**Newsletter for the week commencing 11th August 2024**

**Nineteenth Sunday (B)**

**Entrance antiphon: Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.**

**First Reading: First book of Kings 19: 4-8**

**Psalm 33 Response: Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

**Second Reading:  The letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 4: 30 – 5:2**

**Acclamation:  Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.  Alleluia!**

**Gospel: John 6: 41-51**

**Communion antiphon:  O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.**

**Father Behr writes:**

Dear Parishioners

On Thursday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption. It is a holy day of obligation and we have Mass at 10.00 am and 7.30 pm.

**O God, who, looking on the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary, raised her to this grace,**

**that your Only Begotten Son was born of her according to the flesh**

**and that she was crowned this day with surpassing glory, grant through her prayers, that, saved by the mystery of your redemption, we may merit to be exalted by you on high. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,**

**God, for ever and ever.**

**Fr Behr**

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Recently deceased:**

**Those ill or infirm:** Mary Basher, Paul Rumball,PaulLane, Mara McDermot, June Munton, Ailish Cantwell (Jones), Sylwia Dorosz, Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Patricia Hook, Josie Payne, Pat Holland and all those who are unwell and in need of our prayers.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time**: Eva Ford, Evelyn Robertson, Joseph Puxty, Catherine Lista, Alex Holmes, Philomena Curtin, Monsignor Edward Hill and Ann Finn.

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| **This week’s services (11th – 17th August), Feasts and Mass intentions during the week.** |
| **Saturday 10th August**St Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr | No public Mass am10.30 -11.00 am Confession6.00 pm Vigil Mass *Kathleen Vernon Wellbeing***Reader: Pat** |
| **Sunday 11th August****NINETEENTH SUNDAY (B)** | 10.00 am Mass *People of the Parish*    **Reader: Rachel**12.00 Midday Traditional Latin Mass  |
| **Monday 12th August**St Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious | 10.00 am Mass *Anne Nichols RIP* |
| **Tuesday 13th August**Sts Pontian, Pope & Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs | 10.00 am Mass *Donor’s Intention* |
| **Wednesday 14th August**St Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest & Martyr | 10.00 am Mass *Father Lawrence Quin Morris RIP* |
| **Thursday 15th August**THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY | 10.00 am Mass *People of the Parish*7 30 pmMass *Our Lord and Our Lady* |
| **Friday 16th August**St Stphen of Hungary | 10.00 am Mass *In Thanksgiving (Beresford)*10.30 – 11.30 am Adoration |
| **Saturday 17th August**The Blessed Virgin Mary | No public Mass am10.30 -11.00 am Confession6.00 pm Vigil Mass Private Intention (Margaret)  **Reader: Peter** |
| **Sunday 18th August****TWENTIETH SUNDAY (B)** | 10.00 am Mass *People of the Parish*   **Reader: Collette**12.00 Midday Traditional Latin Mass  |
| **Flowers: for Saturday 17th /Sunday 18th August - Sandra** |
| **Cleaning: for 17th/18th August – Liz & David** |

**Confession:**Fr Behr is available for Confession every Saturday from 10.30 am – 11.00 am. He is also happy to visit those who are not able to come to church.

**Children’s Liturgy.** Children’s Lildren’s Liturgy at the 10.00 am Mass is on the first Sunday of every month. All children who have not made their First Holy Communion are welcome to attend.  The next lesson with Lorraine is **Sunday, September 1st**

The **Divine Mercy** Apostolate, London is holding a Celebration of St Faustina Birthday at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent on Bank Holiday Monday 26 August 2024 from 10 am to 4:30 pm. The reflection day will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Call Millie on 07957594646 for more information.

**The Solemnity of the Assumption.**

What connects a dunce to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the solemnity we celebrate on 15 August 2024?

It has taken just under two millennia for the Assumption to be declared a dogma of the Catholic faith. That doctrine, declared in 1950, should fill us with joy and trepidation because this event informs our understanding of the afterlife.

Mary was taken up body and soul into heaven when she died. Her death was not a violent one like her son’s. However, like her son, her body and soul are as one right now.

When we die, unless God wills otherwise, our souls will separate from our bodies. Body and soul will only be reunited at a time Almighty God has ordained.

