Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Quinquagesima - 23rd February 2020

Reverence for Our Lord’s Sacramental presence.

How we handle objects says a lot about how we regard them. When looking at fine jewellery, for example, we are mindful to handle it carefully. When holding a baby or hugging a loved one, we do so gently and with care. The things we handle carefully are usually the things we hold in high esteem. When it comes to the Blessed Sacrament, the living sacramental presence of Jesus Christ, this should be all the more truer. You know because I talk about it so much, that Jesus is truly present in the Host, His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity and we reserve Him in the tabernacle. The tabernacle is situated in the place of honour in the centre of the sanctuary, and we genuflect before it. When we receive our Lord in Holy Communion, we should receive him in the way we encounter a loved one: with reverence, care, gentleness and humility.

Recently, the Church encourages us to consider receiving Holy Communion on the tongue as a “sign of adoration that needs to be recovered.” To receive the Eucharist on our tongue is to signify our humility before the Lord and to recognize that it is God Himself who feeds us. For this reason some choose to receive the Eucharist not in their hands, but directly on their tongue and affirms that the Eucharist is the living presence of Jesus Christ and not a symbol or a ritual. The Church permits us to receive the Host either on the tongue or in their hands, at the discretion of the one receiving Holy Communion. Both modes of receiving Holy Communion have their own value and their own beauty. The Church Fathers talk about our hands could be a “throne” for receiving Holy Communion. To make a throne for the Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Those who receive in the hand should ensure that their hands are clean as they prepare to literally touch the presence of Christ. No pinching of the Host, no dipping of it in the precious Blood and it must be consumed immediately, thus avoiding accidentally dropping the Sacred Host. An even greater danger and sacrilege is the possibility of someone stealing a host for trivial or even evil purposes. Sadly, this actually happens. Whether receiving the Lord in the hand or on the tongue, we should all receive with great reverence and respect. Remember the paten is being used. And to demonstrate that reverence and respect, the Church asks us to make a genuflection or a slight bow of the head immediately before receiving Holy Communion. We can also kneel to receive Him. Our obligation is to the Mass and we don’t have to receive Holy Communion, although regular Confession is a must. But we are also aware of those who can’t, it is painful, but we are there to support you in this pain and please remember to make a Spiritual Communion. This is the most profound union we can have with God this side of heaven.

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

In Jesus and Mary. .............................................Fr Gerard.
LENTEN COURSE

This year for Lent, 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. We can lose the sense of friendship in the Parish life and I would also ask all of us to try and find the opportunity to join this Lenten Course, and not just leave it to the few faces we see at 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 in the Presbytery on Thursday mornings from 10.30am - 11.30am and Thursday evenings from 8.30pm - 9.30pm in the Parish Hall, starting on Thursday 5th March. Please join us and bring a friend.

Jackpot Club: Alfred Magee and Chris & Mary Lyons won £53.50 and £26.50 respectively in the January Draw. Congratulations to you all! If you would like to join the Club, please complete a standing order form which can be found in the narthex. Subs are £12pa with 50% of the monthly subs going into parish funds and 50% in prize money.

Woking Foodbank Collection on 29th Feb/1stMarch
There will be a collection point in the Narthex over this weekend. Supplies are running low and all donations of non-perishable foodstuff, toiletries and nappies (size 4&5) will be very much appreciated. However they do have plenty of tea, baked beans, pasta, cereals, soups, jams, porridge oats and sanitary products. Thank you.
Ministers of Welcome and the Word needed at all Masses

Pope Francis writes: ‘Love the Church, care for your priests, set yourself at the service of the community. Donate your time, energy, skills and capacities to your parishes and like this you will bear witness to the fact that the richness of every person is a gift from God, everything is to be shared’. December 2014. What a great way to serve our community.

A rota is in place for these Ministries and you would probably be needed about every six weeks. Have a chat with your Mass Co-ordinator to find out more; don’t know who that is? Ask a ‘Welcomer’!

### 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, **this weekend 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.

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### ‘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 **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.
Prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary for England

O blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our most gentle Queen and Mother, look down in mercy upon England thy "Dowry" and upon us all who greatly hope and trust in thee. By thee it was that Jesus our Saviour and our hope was given unto the world; and He has given thee to us that we might hope still more. Plead for us thy children, whom thou didst receive and accept at the foot of the Cross, O sorrowful Mother. Intercede for our separated brethren, that with us in the one true fold they may be united to the supreme Shepherd, the Vicar of thy Son. Pray for us all, dear Mother, that by faith fruitful in good works we may all deserve to see and praise God, together with thee, in our heavenly home. Amen.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - 23rd February 2020 - Cycle A

Sat 22 6.00pm Vigil Mass    Jim & Florence Moore RIP
Sun 23 9.30am Morning Mass   People of the Parish
      11.30am Morning Mass    Mary Miles RIP
Mon 24 12noon Feria in Ordinary Time Wk 7  Fr Brendan McCarthy RIP
Tue 25 12noon Shrove Tuesday  Jeamine & Joe Intentions
Wed 26 7.30am Ash Wednesday “Quiet Mass”  Don Dunne RIP
      9.00am School Mass    Adoration Community
      12noon Sung Mass      Terry Docherty RIP
      7.30pm Solemn Mass    Intentions of Fr Neil Chatfield
Thu 27 7.30pm Extraordinary Form Latin Mass  Intentions of Lemuel Cassidy
Fri 28 12noon Friday after Ash Wednesday  Margaret Earley RIP
      7.00pm Mass & Stations of the Cross  Intentions of Chett Cassidy
Sat 29 11.15am Saturday after Ash Wednesday  For the Family and Friends of Peter Doneux

First Sunday of Lent - 1st March 2020 - Cycle A

Sat 29 6.00pm Vigil Mass    Douglas & Mark Robbins RIP
Sun 01 9.30am Morning Mass   Deceased members of the Punchard Family
      11.30am Morning Mass    People of the Parish

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: one hour before 12noon Mass on Weekdays and half an hour before 11.15am Mass on Saturday.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10.30am - 11.00am and 5.30pm - 5.50pm on Saturdays.

Vespers and Benediction: Sundays at 5.00pm

Mass Intentions available for the Month of March

Offertory Collection for last week: £1,006.83 of which £588.33 was Gift Aided. Many Thanks.

Sunday 23rd February - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Readings
1st Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18  Psalm: 102
Psalm Response: The Lord is compassion and love.
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23  Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

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