



Our Lady Help of Christians & St Helens

Sunday 8th – 22nd July 2018

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

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Reflection for 8th July 2018 By Fr Adrian Graffy Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year B)

Gospel reading: Mark 6:1-6

Other readings: Ezekiel 2:2-5 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

This gospel reading gives us an account of the visit of Jesus to his 'home town', which we know to be Nazareth. Just as he has already done in Capernaum, here too he teaches in the synagogue on the Sabbath. But the reaction of the townspeople is not positive. How can this local man be gifted with so many fine qualities? They are determined to find fault with his wisdom and with his actions. They go on to speak of his family. They know his mother, and they know his relations. His humble origins rule out anything special. 'And they would not accept him.' The sense of the Greek word used here suggests they were determined to find excuses for not accepting him. John's gospel will express this with the momentous words: 'He came to his own, and his own would not accept him.' (John 1:11). This passage is important in the unfolding drama of the gospel. It was not only the religious and political leaders who were against Jesus. Jesus quotes what seems to be a common proverb in antiquity: 'A prophet is only despised in his own home.' The passage ends with the strange remark that 'he could work no miracles there'. The healing work of Jesus is not forced on those who do not wish to receive it, and who are not open to the new deeds the Lord is doing.

The text from the prophet Ezekiel confirms that, like Jesus, the ancient prophets of Israel often experienced rejection. St Paul, facing 'a thorn in the flesh', hears those comforting words of the Lord: 'My grace is enough for you.' We too should trust the goodness of God in our efforts to witness to Christ.

What does the rejection of Jesus in Nazareth teach us?

What do you think motivated the attitude of Jesus' compatriots?

Let us pray for those who face opposition because they live according to the values of the gospel.

Let us pray for missionaries and for those who witness to the truth amid injustice.

Please pray for the recently departed especially;
Vincent MacCormac RIP who died on Thursday 21st June.
Requiem Mass for Vincent will take place here at 10.15am on Wednesday 18th July followed by cremation at Sutton Road.
Please keep him and his families in your prayers

Andrew Deans RIP Ann Deans would like to thank everyone for their kind help & support, prayers and Mass offerings for her husband whose funeral took place on 28th June.

PARISH DIARY

Tuesday's 10th & 17th July

2pm – 3pm – Bible Study Group in the Sacristy

Wednesday's 11th & 18th July

10.30am – 12 noon - Ladies Prayer Group in the Sacristy

Sunday 15th July

BBQ after 9.30am Mass – SVP/Children's Liturgy

Monday 16nd July

2pm – Friendship Club

Saturday 21st July

6pm – 10pm - Fund Raising Event for Hall Toilets

See advert overleaf

Sunday 22nd July

2pm – 4pm – SVP Strawberry Tea @ Nazareth House

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 8th July – Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year B)

Sea Sunday

9.30am Con Buckley RIP

11.15am People of Parish

6pm Gianni Baldan RIP

Monday 9th July

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Tuesday 10th July

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Wednesday 11th July – St Benedict

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Thursday 12th July

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Friday 13th July

11.30am Requiem: Regolo Di Mascio RIP

1-4pm Exposition in Adoration Chapel

Saturday 14th July

10.30am Andrew Deans RIP

11am Confessions & Exposition

6pm Polish Mass

Sunday 15th July – Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year B)

9.30am Parish Community

11.15am Joao Lareto - Intention

6pm Private Intention

Monday 16th July

9.15am Hanna Fryer RIP

Tuesday 17th July

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Wednesday 18th July

10.15am Requiem: Vincent MacCormac followed by Cremation

Thursday 19th July

11am Canon Michael Fryer RIP

Friday 20th July

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

{10am Mass @ St Bernard's School: Ann Durrant RIP}

1-4pm Exposition in Adoration Chapel

Saturday 21st July

10.30am S J David Durrant RIP

11am Confessions & Exposition

6pm Polish Mass

Sunday 22nd July – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - (Year B)

9.30am Private Intention

11.15am Parish Community

1pm Tamil Mass

6pm Mary Agnes Durrant RIP

The 2nd Collection for 8th July is for Sea Sunday

Today is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Without them we would not have most of the items we buy in the shops. Today's second collection is for Apostleship of the Sea (AoS), the Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. This collection is vital to enable it to continue its work, so please give generously and remember seafarers in your prayers. Thank you.

