



# Our Lady Help of Christians & St Helens

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August - 17<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

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## Reflection for 27<sup>th</sup> August 2017 By Fr Adrian Graffy

Twenty-first Sunday - in the Year A

Gospel reading: *Matthew 16:13-20*

Other Readings: *Isaiah 22: 19-23 Romans 11: 33-36*

All the Gospels and the synoptic gospels (Mark, Matthew and Luke) in particular, witness to the growth in faith of the disciples of Jesus. In the synoptic gospels a point of climax is reached when Jesus asks his disciples the question: 'Who do you say I am?' It is a question which all Christians must answer. Peter speaks up and declares his belief, perhaps also shared by the others, that Jesus is the promised Messiah. What is special in Matthew's story of Peter's profession of faith is the commissioning of Peter which follows. Faith leads to a mission. The words of Jesus to Peter 'You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church' have been understood as the basis for the special role of the bishop of Rome, the successor of Peter, in relation to the whole church. In their varying ways each of the gospels testifies to the leadership role of Peter. The words of Jesus to Peter in Matthew's gospel are words of assurance, for it is Christ who will build the Church and Christ who endows Peter with authority.

The reading ends with Jesus instructing the disciples to tell nobody he was the Christ. The title of 'Christ' or 'Messiah' was understood in various ways, and Jesus had reservations that he might be misunderstood as a worldly leader. The true role of the Messiah will be taken up again in next Sunday's gospel reading. In the second reading St Paul praises the providential wisdom of God.

*What is the role of Jesus the Messiah in my understanding?*

*What does it mean to say that Jesus founded the Church?*

*We pray for the Pope that he may show the wisdom and love of Christ in all his actions.*

*We pray that the Church may be a place of welcome, hope and encouragement for all.*

### MARRIAGE MATTERS ([www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk](http://www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk))

#### Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time - The key to family life

Today's Gospel places keys at the heart of the responsibility Jesus gives Peter. In spite of his weaknesses and failings, because of his faith, he is entrusted with the 'keys' to the kingdom of God.

Our married love is entrusted with the 'keys' of our family life. We are the 'rock' upon which the future of our family will be built.

### Please pray for the recently departed especially; **Betty Jay RIP.**

Her funeral service will take place here at around 10am (exact time to be confirmed) on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September followed by burial at Sutton Road Cemetery at 11.15am.

*Please keep Betty and her family in your prayers*

### Please pray for the sick especially;

Vincent MacCormac and Niqui Denkmeyer

### PARISH DIARY

#### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

9am - Men's Prayer Breakfast

11.15am - 12.15pm - Bereavement Group (Small Hall)

#### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September

2pm - Friendship Club

#### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September

2pm - 3.30pm - Bible Alive - Prayerful discussion on the scriptures (Sacristy)

#### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September

2pm - 3.30pm - Bible Alive - Prayerful discussion on the scriptures (Sacristy)

7pm - R.C.I.A Inaugural meeting in small hall

#### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September

6.30pm - Confirmation session (Hall)

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7pm in the small hall.**

No need to book, just turn up! *Fr Joseph*

### The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for September

*Parishes* - That our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.

## MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August - Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Jane Bannon RIP

11.15am Private Intention

1pm Tamil Mass

6pm Parish Community

### Monday 28<sup>th</sup> August - St Augustine

9.30am Robert Barton RIP

### Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August - The Passion of St John the Baptist

9.15am Rev Richard Barton RIP

### Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August

8.15am S J David Durrant RIP

### Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August

9.15am Thomas Barton RIP

### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September - St Sebbi, King of the East Saxons

12.15pm Babies in Danger of Abortion

*Followed by Exposition in the Adoration Chapel until 4pm*

### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> September

10.30am F.I.H.M - Intention

11am Confessions & Exposition

6pm Polish Mass

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Daniel Cauchi & Family - Intentions

11.15am Parish Community

6pm Parish Intention

### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September

8.15am Elizabeth Barton RIP

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

### Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September - The Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

1pm - 4pm *Exposition in the Adoration Chapel*

### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September

10.30am Holy Souls (Burzotta)

