

Parish of the Assumption of Our Lady
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BULLETIN B 46 – 10TH OCTOBER 2021
28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

My dear brothers and sisters,

Last Sunday we read Bishop Alan's Pastoral letter concerning the importance of the Church's response to the environment, God our creator, gave us stewardship of his creation and as Catholics that carries a responsibility, to care for our world. I invited any of you who shared concern for creation to volunteer and join me to form a group that will look at the ways we as a parish can become even more environmentally friendly. Hopefully you will have given this matter some thought and prayer and are now prepared to help our parish family in this way.

Next Sunday at 10am Mass six of our children who have been preparing for months will make their First Holy Communion. Please pray for them as they make this important step forward in their Christian journey. They are: Aleksander & Maximilian Baldwin, Rosie & Finley Sweeting, Evie Odu, Archie O'Keeffe.

Just a reminder that the Sonare Choir. Are coming to the Assumption of our Lady on Sunday 24th October 3.30pm. The choir, perform choral pieces by Bruckner, Mozart, Tallis, Stainer amongst others. This is a rare opportunity to enjoy live beautiful music as well as to raise money for our parish, the Choir are sharing revenue from tickets sales 50/50 with us. The programme will last 90 mins and includes an interval. You can get tickets online for £10 or £12 at the door on the day. I hope that many of our people will come bringing friends and family even if they don't normally come to mass. We shall be selling Coffee and Tea during the interval, any volunteers?

God bless you all

Fr. John

TIMES OF THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

Sun	10	28 th in OT	1000 Mass	Jack Roche (RIP)
			1800 Mass	People of the Parish
Tue	12	St. Ethelburga & Comps	1900 Mass	Hasledon Family (RIP)
Wed	13	St. Edward the Confessor	1000 Mass	Antony Leaver (RIP)
			1020 Rosary and Adoration	
Thu	14	St Callistus	1000 Mass	Bob Nuttall (RIP)
			1020 Rosary and Adoration	
Fri	15	St. Teresa of Avila	1000 Mass	Birchall Family (RIP)
Sun	17	29 th in OT	1000 Mass	Judith Hopkinson (RIP)
			1800 Mass	People of the Parish

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fr. John will be available to hear confessions this week
on Tuesday at 6.30pm or Wednesday at 10.30am
Or by appointment

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Does this sound familiar? It will be a familiar story to many people. Over the course of several months, it might have become harder to read, write, see faces or watch television. Inevitable surgery to save your eyesight will give little or no improvement in your present ability to see clearly. So what do you do to prepare for the future? Instead of a life centred on seeing, you might focus on hearing and discover that sound becomes incredibly precious, whether it's birdsong, the radio, audiobooks, music or whatever. You might find an unparalleled opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for all that you have seen and enjoyed over the course of your life, perhaps while you were too busy to sit back and appreciate its richness. While losing something as precious as your eyesight, you could discover a whole new world which sets your heart dancing for joy.

Your own experience might not involve your eyes. Perhaps the coronavirus pandemic finished your job or business, forcing you to reinvent life for yourself, your family and your colleagues. Perhaps a medical diagnosis meant abandoning your favourite foods and permanently adopting a different diet. Perhaps you have had to clear and sell the family home so that an elderly parent can move into a care home. You know your own life-changing events. As the years go by, we all make massive changes. We might regret the things we left behind. We might struggle to see beyond the door we were closing towards the new one which opens to a different but perhaps brighter future.

The wealthy man in today's Gospel was short-sighted. He had always tried to live a God-centred life, but his routine prevented him from realising that his vision of life was blurred. Jesus recognised someone who generously shared his riches but perhaps was less ready to share his heart. If only the young man would share his heart, he could permanently transform his life.

As it was, the young man already had a niggling sense that he could do something over and above the good deeds in which he was involved. If this were not so, he wouldn't have asked Jesus' advice on what else he needed to do in order to gain eternal life. He had asked the right question, but he wasn't prepared for the answer. The young man wasn't ready to make the changes necessary to follow Jesus' difficult and itinerant, crowd-filled lifestyle. Hitherto, he had lived in a comfortable home – but now Jesus was suggesting that he should, instead, go into the highways and byways, deliberately searching for those who needed his compassion, people whom he might otherwise never have seen. The man wasn't ready for such a sacrifice. He wanted to be good on his own terms. He chose to remain short-sighted rather than to follow Jesus' prescription and to get new lenses.

It's not easy to make the changes forced upon us by circumstances such as the need for surgery, changing jobs or moving to a new house. Yet those massive changes in our practical daily life can sometimes be easier than making the alterations which might bring us closer to God. One set of modifications might involve, not only the heart, but also the purse and bank balance. The other adjustments touch us in the deepest areas of our hearts and souls, perhaps changing for ever our self-understanding and our understanding of other people. The alterations which bring us closer to God affect our lifestyle and relationships. They have a frustrating habit of setting us on an unknown road towards an unknown destination with few signposts to guide us. That can be scary.

"It's easier to be a live coward than a dead hero." We live with the consequences of our choices. We don't know if the rich young man subsequently decided to give everything away in order to follow Jesus, but we do know that he was scared to accept the challenge which Jesus offered him. If Jesus had been a coward, we'd never have Good Friday, but we'd also never have Easter Sunday or Pentecost. Perhaps Jesus took deep breaths before making choices that he knew his Father wanted in order to bring about our salvation. The way of the cross was no day trip to the seaside. If the rich young man was scared, Jesus was probably terrified by the prospect of what lay before him. It puts our own life choices into perspective, doesn't it?