

BULLETIN 33 – 25TH OCTOBER 2020

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

They say that moving house is a form of bereavement. I have to say that was not my experience this time. The Removal firm, a small local company could not have been more helpful, useful advice, friendly banter and a can do attitude meant the day went smoothly from start to finish, exhausting but actually quite fun.

The Rosary Month comes to an end on Saturday 31st October, with a Rosary Rally. Each diocese has been allocated an hour and in Brentwood Diocese we are all asked to pray the Rosary between 11am and 12noon. A time to unite in prayer with our Bishops with the powerful intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary, with one heart, as the Apostles did with Our Lady at Pentecost, to plead for God's Mercy for our Isles and for our peoples.

The Intentions for our National Rosary Rally are for Faith, Life and Peace to prevail in our Nations

1. Praying for the spiritual well-being of the British Isles and for its preservation from decadence, adversity and war, in these days when our nations seem so beset
2. Praying also for our Church and Gospel vision, which are under increasing challenge and attack: our faith undermined by an aggressively secular culture; the sanctity of life assailed; and peace fracturing everywhere.
3. Praying for our Isles, for the conversion of our peoples and for their protection from evil, danger and sickness.
4. Praying for the deliverance of our Isles from the covid-19 global pandemic.

Finally a reminder that November is the month of the Holy Soul, there are the special envelopes in the porch for you to place the names of your loved ones and friends, please leave the envelopes in the basket before the Altar which will remain throughout November.

God Bless you all,

Fr. John

TIMES OF MASSES AND SERVICES THIS WEEK

Sun	25	30 th of the year	1000 Mass	People of the parish
			1800 Mass	June & Arthur Collins (RIP)
Tue	27	feria	1000 Rosary	
Wed	28	SS. Simon and Jude	1000 Liturgy of the Word	
Thu	29	feria	1000 Holy Hour	
Fri	30	feria	1000 Stations	
Sun	1	All Saints	1000 Mass	People of the parish
			1800 Mass	Margaret Ayrton (RIP)

GOSPEL REFLECTION

“On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.”

Next month, St Martin-in-the-Fields Church in London's Trafalgar Square will host its annual Service of Commemoration for those who have died homeless on the streets of London over the past year. Names are read out; there are always more than one hundred of them. More than eighty per cent of the deaths are usually of men, and the average age of the people is around forty-five years for men and forty-three years for women. One speaker at last year's service recalled a rough sleeper, whom she was used to seeing in the same place, who died one night. When the ambulance came and collected his body, there was no identification and no one locally knew his name. She undertook to remember that everybody has a name and a right to be treated with dignity.

The church provides immediate relief from homelessness, but also long-term support leading to housing, work and independence. In addition, it involves itself in campaigns tackling the causes of social problems in Britain and highlighting issues where vulnerable people are exploited and abused. St Martin's says, "There's only one thing better than seeing a person journey from despair to hope, and that's being part of that journey". This is one of hundreds of similar church projects showing neighbourliness and love to vulnerable and isolated people: homeless people, but also refugees and asylum seekers. Such projects are inspired by the teaching of Jesus that we must love others as we love ourselves.

In today's Gospel Jesus says the greatest commandment is a twofold commandment of love: love of God and love of neighbour. He reminds his listeners that they themselves were once strangers in a foreign land and they must show justice and compassion to vulnerable people: those who are poor, strangers, and disadvantaged. Generous love of neighbour is an indispensable means of loving God. Jesus expands the meaning of neighbour: the commandment to love includes those in our family and our community, along with elderly people, orphans, outsiders, impoverished people around the world, and even our enemies. In other words: everyone. The authenticity of our faith, our love of God and our relationship with Christ is measured by the way we treat others.

The readings challenge us to seek repentance and forgiveness for our negative attitudes towards others. The second reading suggests that we should abandon our idols – perhaps love of money, consumerism, and celebrities – and make a conscious choice to love our neighbours. So many saints have expressed their love for God by seeking out the most wretched, the poorest, weakest members of society, loving them and raising them up, to reveal their intrinsic dignity as persons worthy of love.

How do we apply the law of love in our lives? What does it mean to love God and our neighbour in the world today? Can we broaden our concept of neighbour to include the wider world, particularly where basic needs are great? The love Jesus is talking about is more than warm feelings towards others. Charity is vital in our world but it goes alongside speaking out and acting on behalf of others. It means living simply, sharing our wealth, protecting our environment and investing our money ethically so as not to exploit others.

Churches are a valuable resource to vulnerable people such as those who are homeless, migrants or refugees. Some churches provide facilities for an overnight stay in winter months. Some have arrangements with local authorities or businesses to provide food and tea or coffee vouchers at local vendors. Some churches are in ecumenical networks running soup kitchens, health support and asylum seeker support services. Participants often say how they have learnt from the engagement and their understanding of "neighbour" has expanded. We are stewards of one another, and we are called to seek to love and pray for friend and enemy alike. A mission for waging peace over waging war at international level is also vital, especially as poor communities are often the first to be killed and maimed or displaced from their homes in war. In God's kingdom, even enemies are treated as friends.