

THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY Mulberry Green, Harlow,
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BULLETIN B1 - 29TH NOVEMBER 2020
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Advent Sunday is “New Year’s Day” for the Church. It’s a time for a new start, a fresh beginning, a chance for Renewal in our life of faith. Interestingly 29th November is also the Feast of Dedication of our Church, the anniversary of the day when our church building was consecrated and dedicated to the glory of God and in honour of the Assumption of Our Lady. Today is also the last Sunday of “lockdown” from the middle of this week we will be able to return to church for Mass.

These three occurrences on this day give us the golden opportunity to rededicate our lives. To return to celebrate together the “source and summit of our Faith”, the Mass. One of the consequences of this time of Covid restrictions in our parish has been the appreciation of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, we have longed to be fed by him in Holy Communion. This desire has been somewhat mitigated by a renewed devotion to the Lord in his sacramental presence in Exposition and Adoration. I have been delighted to see more and more of our parish family coming to Adoration. Indeed last Saturday when we had three hours of Adoration record numbers of you turned out to be with the Lord. I have therefore decided that we will continue to have the church open with Exposition and private individual prayer, irrespective of the decisions by the Government on the reopening for public worship.

It is, as I am sure you will appreciate rather difficult to plan for the future but we do have to maintain the Spiritual support of our children and young adults. I do hope that many young people will feel confident to return to Mass in this New Year even if we still have to distance and would like to invite applications for First Holy Communion and also Confirmation.

First Communion applicants should be at least 7 years old at Corpus Christi Feast, which is the 6th June in 2021. Confirmation applicants should be 14 years old at Pentecost and wish to undertake the course themselves.

Details of the preparation courses starting in the New Year are not yet available for obvious reason although I can anticipate that both ceremonies will take place in June Our Bishop Alan will be visiting our parish on Sunday 13th June and will confirm any candidates we have. Please contact me ASAP if you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion in June. I ask that those who wish to be confirmed write to me themselves explaining why they are desirous of this sacrament.

Note you should always undertake these two Sacraments in your parish. The confirmation tuition only will be amalgamated with other Harlow parishes as previously. All applicants should be attending Mass as often as permitted under the COVID-19 regulations.

God Bless you all,

Fr. John

GOSPEL REFLECTION

This brief parable of the master returning unexpectedly is typical of Jesus' vivid way of speaking. The message is typical, too, because Jesus was constantly stressing that there is no time to lose. When he came in his earthly ministry he again and again challenged his hearers to make up their minds NOW, to change their ways NOW. He challenges us to do the same. We can hear the rattle of the returning Master's key in the lock. There is no time to hide the contraband, to pull our uniforms straight before greeting the Master at his entry. Even if we do not think that the world's end is imminent, even if death is not threatening, every moment counts, every decision is for or against Jesus. Saints are rumoured to have said that, if they received the news that they were to die that night, they would carry on doing what they were doing anyway. Saints can do this, because they are ready for the coming of the Lord. But what about us? If we need to put things a bit more in order to prepare for the Lord's coming, is there any valid reason to delay? The four weeks of Advent are a good time to clean things up for the Lord's coming. What would you like to change about your life in preparation for the coming of the Lord?

MASS SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

From Wednesday Church will be open not only for Adoration but also for Holy Mass

Sun	29	1 st of Advent	1000 Mass	People of the Parish
Tue	1	feria	1900 Mass	Bill Harrigan (RIP)
Wed	2	feria	1000 Mass	Kay Hill (RIP)
			1020 Adoration	
Thu	3	St. Francis Xavier	1000 Mass	John Hogan (RIP)
			1020 Adoration	
Fri	4	feria	1000 Mass	Catherine Glover (RIP)
Sun	6	2 nd of Advent	1000 Mass	Thanksgiving for Reopening
			1800 Mass	People of the Parish

Confessions can be heard during Adoration times or by appointment

Advent Concert, Sunday 6th December 4pm, on YouTube:

Featuring favourite carols, with music led by Art from Brentwood Cathedral, as well as Gabi, Felishia and Erin from the BCYS and Walsingham House team, along with readings and poems, the concert will be a prayerful and delightful way to journey through Advent. And, of course, you can sing along to your heart's content at home! Free to watch, with donations welcome: money raised will be split between the Trussell Trust, supporting food banks across the Diocese, and the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. Full details and links: www.bcys.net/events/adventcarols

St. John Henry Newman and Vatican 1

The study day on 'St John Henry Newman and Vatican I' which was 'attended' by over 150 people on Saturday is now available on our revamped website www.whatgoodnews.org Enjoy!

CAFOD World Gifts

World Gifts, CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas. Visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts.