

Parish of the Assumption of Our Lady

Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0HA

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BULLETIN B 33 – 11TH JULY 2021 THE 15TH IN ORDINARY TIME – SEA SUNDAY

My dear brothers and sister,

The Parish has received an update, printed below, from our friend Fr Fiacra. Please note the important question about a donation if this is you, I would be pleased to provide Fr Fiacra's contact information. I will of course respond to Father from the Parish and convey our best wishes.

Please remember them all in your prayers.

Today is Sea Sunday, when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Today's second collection is for Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea), the Catholic Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. For an appeal talk from Bishop Paul Mason, and a video showing some of what Stella Maris does, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/seasunday. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work. To donate, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Stella Maris is dependent on voluntary donations, so please give generously. Thank you.

God bless

Fr John.

PS On the subject of Missions the Summer issue of Missio is in the porch for those who subscribe.

TIMES OF MASS THIS WEEK

Sun	11	15 th in Ordinary Time	1000 Mass	People of the Parish
			1800 Mass	Mary Fitzgerald (INT)
Tue	13	St. Henry	1900 Mass	
Wed	14	St. Camillus de Lellis	1000 Mass	
			1020 Adoration	
Thu	15	St. Bonaventure	1000 Mass	
			1020 Adoration	
Sun	18	16 th in Ordinary Time	1000 Mass	Catherine Lobb (RIP)
			1800 Mass	People of the Parish

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fr. John will be available to hear confessions in church: - Tue 6.30pm and Wed 10.30am or by appointment. We are now allowed to use the confessional room but face masks are to be worn.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The instructions for missionaries are shaped by the urgency of the Kingdom. The Twelve are to travel light for speed. They should wear sandals rather than go barefoot, also for speed and security. They are to rely for their provisions on the welcome they receive and, if they are unwelcome, they should not waste time on those who reject them. Did Jesus think that the Kingdom or Kingship of God would finally burst on the world in his own time, that there was so little time to spare? In one way it did – at his death and Resurrection, which fulfilled God's plan and restored us to friendship with God. In another way the Kingdom is still in the future: the reign of peace and justice is not yet established. There is still sorrow, distress, enmity, fraud, jealousy and plenty of other evils which fracture God's Kingship. We are still imperfect reflections of the light of Christ, still pilgrim members of a pilgrim Church. Our efforts are often feeble, even when we try to walk in Christ's footsteps. We cannot sit back complacently, any more than the missionaries of Jesus' own time. The task of establishing the Kingdom is still imminent. How can we missionary's best bring Christ's light and God's joy to the world?

A Message From Malawi,

Hope you are all well and that Covid 19 has kept well away from your house and from all the houses of your congregation.

This afternoon I was looking up a name in my HSBC account and saw a deposit for 29 March 2021 for 300 Pounds. It was the first I knew of it. I don't know who deposited it. I don't seem to remember seeing 'Harlow' attached to the deposit in the usual statement I get. If I did I would have certainly sent an email of thanks. I apologise if you or whoever, was waiting for an acknowledgement. Do you know anything about this deposit? If you could let me know I would be obliged so that I may send an email of thanks to the kind donors.

Here in Malawi, Covid was somewhat in the background of life here from the beginning of the outbreak up to this point. There was little social distancing to speak of or mask wearing. At Mass on Sunday I and one or two others used to wear the mask and that was it.

'Take up' of the vaccine has been very poor. Crazy rumours concerning the dangers of the vaccine have been circulating, blocking many from getting protected.

We were, surprisingly, able to get the jab. I suppose we could get it because the 'take up' was so poor. So we have been lucky. Now a new Variant of the Virus has appeared in the country; probably coming from South Africa. Hospital cases have suddenly begun to increase. So we have to be careful.

Good news came recently, on a malaria vaccine. It seems that the trials in Burkina Faso (West Africa) were successful. I got a bout of malaria recently. So, I, personally, along with millions of others will be very happy if the malaria vaccine is rolled out; probably in the next few years.

We had a good rainy season. It finished in April. We were thankful, of course, even if there is a lot of muddy roads. Rain, also, means a lot of standing water and so we had plenty of mosquitoes round the place. We took precautions as far as we are able. But above all, rain means growth and crops and food and money circulating around the community to help make life better. And so, the people were delighted with the rains.

This is the time of year when Lake Malawi gets rough. South Easterly winds begin to blow right up the lake from the south. May, June and July bring big, not to say, huge waves. Sometimes we forget that Lake Malawi is really an inland sea: 365 miles long and 52 miles wide at the widest point. It's easy to remember the numbers the days of the year, 365 and weeks of the year, 52.

REPORT {for six months}.

- 1. Helping people to go and get vaccinated.*
- 2. Helping some widows nearby who don't have much (an understatement).*
- 3. We are helping two young men with fees for secondary school*
- 4. General help for those who badly need help due to serious sickness.*
- 5. Tree planting Project:- We have planted about two thousand trees.*

The project is going relatively well. I say relatively because we had a fire during the dry season about seven months ago but we contained it.

The spiritual life of the parish moves with the help of the Spirit. I mentioned that I am helping out at one of the parishes where I was before.

We will soon have the annual Baptisms Instructions, Confirmation Instructions and Blessing of Marriages.

There will be three zones in the parish. Last year we had the same and baptized seven or eight hundred.

The churches are still packed. We get a great welcome wherever we go as the people get Mass once every five weeks or so. We are kept busy But of course, it's a wonderful type of 'busy'.

I hope that Old Harlow parish can again be re-established. I suppose it will be an uphill battle to get the congregation back again.

I hope your live streaming is going well. I have not been able to see you due to 'technical issues'.

I hope Fr. Michael is still well, physically, even if his mind is affected by Alzheimer. Glad to hear he is well looked after.

Great to hear that the parish house is now in much better shape. Fr. John must now feel at home there.

Unfortunately, I will not be coming to your side of the world this year. All the regulations, such as self-isolation, red zones, yellow zones, new variants, etc. etc. which all makes travelling an obstacle course. So, I hope that by next year things will be more 'settled'.

With every good wish and blessing, Fiacra