

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary time - 30 July 2023

Thought for the Week

We read in today's Gospel about the parables of the buried treasure and a pearl of great value; they both have the same message, that the Kingdom of Heaven is worth investing everything we have in order to acquire it.

Since the dawn of time people have been looking for treasure. In the past they searched in the fields, in the hills, under the sea. If only they could find gold, diamonds or pearls they would be happy. Today people are still still looking for treasure, except now they look for it in the lottery the casino or the stock market. If only they could hit the jackpot, all their troubles would be over.

Christ loved searchers. He had sympathy for those who were looking, even if they were looking in the wrong places and for the wrong things. He understood their hunger and thirst. He was able to point them in the right direction, although he was unable to help the smug and self-satisfied.

Christ compared the Kingdom of God to a rare pearl or a priceless treasure. The Kingdom of God is worth everything we have. Those who find it are truly fortunate, even if in the eyes of the world they appear foolish, in the eyes of God they are wise and rich.

Life without God is unbearable. A close relationship with God is a real treasure. It gives us a sense of who we are and where we are going. Only God can give us what we are looking for. If we find God, we find all.

To have faith is not to have all the answers. Faith commits us to a life of discovering, searching and yearning.

Deacon George Young

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

There will be **NO** Adoration during the month of **August**.

The Rosary

The Rosary is prayed after the 12:00 Mass each Friday, please join.

Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at St Edward's:

Saturdays: There will be no Reconciliation on 29 July.

Tuesdays: 18:00 - 18:30

Mass Times & Intentions 29 July - 6 August

Sat 29	18:00	Jock Cooper - RIP
Sun 30	09:30	People of the Parish - St Mark's
	11:00	Stanley Hughes - RIP
Mon 31	10:30	Funeral Mass - Rodger Austin
Tue 01	18.30	Margaret Campbell - RIP
Wed 02	10:00	John-Joe Cooney - RIP
Thur 03	10:00	Mary Charlotte Riley FM - St Mark's
Fri 04	12:00	Rita Larkin - RIP
Sat 05	18:00	John Decoutho - RIP
Sun 06	09:30	Lawrence Dyke - St Mark's
	11:00	People of the Parish

Parish Diary 29 July - 6 August

Sun 30	12:00	Tea and coffee in Parish Centre
Thurs 03	18:30	Mass Readings Explained - St Brigid's Room
Sat 05	11:30	Wedding - Paul George & Katerina Sulekova
Sun 06	12:00	Tea & Coffee - P/C

Morning & Evening Prayer

Tue 01	18:00	Evening Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's
Wed 02	09:30	Morning Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's

Offertory

S/O - DD £ 1,848.08 Envelopes £265.70 Loose £239.43

Fr David's Diary

Tue 01	Department of Clergy, Sandhurst
Wed 02	Priest's Retirement fund meeting, Winchester

First Holy Communion Programme – 2023-2024

The team are now accepting registrations for the 2023-24 First Holy Communion programme. Further details plus application forms can be found on the Parish website. Kindly send completed application forms and **a copy** of your child's baptismal certificate to fhc@catholicwindsor.org.

To enrol, please fill in an application form that can be found on our website. The introduction and the unfolding of the programme will be on **Thursday 21 September at 18:30 in the Parish Centre**.

At this meeting of parents, you will receive a 'Record Card' that needs to be stamped when you attend Mass. Further dates will be given at this meeting.

Catholic Windsor - website www.catholicwindsor.org

Parish Office

Patricia Brown: Parish Secretary

office@catholicwindsor.org

Richard Flisher: Finance Manager

finance@catholicwindsor.org

Sharon Cole-Blows: Youth Ministry Worker/Coordinator

YouthCoordinator@catholicwindsor.org

Pat Burke: Safeguarding Representative

safeguarding@catholicwindsor.org

Pastoral Team

Canon David Hopgood: Parish Priest

canondavid@catholicwindsor.org

Rev George Young: Deacon

georgeyoung@hotmail.com

Sr Teresina Fingleton CSB: Parish Sister

Presbytery: 44 Alma Road, Windsor Berkshire, SL4 3HJ

Phone: 01753 865163

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth – Charity No. 1199568

Mass at St Marks

We come to celebrate Mass or have a Service of the Word and Communion on Thursday morning at St Mark's at 10:00. These will continue for a trial period. If this is to work, we will need a team to open and set up each week. Thank you to those who helped this week.

