

# Parish of the Assumption of Our Lady

Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0HA

Tel: 01279 434203

<http://www.catholicchurchoftheassumption.co.uk/>

## BULLETIN B 35 – 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021

### THE 17<sup>TH</sup> IN ORDINARY TIME

My dear brothers and sisters,

First of all, very many thanks to all who helped with the **gardening last week**, the grounds are really looking splendid again.

We will be selling tickets for the “**Strawberry Tea**” on the Feast of the Assumption of our Lady, 15<sup>th</sup> August in our grounds from 3.00pm onwards.

We have now had a chance to review our procedures on being Covid secure, in the light of government announcements and the Bishops guidance. Our general principal must be to act with the Greatest Caution’ sadly we understand that Harlow has a low uptake on vaccination currently at 74.5% against a national figure of 87.9%, it is therefore up to each individual to take all precautions they feel necessary.

I have been delighted at just how many have returned to regular worship and to greet so many newcomers to the parish. Thank you for maintaining the prescribed rules and regulations. These have now been modified by the Bishops who stress that each Church must act according to its particular circumstances within the prescribed rules – please see below.

God Bless you all

Fr. John

### TIMES OF MASS THIS WEEK

|     |    |                                   |                |                                  |
|-----|----|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Sun | 25 | 17 <sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time | 1000 Mass      | People of the Parish             |
|     |    |                                   | 1800 Mass      | Irene & Patrick Wall (RIP)       |
| Tue | 27 | feria                             | 1900 Mass      | John Clarke (RIP)                |
| Wed | 28 | feria                             | 1000 Mass      | Patrick & Kathleen McMahan (RIP) |
|     |    |                                   | 1020 Adoration |                                  |
| Thu | 29 | St. Martha                        | 1000 Mass      | Victoria Evans                   |
|     |    |                                   | 1020 Adoration |                                  |
| Fri | 30 | St. Peter Chrysologus             | 1000 Mass      | McEntee family (RIP)             |
| Sat | 31 | St. Ignatius of Loyola            | 1100 Mass      | Vocations                        |
|     |    |                                   | 1200 Baptism   | of Orlaith O’Brien               |
| Sun | 1  | 18 <sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time | 1000 Mass      | John & Eileen Love (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

In this Sunday’s Gospel, John’s version of the miraculous feeding reminds us of the Last Supper, when Jesus ‘said the blessing’ over the bread. Since John’s gospel has no account of the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, this feeding account is particularly significant. The feeding is also described as one of the ‘signs’ which Jesus works. The first part of the Gospel of John is often called ‘The Book of Signs’ because Jesus works a number of signs which show who he truly is. First there is the sign at the marriage-feast of Cana, where the sign of turning the water into wine is a sign of the messianic banquet. Other signs are the raising of the royal official’s son, a sign of Jesus’ gift of life, and the cure of the blind man in the temple, a sign of Jesus’ gift of light and revelation. Several of the signs are followed by an extended discourse, explaining the meaning of the sign, as this feeding sign is followed by the discourse on the Bread of Life, explaining the significance of Jesus’ gift of himself as the Bread of Life, the Wisdom of God received in the Eucharist.

Over the next few weeks, starting today, the Homily at Mass will take us through the order of mass, explaining the significance of why we do what we do when we celebrate the mass together. I hope that this will help not just the children preparing to make their first Holy Communion, but all of us to refocus on this “the source and summit of our Christian life”

## **Covid-19 July 2021**

- For the short term we will continue to sign you in.
- Please use the sanitiser provided.
- The building will continue to be well ventilated.
- All areas will be sanitised after Mass or left fallow for the prescribed period.
- All worshipers are encouraged to continue to wear masks when in Church.
- Congregational singing will be reintroduced gradually.
- We will no longer have marked seats and you may sit where you wish but we ask you to keep a social distance when possible.
- A red card will be provided if need to feel more secure - please put this on the pew beside you.
- At Communion – no changes - please continue to follow the directions of the steward.
- Please continue to use our Holy Water dispenser.
- The sign of peace will still not be restored at this time.
- Reception of Holy Communion under one kind will continue in the Hand.
- We hope to restore our Children's Liturgy in the autumn as this is now permitted.