



Our Lady Help of Christians & St Helens

Sunday 5th – 19th August 2018

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

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Reflection for 5th August 2018 By Fr Adrian Graffy Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year B)

Gospel reading: John 6:24-35

Other readings: Exodus 16:2-4,12-15 Ephesians 4:17,20-24

After the multiplication of the loaves by Jesus, once the crowds have caught up with him again, there is a dialogue concerning the sign Jesus has worked. The crowds have interpreted the sign in a materialistic way. They want to make Jesus their king so that they can be sure of their supply of bread. The sign has not been understood.

Jesus invites them to believe in the one God has sent, but they clamor for a new sign. They disparage Jesus' works by referring to the manna Moses gave in the desert. Once again, Jesus challenges their interpretation. It is God who is the source of all good gifts. The new gift God is giving, if they could accept it, is the gift of himself, the 'bread of life'. The conversation should not be about material survival, but about life in its fullness. The theme of the 'bread of life' will continue as the chapter unfolds.

To what extent do I misunderstand the signs Jesus gives me?

Do I understand what it means to 'work for God'?

We pray for an understanding that faith can resolve our human concerns.

We pray for a deeper love of Christ as the one who satisfies our deepest needs.

Reflection for 12th August 2018 By Fr Adrian Graffy Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year B)

Gospel reading: *John 6:41-51*

Other readings: 1 Kings 19:4-8 Ephesians 4:30-5:2

The discussion between Jesus and the Jews about the 'bread of life' continues. Once again, his listeners are stuck with human ways of perception. They cannot accept that there is anything more to Jesus than the man who was brought up in Nazareth. What sense can they make of him 'coming down from heaven'?

Jesus challenges their quarrelling and seeks to move the discussion to a deeper level. The focus of these verses is on Jesus as the one who brings true teaching. To learn from Jesus is to be fed indeed. To learn from Jesus is to come to know the Father. The stress is once again on believing in the words of the Son. These words, even in this present life, bring eternal life. Unlike the manna in the desert, the bread Jesus offers is a pledge of eternal life.

In the final verse we have the first reference to the 'flesh' of Jesus: 'the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world'. The emphasis in this and the following verses will be on the Eucharist.

We are reminded of the self-giving of Jesus at the Last Supper and at the cross. Jesus is the Bread of Life both in his words of life, and in the sacrament of his body and blood. The reaction of his hearers is predictably one of puzzlement, as the following verses will show.

Do I really value the teaching of Jesus as revealing the Father?

Do I treasure the coming of Jesus in Word and Sacrament at Mass?

We pray that we may move beyond earthly perceptions to openness to the things of God.

We pray that the Bread of Life will truly nourish us as individuals and as community.

**Second Collection – 12th August
will be for Rubbish Tip Kids Appeal**

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 5th August – Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - (B)

9.30am Carol Woods RIP

11.15am Parish Community

6pm Peggy Bright RIP

Monday 6th August – Transfiguration of The Lord

9.15am Robert Perry - Intention

Tuesday 7th August

8.30am Toni Rossi RIP

Wednesday 8th August - St Dominic

9.15am Regulo Di Mascio RIP (Herrigan)

Thursday 9th August – St Teresa Benedicta of The Cross

9.15am James & Mary Doherty RIP

Friday 10th August – St Lawrence

12.15pm William Bannon RIP

Followed by Exposition in Adoration Chapel until 4pm

Saturday 11th August – St Clare

10.30am Jane Bannon RIP

11am Confessions & Exposition

6pm Polish Mass

Sunday 12th August – Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - (B)

9.30am Private Intention

11.15am Vincent MacCormac RIP

6pm People of Parish

Monday 13th August

9.15am Ervid Pali RIP

Tuesday 14th August - St Maximillian Kolbe

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Wednesday 15th August – THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED

VIRGIN MARY – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

12.15pm Bishop Peter Doyle – Golden Jubilee (CWL)

7pm Polish Mass

Thursday 16th August

9.15am Myra Brooker - Intention

Friday 17th August

12.15pm Henrietta Sandorova - Intention

Followed by Exposition in the Adoration until 4pm

Saturday 18th August - St Helen

10.30am Sidney George & Louise White RIP

11am Confessions & Exposition

6pm Polish Mass

Sunday 19th August – Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time - (B)

9.30am Regulo Di Mascio RIP (Volante)

11.15am Parish Community

6pm Private Intention

HOLY FATHERS MISSION STATEMENT FOR AUGUST

The treasure of families

That any far-reaching decisions of economists and politicians may protect the family as one of the treasures of humanity.

PARISH DIARY**Saturday 18th August**

2pm - Lourdes Reunion – Small Hall

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.

