Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Sexagesima - 16th February 2020

The Re-dedication of England as the Dowry of Mary on Sunday 29th March.

England is a place renowned for its Catholic faith, piety and devotion to the our Blessed Lady. England was called her “Dowry”, which was first talked about during the reign of St. Edward the Confessor (1042–1066). By the 14th century, it was widespread. On July 15th 1381, King Richard II (1377–1399) dedicated England to Our Lady as Her Dowry, entrusting this realm to Her care and protection. This event is depicted in the renowned medieval painting, the Wilton Diptych. The word Dowry is associated with money and jewels that are set aside to be given at time of matrimony as a sign that the Precious gift is the bride herself.

England has been “set apart” for our Blessed Lady. But we have forgotten. Thomas Arundel, the Archbishop of Canterbury, wrote in 1399 “The contemplation of the great mystery of the Incarnation has drawn all Christian nations to venerate her from whom came the first beginnings of our redemption. We being servants of her special inheritance and her dowry, are called out to be fervent and loving in our praise and devotional life.” We can’t have Jesus in our life if we don’t have His mother. To be fully Catholic means to accept Mother Mary in our hearts and lives.

Before the Reformation, England was devoted to Our Lady and to the Church. As many other parts of the continent, The Reformation changed this, but when Catholics were allowed to practice again it had been their desire to bring England back to Our Lady. From the 1530s a turning point came, for the country’s devotion to the Virgin Mary was lost. With the Reformation came the fanatical destruction of so much of the great Catholic heritage, art and architecture of England. Shrines were destroyed, important images of Our Lady were taken to Chelsea and burned, and holy men and women died for their faith. Alongside this iconoclasm and terror came the dimming of the memory of Our Lady’s Dowry, though the hope and the promise of this special privilege was never completely extinguished."

Recusant families, those who kept the flame of Catholicism burning during penal times when Catholicism was outlawed, maintained the faith at great personal cost. For many of these families, the belief in Mary's Dowry spurred them on during their most difficult and trying years and gave them strength to persevere through persecution. In 1893, Pope Leo XIII urged English Catholic pilgrims in Rome to remember “the wonderful filial love which burnt within the hearts of your forefathers towards the great Mother of God, to whose service they consecrated themselves with such abundant proofs of devotion, that the Kingdom itself acquired the singular title of ‘Mary's Dowry’.”

The Re-dedication of England is not to be misunderstood, this is not a war, but a means that we seek Mother Mary’s protection and prayers, giving ourselves, our homes and our parish to God through this act of dedication. The Re-dedication is to be personal and communal. In renewing our faith as we see the fullness of Our Lady in the Annunciation, is also an entrustment as we, the people of God seek the protection of the Mother of God who draws us to a life in total union with the Blessed Trinity.

In the parish we can start this Re-dedication by being in union with our brothers and sisters by praying the “Prayer for England” every day until 29th of March. We will start the Re-dedication process on Wednesday 25th March with a Solemn Mass for Annunciation of the Lord at 7.30pm. Then from the 26th-28th March, a Triduum of Prayer at Mass and through our social media, and details to be announced in the newsletter. Then on Sunday 29th March we will make the Re-dedication prayers with whole of England at all Masses and then with the Rosary, Vespers and Benediction in the evening at 5pm.

Through Mary to Jesus………………..Fr Gerard
LENTEN COURSE

This year for our Lent Course we would like to do it in the way that Jesus always did. Even though he had many followers and chose 12 to be his disciples, he had three friends he spent extra time with; Peter, James and John. He invested even extra time in Peter, knowing he would lead the Church. We can lose the sense of friendship in parish life as it’s so big and I would ask all of you to try and find the opportunity to join this cleansing, find the opportunity to join this Lenten Course, and not just leave it to the few faces we see for everything. Let us invest time this Lent for each other to discover more of Christ, so that we can be evermore Faithful, Available, Contagious, and open to the will and love of God.

We will have six sessions with one after Easter.