Some religions see the body as a transitory vessel for the soul. As Catholic Christians we believe that our bodies are not impermanent vessels for our souls. Our bodies are important. There is a future point when our bodies will be in the other world, operating in the dimension of God’s eternal realm. We are urged to perform good works with our hands and our tongues, our bodies – good, Godly, Christlike works, such as feeding the hungry, visiting prisoners and the housebound, consoling the broken hearted, and so on. We are urged to refrain from things that tarnish our bodies, for there is a divinely ordained and powerful connection between soul and body.

The Assumption of Our Lady, which is now part of the system of beliefs to which we assent, gives us a moment to consider God’s awesome plans for our future in heaven. We can scarcely conceive of what it will be like to have glorified, heavenly bodies, but as with Our Holy Mother, so it will ultimately be for those who are admitted into paradise.

Where then does the connection with dunce come in? St John Duns Scotus (1266-1308) was a Scottish Catholic philosopher and theologian. Against the intellectual current of the time, his deep thinking led him to see that Our Lady was preserved from sin by the merits of Jesus Christ. As Margaret) Reader a result her body and soul were free from corruption. And although Scotus’ thinking primarily paved the way for the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception, the Assumption follows that doctrine’s logic. It is by virtue of Mary’s freedom from the weight, heaviness and uncleanness of sin that she did not die as we will. Rather the Blessed Virgin Mary passed from this life to the next with her body and soul being taken up, assumed, into the heavenly realms.

Dunce, is of course, a bit of an insulting term and originates in John Duns Scotus’ name. By the Reformation there was a backlash against the Scholastics – Scotus being of the medieval scholastic tradition. Two hundred or so years after his death, from the Reformation onwards, scholastic thinking was seen as backward and thus dunce (Duns) was a term used for dullards and as a term of reproof in the classroom. But fashions change and Scotus’ thinking has since the twentieth century once more been appreciated, and esteemed.

On the note of appreciation, inspired by the feast of the Assumption, let us be appreciative of the greatness of God Almighty, of his mighty works and the love and care he has for the human family. Let us ask Mary, who is in heaven right now, body and soul, to intercede with Our Heavenly Father for our war-torn world, that we, the human race, may not sully our bodies with violent actions, and that we may do good to our neighbours and forgive those who wrong us, so that we may join her in heaven and be with Jesus her son, and enjoy the beatific vision, which is more beautiful than anything we can imagine.

August is devoted to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

**Adoremus Eucharistic Conference.**

Over the weekend of 14 and 15 September 2024, the Bishops of England & Wales are inviting all parishes to have a period of Exposition to coincide with the Adoremus

Eucharistic Congress. The purpose is to unite all the faithful around the Eucharist with renewed and deepened devotion.  We prepare for the Jubilee Year 2025.

**World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees Sunday 29 September 2024.**

The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development has published a video presentation of this year’s World Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees. <https://www.humandevelopment.va/en/news/2024/giornata-mondiale-migrante-e-rifugiato-2024-tema-messaggio-papa.html>

**Liturgical Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham.**

The Dicastery for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments has agreed to the request of the Bishops’ Conference to raise the Obligatory Memorial of Our Lady of Walsingham to a Feast in England and Wales.

**Introduction to Christian Meditation.**

These sessions have been running for over a year now on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings in Saint Mildred’s Church. During their enforced closure in 2025, these will transfer to the family room at Saint Andrew’s. However, during August this year, a series of introductory sessions is being run. These will be an opportunity for people interested in Christian Meditation to experience it within a small group, to learn about its origins and to discover its relevance as a form of contemplative prayer for the modern world.

7th August           What is Christian Meditation?

14th August         The roots of Christian Meditation

21st August         Leaving self behind

28th August         The fruits of meditation

You do not need to come to all the sessions, as each one stands alone and will give you a flavour of what Christian Meditation is about. Please just turn up or get in touch to find out more.

Sharon Francis 07527 369403 revsharon.francis@outlook.com, or website [https://wccm.org](https://wccm.org/)

**(Emeritus Bishop) Father John Hine – an update** at his own request, Father John Hine has decided to make his current respite care venue, his new permanent home. He can be reached at: Most Reverend John Hine, Saint Claire’s Care Home, Ditchling Road, Ditchling Common, Burgess Hill, RH15 0GU. It would be wise to telephone, if you are planning to visit. 01444 873730. Sister Anne asks that if you do visit that you remind him of your name and where you come from, as his memory is failing him.