You will need to register your interest by calling **Nicola Nevin on 07740 287042.**

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!!

St Helen's Catholic Church Building & Restoration Fund

For 29th July £31 was collected from envelopes. When grossed up for gift aid this comes to £39 against a weekly target of £150. The cumulative position since the relaunch is that £4,394 (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

Job Vacancy:

ORGANIST AND DIRECTOR OF MUSIC required for September 2018

For Our Lady of Grace 1 Kings Road Chingford E4 7HP. The successful applicant will train both an adult choir and a children's choir to lead the music at the 10.30am Mass on alternate weeks & also play the organ at the 8.30am & 10.30am Sunday Masses. This post is subject to an Enhanced DBS check. Remuneration negotiable, based on RSCM rates. For more information, please contact: Fr Francis Coveney on 020 8529 1804 or chingfordolgsta@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Saturday 1st September - Celebrate the "official opening" of Walsingham House at Abbotswick (Navestock Side, Near Brentwood, CM14 5SH).

Grounds open 11am; Mass with Bishop Alan at 12noon.

Throughout the afternoon there will be live music and bouncy castles. You are welcome to bring a picnic; Barbecued food, Cream teas and ice creams will also be on sale. Celebrate the refurbishment of Walsingham House at Abbotswick, the prayer, peace and space that is here, and the youth ministry that welcomes 5,000 young people through the doors of the house every year.

More information www.bcys.net/WHAbbotswick and on the www.bcys.net events page.

Sunday 2nd September – BCCS Barleylands Fun

Walk Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is inviting supporters from all over the diocese to come and take part in the Barleylands Fun Walk. This is a great fun, family event with a choice of walks on the site, the longest being no more than 3 miles and a shorter walk which is suitable for children & toddlers. This community event starts with a BBQ at 12.00 and with walks due to start at 1pm & finish around 2pm, it is an ideal opportunity for families or parish groups to get together & have a fun afternoon while raising much needed funds for 'bccs'. For a sponsorship form and more information, please go to www.bccs.org.uk or contact Alison on arg.cardoness@googlemail.com.

Saturday 22nd September – Rock 'n' Roll Party @ Mazenod Hall, St Peter's Eastwood – 12noon – 4.30pm

Tickets are £8.50 per person (Children – 6 years and under free entry) (Includes lunch of fish/chicken/chips) *Bring your own drinks & nibbles.* Music by Michael with his FAB sound system playing some rock-n-roll music, please feel free to dress up rock 'n' roll style for the event!

This is a fund raiser for St Peter's parish, For tickets please contact: Bruno – 01702 528766 or Ian – 07503 465249 or Ray 01702 525480

Saturday, 20th October - A Day of Reflection & Enrichment for READERS & PROSPECTIVE

READERS – Diocesan-wide day of Recollection and Enrichment for Readers planned at The Becket Centre, Woodford Green. The day will be led by Dr Marian Tolley of Shrewsbury Diocese. Details to follow.

20th - 21st October 2018 BCYS Youth Gather

This event is open to those in school year 9 and above.

We are delighted to be back at **Essex Outdoors on Mersea Island** for our annual Youth Gather, where there is new cabin accommodation and a brilliant range of outward bound activities. We will combine opportunities for climbing high ropes, abseiling, zip wires and much more to keep you challenged and entertained, with guest speakers and workshops which will give you fresh insights into yourself, and your faith, by telling their stories. One of our speakers for this Autumn will be the lively, humorous and engaging speaker Fr Paul Keane, Vice Rector of St Mary's College, Oscott.

The cost includes lunch and dinner on Saturday 20th, breakfast and lunch on Sunday 21st, two Mersea activities, 2 BCYS workshops, and a night in a Mersea log cabin – all of this for just £50. This price is thanks to National Youth Sunday parish collections, to help us subsidise such opportunities Applications will open on the evening of 29th July, on our return from Lourdes. You can apply by creating an account at www.bcys.net and applying on the Events page. Gabriella Skinner - BCYS Pilgrimages & Events Co-ordinator 01277 373959

27th October 2018 – Conference for Mother & Daughters @ Aylesford Priory "The Catholic Mothers Apostolate"

is offering a retreat for teen girls and their mums. Join them at Aylesford Priory in October for a day dedicated to learning more about women's issues, including what it means to be a Catholic woman; how to improve mother-daughter communication; how fertility affects our lives at every stage; and how to grow in the faith. Mums and daughters will have plenty of time to talk through the issues together and build their relationship, as well as meet other Catholic mothers and daughters. Tickets are £120 per mother-daughter pair, with an Early Bird rate of £100. For more info Visit:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/catholicmothers/177368>