11am Confessions & Exposition

6pm Polish Mass

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September - Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Private Intention

11.15am Desmond Byrne RIP

6pm People of Parish

### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September

10am Funeral Service: Betty Jay RIP (followed by burial)

{4.15pm *Deanery Mass @ St Bernard's School - for all those working in Education*}

### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September

9.15am John Herbert Littleton RIP

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September - St John Chrysostom

9.15am William Barton RIP

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September - Exaltation (Triumph) of the Holy Cross

{9.30am *School Mass @ St Helen's School*} Emma Louisa Barton RIP

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September - Our Lady of Sorrows

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

1pm - 4pm *Exposition in the Adoration Chapel*

### Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September - Ss Cornelius & Cyprian

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

No Confessions

{*Noon Mass @ Brentwood Cathedral: Silver Jubilee of Ordination of Fr Stewart Foster*}

6pm Polish Mass

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September - Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### Home Mission Day

9.30am C.W.L - Member's Intentions

11.15am Parish Community

6pm Private Intention

**Second Collection on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September is for Home Mission**

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

**Reflection for 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2017 By Fr Adrian Graffy**  
**Twenty-Second Sunday - in the Year A**  
Gospel reading: *Matthew 16:21-27*  
Other readings: Jeremiah 20:7-9 Romans 12:1-2

Last week we heard Peter's profession of faith in Jesus as the Messiah and the words spoken by Christ to Peter: 'You are Peter and on this rock I will build my church.' The conversation between Jesus and Peter continues in today's gospel and takes a very different turn. The suffering and death of Jesus will cast a shadow over the rest of the gospel.

Peter is shocked to hear Jesus speak for the first time of his approaching suffering, death and resurrection, shocked that the Messiah should suffer such a fate. Amid the differing opinions about God's Messiah, there was no expectation of suffering and death. Jesus himself, however, understood that the Messiah was also to be a 'suffering servant'.

The lesson for Peter is a lesson for all. Whatever our position in the Church we must be open to the unexpected ways of God, ready to learn new things, not to prefer 'man's way' to God's. The Christian is not called to position and prosperity in this world, but to self-sacrifice in the service of others. This is a constant challenge, which will often lead us on narrow and difficult paths. We can only face this reality knowing that Jesus has trodden the path before us, and that this road leads to the fullness of life.

The first reading, from one of the 'confessions' of the prophet Jeremiah, reveals the prophet's struggle and enduring commitment to preaching the word.

*Am I open to the unexpected ways of God?*

*What are the crosses in my life that I refuse to carry willingly?*

*Let us pray for the courage and endurance we need in our Christian lives.*

*Let us pray for all who seek to alleviate the sufferings of others.*

**MARRIAGE MATTERS** ([www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk](http://www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk))

**Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - The 'sign' of growth is change**  
St Paul urges us to think of God's mercy and change the way we behave so that the will of God is visible in us. As husbands and wives we can help each other in this endeavor, so that a renewed and deeper love is revealed in our relationship and, in turn, reflected out to our family, friends and community.

**Reflection for 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017 By Fr Adrian Graffy**  
**Twenty-third Sunday - in the Year A**  
Gospel reading: *Matthew 18:15-20*  
Other Readings: Ezekiel 33: 7-9 Romans 13: 8-10

The Gospel of Matthew contains five great speeches of Jesus, in which it appears that the evangelist has gathered together the teaching of Jesus on particular themes. Chapter 18 of the gospel contains the 'community discourse', which deals with issues relevant to the daily life of the church.

The question of correction of those who do wrong cannot be avoided. It is the responsibility of fellow-Christians to challenge and correct. The prophet Ezekiel deals with a similar issue: the responsibility of the prophet to confront wickedness. In both cases there is a need to speak the truth in difficult circumstances.

The gospel passage goes on to speak of the authority of the church to 'bind and loose', which is precisely the authority given to Peter earlier in his dialogue with Christ in chapter 16. Peter must always speak for and with the church, for and with the community of those who follow Christ. Finally, Jesus tells us of his presence when even two or three gather in his name. We are encouraged to listen to others before making decisions about the life of the church.