The Course is called ‘Discovery’ and its purpose is to present the Kerygma of our Faith:

1. God is love and created us for a relationship with him.
2. That relationship has been broken through sin.
3. Jesus exclusively restores that relationship through his death and resurrection.

We are all personally invited to accept a gift of salvation. We realise that it’s time to make this faith our own. **The Course will take place on Thursdays from 8.30pm - 9.30pm in the Parish Hall starting on Thursday 5th March.** Please join us and bring a friend.

Retrouvaille: A Lifeline for Married Couples: Disillusioned or bored in your marriage? Unable to communicate with each other. Do you want to try again? Retrouvaille helps couples nationwide work through challenging times. Email: Info@retrouvaille.org.uk

Residential weekend: 28th February to 1st March 2020
4 Post days are: 7th March, 21st March, 4th April and 18th April 2020

St Hugh’s Baby & Toddler Group: Fridays at 10am in the Parish Hall.
£1 per family, play coffee and chat.
**Dates for your Diary**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 21 Feb</td>
<td>Presentation at 7.45pm in the Parish Hall by Author Andre Regnier on “How the parish can attract people to a deeper love of Christ’.</td>
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<td>Wed 26 Feb</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday - Masses: 7.30am, 9.00am (School), 12noon, 7.30pm</td>
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<td>Fri 28 Feb</td>
<td>Mass at 7.00pm followed by Stations of the Cross</td>
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<td>Sat 29 Feb</td>
<td>Weekend Retreat for Confirmation Candidates at St Bartz, Barcombe.</td>
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<td>Thu 05 Mar</td>
<td>Lenten Course - 1st Session - 8.30pm - 9.30pm in the Parish Hall</td>
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<td>Fri 13 Mar</td>
<td>SJB PTA Quiz Night in aid of SJB - 7.00pm - 10.30pm in the School</td>
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<td>Sun 29 Mar</td>
<td>The Rededication of England as the Dowry of Mary - The process starts on 25th March with a Solemn Mass for Annunciation of the Lord at 7.30pm</td>
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<td>Sat 27 Jun</td>
<td>Summer Fayre - An Early Reminder</td>
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**Parish Census:** It is important as a Parish that we have an up-to-date record of all our Parishioners. Therefore, now that we have our new computer system installed in the Office, it is felt that the time is right for us to update our Parish Database. To that end, on the weekend of **22nd /23rd February** all Parishioners will be asked to take home and return, or even complete there and then in Church, a Parish Census Form. The deadline for return of the Census Form to the Parish will be **21st/22nd March.** Many Thanks.

**First Aiders** - It would be useful to know, if the need ever arose during a service, that we could call upon a First Aider to deal with a medical situation. Would you be a prepared to help? If so, please sign the sheet just inside the sacristy door.

**‘Superstar’ – Ecumenical Lenten Discussion Groups:** Why not join us with other Christians from the Churches in Knaphill (C4K) group.

The 5 sessions are: ‘Who is Jesus?’, ‘Miracles’, ‘The Psalms’, ‘The Church’ and ‘Cross Purposes’, which will be held at the Vyne Community Centre on the Mondays starting on **2nd March at 7.30pm.** See poster at the back of the Church for details.

Speak to either Roger Furnell (01483 481944) or Maureen Thomas (01483 766601). Please indicate your interest by adding your name to the sign-up sheets. All are welcome.

**World Day of Prayer on Friday 6th March at 11.00am.** It is St Hugh’s turn to host this Ecumenical Service, this year prepared by the Christian women of Zimbabwe.

If you would like to help as a reader, welcomer or with refreshments, please contact Anne am.rushton@btopenworld.com asap.

All very welcome to attend, especially if you have not attended one of these services before.

**Fully escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland**, celebrating the feast of St. Patrick, 16th March 2020. £599.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight with 10kg hand luggage, all transfers, 4 nights’ in Knock House Hotel with breakfast and dinner. All entertainment and excursions included. Lunches on days out. Wheelchair accessible rooms. Single room supplement £100. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.
THE MEMORARE

“Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, our Mother; to thee do we come, before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in thy mercy, hear and answer us. Amen.”