do you want to deepen your knowledge of the Catholic faith, learn its devotions and meet like minded people? Young Catholic Adults are organizing a weekend at Douai Abbey in Berkshire with Lawrence Lew O.P., and Canon Poucin ICKSP. You'll be able to hear catechetical talks, learn how to sing Gregorian Chant, say the Rosary, socialize and have fun. Places are limited! To Book: <https://v1.bookwhen.com/youngcatholicadults-douai2017>

Monday 28th May to Saturday 2nd June 2018 - Pilgrimage to Poland

led by Father Stephen, Holy Family Dagenham. Price £546 per person includes: Half Board Accommodation. Full services of a guide Coach as per itinerary visiting Czestochowa, Auschwitz, Wieliczka, Krakow, Wadowice, Zakopane Entrance charge to Salt Mine Documentary film in Auschwitz Entrances to Wawel Cathedral and St Mary's Church Krakow. Plus Flight charge of approx £170 insurance price is £32 if required. Please phone Gill Didino at Tangney Tours on 01732 884444.

Saturday, 21st October - RSCM-EEL Annual Choral Festival 2017.

This year our Festival will be a very special occasion celebrating the Centenary of the Diocese of Brentwood. It will be held in Brentwood Cathedral 10am – 5pm with the Festival Thanksgiving Service at 4pm. The service will be conducted by Andrew Wright, Master of Music at Brentwood Cathedral. **We invite all singers to join us for a memorable and enjoyable day of singing finishing with our Thanksgiving Service.** Individual singers are warmly welcomed, as are members of all choirs, robed or unrobed. The choirs of Chelmsford and Brentwood Cathedrals will be joining us for the Service. The music this year has been specially chosen and is included in a booklet which has been printed for us by the Royal School of Church Music. Copies of the booklet £5 and further information from shirleytimmins@btinternet.com.

Brentwood Youth Notices: Lourdes, Summer 2017 –

turn your computer on, and enjoy the "virtual pilgrimage." Video clips of 2-10 minutes capture the flavour of the recent Diocesan pilgrimage, including all the homilies, and interviews with Bishop Alan and Fr Bob Hamill. You can find these via www.bcys.net or search "Virtual Pilgrimage – Lourdes 2017" on YouTube

World Youth Day, Panama, January 2019.

If you will be in year 12, or aged 17-27, in January 2019, then join the BCYS group travelling to Costa Rica and Panama for an encounter with 2 million young people from all over the world, and the Pope. This is truly a "once in a lifetime" experience and an amazing opportunity to discover and celebrate faith in Latin America. For more information, visit www.bcys.net or email frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org by 15th September 2017.

Notice for any curtain makers!

If you have sewing expertise, can you help to adapt some heavy lined velvet curtains to make the Confessional box more sound proof? If you can help, please contact Peter Fitzgerald who has the curtains.

Telephone: 07973 123165

Many Thanks Fr Joseph

St Helen's Catholic Church Building & Restoration Fund

For the week to 23rd July, £3 was collected from envelopes. When grossed up for gift aid this comes to £4 against a weekly target of £150. The cumulative position for the 12 weeks since the re launch is that £638 (including gift aid tax relief) has been collected against a 12 week target of £1,800 and an annual target of £8,000.

Thank you, Fr Joseph & Parish Finance Team

If you are able to help clean the church on Friday mornings from 9.30am for one hour, please sign up on the form at the back of church. Thank you Fr Joseph