St Paul's words in the second reading are surely relevant here: 'Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour.' Love might be defined as acting for the real good of the other person. In dealing with sensitive issues in the life of the church love must always be the guide, but it is sometimes quite difficult to work out what love requires.

*How can you know if and how to correct someone who has done wrong?*

*Can love of neighbour become an excuse for collusion?*

*Let us pray for wisdom and courage to confront difficult situations with both love and truth.*

*Let us pray for a deeper awareness of the presence of Christ when we gather in his name.*

**MARRIAGE MATTERS** ([www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk](http://www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk))

**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - To listen is to Love**  
Matthew reminds us of Jesus' promise "...where two or more meet in my name I will be with them". In all the practical ways we look after each other, we are saying; 'your concerns are my concerns'. Nothing is too small or insignificant in our marriage, and my beloved is beside me to call me back to our life together.

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

**St Helen's Parish Notices**

**Wednesday 30th August - Fundraising Brunch at II Pescatore at 11am 4 Queens Road Southend**  
**£10 per person raffle included.** Further details 01702 432458 or from the church shop at St Helens.

**Every Tuesday in the Sacristy (Term-time only)**  
**Prayerful Discussion on Scriptures from the Bible Alive Publication - 2pm - 3.30pm**  
Led by Pat Walker. For more info contact him on 07405 621416  
First session starts on 5<sup>th</sup> September - All welcome!

**10<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017 - Pilgrimage to Fatima & The Eucharistic Miracle of Santarem 1917 - 2017:**  
Centenary £760 per person sharing. Transfer from Parish St Helen 6 nights, 6 days breakfast, lunch and dinner included.  
**There are still 3 places available!!**  
**(one twin room for two to share, plus one single)**  
For more information Contact Salvatore: 07753 203129 or Patricia: 01702 432458 or 07946 687623

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018 - St Helen's Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

By air. Staying at the fabulous 4\* Hotel Grande Moderne closest to the Sanctuaries. Full board basis. All rooms are en-suite. Price is £630 per person based upon 2 people sharing a room. Full spiritual programme and free time. **£100 deposit secures place!**  
For further info contact Sue Baillie on 07979 746707

**Steward of the Gospels**

*The next phase of consultation is complete. A report has been put together by Steven Webb and is available on our website*

[www.shwos.co.uk](http://www.shwos.co.uk)

*Any questions you have regarding the article please contact Fr Joseph or Andy Downey (Steward of the Gospels) gabyreal2002@yahoo.co.uk*

**St Helen's Catholic Church Building & Restoration Fund**

For the 4 weeks to 20th August £84 was collected from envelopes and cash. When grossed up for gift aid this comes to £102 against a 4 weekly target of £600. The cumulative position for the 16 weeks since the relaunch is that £740 (including gift aid tax relief) has been collected against a 16 week target of £2,450 and an annual target of £8,000. We can only maintain St Helen's with your help, the Collection box is at the back of church. *Thank you, Fr Joseph & Parish Finance Team*

**Deanery & Diocesan Notices**

**Catholic History Walks in London**

**Wednesday 30th August - Lift up your heads, O Gates!** 2pm and 6pm - a walk to and around the historic city of London, beginning at the Church of the Most Precious Blood, The Borough (Nearest Tube: Borough or London Bridge.)

**Tuesday 4th September - For King and Country** At 6.30pm Catholics and politics, St Thomas More, Guy Fawkes, Pugin, Parliament and the Abbey. Meet on the steps of Westminster Cathedral. (Nearest Tube: Victoria.)  
For more information email [chwalkslondon@gmail.com](mailto:chwalkslondon@gmail.com) or see [catholichistorywalks.com](http://catholichistorywalks.com) Cost: £5

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:lphillips@bccs.org.uk) [www.bccs.org.uk](http://www.bccs.org.uk)

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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>

**Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:shirleytimmins@btinternet.com).