To donate online please visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk

Reflection for 15th July 2018 By Fr Adrian Graffy Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year B)

Gospel reading: Mark 6:7-13

Other readings: Amos 7:12-15 Ephesians 1:3-14

Earlier in the gospel, in chapter 3, the evangelist told us of the choice of the Twelve by Jesus. They were to be his companions and to be sent out to preach and cast out devils. It comes as no surprise now that Jesus sends them out in twos 'with authority over unclean spirits'.

Just as Jesus announces the coming of the Kingdom of God by preaching and mighty works, so too will the disciples confirm their preaching by their healing ministry. They are to take no provisions for the journey. They are allowed a staff and sandals, which might have been considered essential for travelling on foot on the rough paths of rural Galilee, but they are not allowed to take provisions of any kind. They must trust that all will be provided. Furthermore, they are to remain at the house of whoever shows them hospitality.

Jesus has already spoken of the rejection of his preaching, the seed not growing to fruition. He has experienced the antagonism of the people of his own home town of Nazareth. He warns here of the lack of welcome the Twelve may experience. Some will be unwilling to listen to them. They are to shake the dust off their feet as they depart, showing that they cut all ties with those who refuse the good news.

The evangelist reports that the disciples, like Jesus, set off to 'preach repentance', and that they 'cast out devils', expelling the evil forces which were thought to cause suffering. We hear for the first time of the anointing of the sick with oil, and their healing. There are no reports in the gospels of Jesus using oil to anoint the sick.

In experiencing rejection both Jesus and the disciples follow in the footsteps of the prophets. Today we hear also of the banishment from Israel of the prophet Amos, who had sought to challenge the injustice practised in the kingdom.

Do you trust in the providence of God?

How can you offer others the good news of Jesus?

Let us pray for openness to the message of the gospel in our society today.

Let us pray for those who are anointed in the Sacrament of the Sick.

St Helen's Parish Notices

Sunday 15th July 2018 – The Children's Liturgy Team & SVP Annual Summer Brunch/B.B.Q after the 9.30am Mass

The Children's Liturgy Team & SVP would like to invite everyone to our annual summer Brunch/B.B.Q after the 9.30 Mass. Daniel will be doing his very tasty Aussie Beef burgers as well as some veggie ones. Should be fun, so see you there.

Saturday 21st July 2018 – Fundraiser for St Helen's Hall Toilets - 6pm – 10pm

St Ann and Joakim association of Southend (Zimbabwe) are hosting a fundraising event at St Helen's Church Hall for renovations of its toilets.

Entrance fee is £10 adults and £5 children under 5 years.

This will include English and African food and drinks.

Let us all support our church for this cause. There will be a raffle with lots of hampers to be won. Entry tickets will be sold in the church and community. Tickets from Bimbani (Bee) Mpande 01702 434764 or 07886744110

St Helen's Catholic Church Building & Restoration Fund

For the week to 1st July £31 was collected from envelopes and cash. When grossed up for gift aid this comes to £36 against a weekly target of £150.

The cumulative position since the relaunch is that £4,107 (including gift aid tax relief) has been collected against a 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

Church Cleaning If you can spare an hour every Friday 9.15am to help clean church. Please just turn up!

Thank you Fr Joseph

Brentwood Diocesan Notices

Thursday - 12th July St. Thomas More High school - Open evening, 6pm to 9pm

for families who have a son due to transfer to secondary school in September 2019 - come and see the school, meet the staff and pupils. **Headteachers talk will begin at 7pm**

Prospective sixth form students for September 2019 are also welcome, although there will be an open evening for students currently in year 10 on Thursday 22nd November 2018.

