

Parish of the Assumption of Our Lady Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0HA

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BULLETIN C 37 – 7TH AUGUST 2022 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

My dear brothers and sisters,

This Sunday is the last opportunity to buy your tickets for the “Strawberry Tea” which is next Sunday 14th August at 3.30pm, hopefully in the grounds, which incidentally are looking really beautiful at the moment. This is an ideal opportunity to bring along your family and friends, even if they don't usually worship with us.

The Ordinariate Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham is on Saturday 27th August, some of our Ordinariate members will be going, this is open to everyone and details are in the porch.

God bless you all,
Fr. John

POPE'S LETTER

I recently read a letter that had been sent by the Holy Father on the occasion of the day for grandparents and elderly people. I personally found this very helpful and asked Bob to put it on our parish website. Do have a look at the letter, which gives such good advice not only to older people but the young ones as well.

FUTURE EVENTS

The Sonare Choir will be giving another concert on Saturday 24th September at 2.30pm, book the date in your diary now.

Coffee Morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer Care on Friday 30th September.

TIMES OF MASSES THIS WEEK

Sun	7	19 th Ordinary Time	1000 Mass 1800 Mass	People of the Parish Peace in Ukraine
Tue	9	St. Teresa Benedicta	1900 Mass	Teresa White (INT)
Wed	10	St. Lawrence	1000 Mass 1020 Adoration	Deacons
Thu	11	St. Clare	1000 Mass	Religious Sisters
Sun	14	Assumption of Our Lady	1000 Mass 1800 Mass	People of the Parish

TIMES OF RECONCILIATION THIS WEEK

Fr John will be available this week to hear confession on Tuesday at 6.30pm and Wednesday at 10.45am, or by appointment.

MASS INTENTIONS

We have many spaces for mass intentions, if you would like mass offered for someone, living or dead, or for a particular intention please use the envelopes provided.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Antiques Roadshow is a popular television series where people bring family treasures to be valued by experts in antiques. The expert encourages them to tell the story behind the object. What people are bringing is often not just an artistic treasure but the story of their family relationships, history and identity in a war souvenir, an engagement ring or a pile of love letters. Or it may be an ornament picked up in a market or auction as a bargain, sold by its previous owner for next to nothing. One person's junk is another person's treasure.

At the end of the interview, the expert comments on the object in terms of its antique or artistic value and then reveals its monetary value. Sometimes there is shock and amazement that an ugly old object that has gathered dust for years is worth huge sums of money. Sometimes there is disappointment that what was thought to be worth a fortune is, in fact, virtually worthless. But often the owner says that whatever the object's worth, they would not sell it because its value is beyond price. It holds precious memories of childhood, or of a beloved relative now long gone. Few people are prepared to sell what is precious to them in such terms. We cannot think of cherished memories of loving relationships or of our family sense of identity in terms of money, and this tells us something important about who we are made to be as human beings.

Most of Jesus' followers were poor people who struggled daily to make a living. His teaching on selling their possessions and giving money to those who were poor must have amazed them. They *were* poor, weren't they? So why not keep the money to support themselves?

The answer lies in what Jesus says about remaining alert and prepared for the coming of salvation. He is talking of where our heart truly is and therefore of where our deepest consciousness is. If our minds are entirely occupied with the attachment to things or people, that can betray a deep lack of trust, and we will have little space for developing a mind and heart in tune with God's vision for the world. Being a "cheerful giver" is evidence not only of generosity but of courage. It is evidence that our deepest hope lies in God and not in money, power or any other means of dominating our surrounding world. Pope Benedict XVI, in his encyclical on hope, *Spe salvi*, said that "the one who has hope lives differently". This Gospel is Jesus' invitation to us to live differently, with a different set of values that puts love of God and of others, and transformative action in the world, before the baubles of fame, power and fortune. We can live confidently and without fear when we have become free from all forms of internalised idolatry. An old song speaks of freedom being about having nothing left to lose. For Jesus, freedom comes from knowing what to set our heart on in order to live fully. Praying what St Ignatius of Loyola called the Examen, or Examination of Conscience, daily is a helpful way of recognising what is pulling us towards God or turning us away. It's about knowing where our treasure truly lies and building up our relationship with Jesus so that it is stronger than our fears.

When Jesus challenges us to give in a way that supports and transforms the life of others, he is talking of what it truly means to believe that we are one body with him. For what we do to the least of his brothers and sisters, we do to him. This is the building up of the kingdom, to which all are invited as transformers of the world and "revolutionaries of tenderness". This kind of generosity is not just going through the motions but giving away part of ourselves. By doing so we receive ourselves back from the hands of "the least", who are the mirror of Christ – whatever we do for them, we do for him and vice versa. Our anxieties and fears are transformed into hope when we let go of needing to control everything. To live this transformative faith, hope and love we need to become alert and sensitive to the signs of Christ's presence on earth. The more we become aware of him in all areas of our life, the more he shows us what it is to be fully and truly human.