**Churches Together in Tenterden.**

The Epistle reading at last week’s Mass from the Letter of Saint Paul to the people of Ephesus reads “you were all called into one and the same hope”. Cardinal Nicholls and Archbishop Welby, joint chairs of Churches Together in England constantly urge us Christians to rejoice in so much that we hope for in common. In Tenterden, amongst a number of initiatives, the churches hold two types of regular events, designed so we can meet together and get to know our fellow Christians:

1. **Joint Sunday evening worship**, on the last Sunday of each month, 1 denomination offers to host an evening act of worship followed by refreshments. The Worship is in that denomination’s “house-style”, so we can learn and appreciate how our fellow Christians worship. The next 4 evenings are:

b. Sunday 25th August at 6pm, hosted by the Church of England at Smallhythe Church during the flower festival

c. Sunday 29th September at 6pm, hosted by the Catholic Church in Saint Andrew’s

d. Sunday 27th October at 4pm, hosted by the Baptist Church in Zion Church

e. Sunday 24th November at 4pm, hosted by the Church on the Weald in Tenterden Junior School

2. **Christian Breakfasts,** these are held every other month at 08:30 am in 3 different venues, Zion Church, Saint Andrew’s Parish Centre and Saint Mildred’s Church Hall. You are assured of a full English Breakfast (gluten and vegetarian options available) and an inspiring talk for £10. The last two for this year are:

a. September 14th Mike Rose (husband of Sue Rose, the rector of Woodchurch, High Halden and Bethersden). He is a clergy man, ex-Navy. His talk is entitled "The road from Amsterdam" and it will be in Zion church.

b. November 23rd Claire Watson talking about the work of the Street Pastors in Ashford and that will be in Saint Mildred's Church Hall.

**VilliJill de Viliers – may she rest in peace.**

Passed away peacefully on 5th July 2024, aged 79 years, surrounded by her husband and two children.

Jill was a tireless champion for Christian Unity and a leading light in the annual World Day of Prayer (formerly Women’s World Day of Prayer)

A Service of Thanksgiving for Jill’s life is to be held at **St. Mildred's Church, High Street, Tenterden, on Saturday 31st August 2024 at 2.00 pm**, followed by a reception afterwards in the church hall opposite. It was Jill’s wish that we wear cheerful rather than sombre clothes.

Please do not send flowers, but rather donations in memory of Jill, if wished, payable to one of her favourite charities, 'Oxfam' (for whom she worked tirelessly as a volunteer for many years) and 'Amnesty International UK’, may be sent c/o T.W. Fuggle & Son Funeral Directors, 20 Ashford Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6QU. Please mark cheques, “In memory of Jill”.

**Ride & Stride (Friends of Kent Churches): Saturday 14th September 2024, 10am - 6pm**

It's that Ride & Stride time of year again! By taking part in the annual Ride & Stride you can:

* keep fit;
* visit some of Tenterden's and Kent's beautiful churches on foot or by bicycle;
* Support St. Andrew’s: the money you raise is divided equally between the church of your choice and the Friends of Kent Churches

You can ride and stride alone or plan a route with friends and family. You can cover the churches of a single town, like Tenterden, or go further afield. You can walk or ride for an hour or devote a day to it. Every little counts!

Sponsorship forms and list of participating churches are available for download at the Friends of Kent Churches website at <https://www.kentrideandstride.co.uk/>

We shall also need kind volunteers to greet riders and striders and sign their forms.

If you can spare just one an hour on Saturday 14th September, please sign the form at the back of the church (and include your contact number please).

**St. Mary the Virgin, Rolvenden, Kent**

Flower Festival

Theme: Moses: 'Reluctant Hero Faithful Servant'

Art Exhibition: sale of paintings. crafts & cards

**Admission Free.**

**August Bank Holiday:**

Sat 24th  (10.00 am – 5.00 pm)

Sun 25th (11.00 am – 5.00 pm)

Mon 26th  (10.00 am – 4.00 pm)

Songs of Praise

Sun 25th (11.00 am)

Morning Coffee - Afternoon Tea

Bookstall and Raffle

Festival Lunches available at the Star Pub

Daily Events: Organ & Instrumental Performances in Church

Enquiries: 01580 240463

In aid of Church Funds