Parents of boys attending non-Catholic primary schools who wish to apply to St. Thomas More School for a place in September 2019 should complete the local education authority single application form (saf) and fill in the supplementary information form (sif) that can be collected at the open evening. If you are unable to come to the open evening, please contact the school in order to get the supplementary information form. The form can also be downloaded from: WWW.ST-THOMSMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK

Sunday 15th July - Pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory, to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Holy Mass 11.30am. Coach from bus stop opposite Nazareth House.

Fare £15.00. Please bring a packed Lunch. To book seat phone Bernadette 01702 421891 or 07963 300518.

Wednesday 18th July – Afternoon Tea at Nazareth House from 2pm – 5pm.

Raffle & gifts for sale during the afternoon. For more information contact Vivian Moore-Parkinson 01702 351 817

19th – 21st July 2018 - Our Lady of Walsingham visits Brentwood Cathedral

In 2020 the Bishops of England and Wales will be rededicating England as the Dowry of Mary. In preparation for this the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham from the Slipper Chapel will be touring the cathedrals in England for the next two years. The statue will be coming to Brentwood Cathedral as part of this tour.

Saturday 21st July - Helpers of God's Precious Infants - at St Thomas' Woodford

The next London vigil which will start with 9am Holy Mass at St Thomas' Woodford and afterwards processing to Marie Stopes at Buckhurst Hill. On our return we will have refreshments and a get-together in the church hall. This will be led by Fr Jacob Hausman, Franciscan Friar of the Renewal. For more information please contact Margaret Leahy Tel 01727 763832 Email: marg@helpersuk.org Web: www.helpersuk.org

Saturday 28th July – Eighth Annual GK Chesterton Pilgrimage for details see: www.CatholicGKChestertonSociety.co.uk Send us any prayer requests; CatholicGKCSociety@yahoo.co.uk or text to 07795205114"

The St John Bosco Children's Summer Camp at Aldham Essex

This is a activities camp with a Catholic ethos that runs as follows :-

Week 1: Saturday 21st July to 28th July 2018 for Boys

Week 2: Saturday 28th July to 4th August 2018 for Boys

Week 3: Saturday 4th August to 11th August 2018 for Girls

It is for children aged 8 to 13 and costs £145 per week. Should you require an

application form or more information then please look on the

website <http://svpboscocamp.org.uk> For any enquiries then please email the boys camp at boysbookings@boscocamp.co.uk or the girls camp at girlsbookings@boscocamp.co.uk

Calais Light - Ever felt you'd like to help the destitute migrants in Calais but not know where to start? We run regular weekend car convoys from Brentwood Cathedral to chop veg & sort Refugee donations at the amazing Help Refugees UK Warehouse in Calais. Never mind the reasons WHY migrants are in Calais - the fact is they are there now - without resources, hungry, struggling. We feel strongly that part of our Christian mission is to support them one way or another. Please think about this & volunteer with us. If you can't, please donate with compassion at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/calaislight.

Next Trip 28th-30th Sept. Sign up to volunteer on our Facebook page 'Calais Light', email us at calaislight@yahoo.com or check out the Brentwood Cathedral Website.

Job Vacancy: Little Company of Mary Require Cook Part Time/Temporary

Current hours 8.30am – 1.30pm Saturday & Sunday = 10 Hours. Contact Sr Vivian Jones or Sue Carnie Manager Tel 01702 341537 E. westcliffcm@hotmail.com

Confirmation Course @ St Helen's 2018/2019

Are you going to be in Year 9 or above from September 2018? If yes, then you are very welcome to join our confirmation course which is due to commence in September 2018. Your will need to register your interest by calling **Nicola Nevin on 07740 287042 by the 28th July 2018.** So that we can establish numbers and make necessary arrangements. We look forward to hearing from you!

Confirmation Helpers for 2018/2019

We are seeking additional adult helpers to assist with the next confirmation course which will run from September 2018. If you enjoy engaging with young people and have a desire to help them in their faith journey, then this could be for you! **Please call Nicola Nevin on 07740 287042** for more info and a no obligation chat.

Also, if you are a young person who has completed your confirmation course and would like to assist in some way, for example with refreshments, tech kills, set-up or music/singing, I would love to hear from you!!