Your Church Donation with Gift Aid

With the Summer holidays fast approaching and everyone having busy lives I am concerned that some of you may not have seen the parish emails, or newsletter notice regarding Gift Aid.

Due to the change in the Diocesan charity number, we will not be able to meet HMRC requirements on Gift Aid, worth an extra 25p for every £1 you donate, **unless a new form is completed soon.**

If you are a taxpayer and give to the church through your bank as a standing order or through the envelopes we need a form completed in order for us to claim the extra Government donation worth approximately £30,000 per annum to the Parish community.

There are forms on display at the back of each church as well as on our website. Alternatively please do get in touch via the Parish Office or email finance@catholicwindsor.org. Many thanks. Rich Flisher Finance Manager. finance@catholicwindsor.org

Monthly Talk for September - Creation

Pope Francis's 2015 "Laudato Si" the Encyclical Letter by was a bid to help humanity to love the earth, to glimpse its sacredness and to be moved by its plight. " With news headlines full of disastrous, soaring temperatures worldwide, how do we now view Creation? What mental shift has corrupted our relationship with the living world? What issues need to be addressed if we are to move forward? How are science and religion reaching out to each other in concern?

Dr Judith Thomas will be presenting this Talk as follows:

Sat 2 September at 10:00 St Edward's Parish Centre, Windsor
Mon 4 September at 10:00 St Edmund Campion Church, Maidenhead

Wed 6 September at 6.30 pm St Joseph's Parish Centre, Maidenhead

The talk lasts for 1 hour and there is no charge - just come along, listen, be encouraged and inspired!

World Youth Day

Our young people will be joining the Holy Father and young people from all parts of the world in Lisbon on Monday, 31 July. Grateful thanks to all members of the parish who have supported them. They will all be attending the 11:00 Mass Sunday to receive a blessing and commissioning as they leave to represent the parish on this important gathering. Later in the summer they will speak at all the masses about the experience of World Youth Day. Those going to World Youth Day are Catherine, Elisa, George and Lilly.

CAFOD Portsmouth

... is hosting two meetings in September so that volunteers and supporters can find out more about our work. The first meeting is on **Saturday 9th September** at St Bede's Church Hall, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX from 10:30 to 12:30 where Philippe Mougou CAFOD's Emergency Response Leader will talk about our work in Pakistan after last year's floods.

The second meeting is on **Saturday 16th September** at St Michael & All Angels Church Hall, Dunsbury Way, Leigh Park PO9 5BD from 10:30 to 13:30 (lunch is provided) where Sara Moreno from CAFOD's Partner SIEMBRA from Colombia will speak about her work with human and environmental rights defenders.

Everyone is welcome but please book so that we have an idea of numbers by emailing; Jo Lewry portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

Pastoral Area update; Come and Join us

Over the next few weeks and months you are invited to experience our broader community and join in sessions at each other's parish. The first invitation is from Maureen and Mohan at St Edward's:

'Mass Readings Explained Sessions' by Dr Brant Pitre - facilitated in S. Brigid's Room at St Edward's Church, Windsor on Thursdays 18:30 - 20:00.

Dr Pitre's reflections on Mass Readings always give wonderful explanations that help us connect the Old Testament with the New Testament and suggest how the Old is fulfilled in the New. The explanations are eye opening and give a wonderful understanding that we have never had before. Our appreciation of the gospels has blossomed with these videos and the discussions afterwards.

A testimony from one of our parishioners:

"The Mass Readings Explained sessions opened my eyes to the Scriptures and I found it to be a wonderful and enlightening experience. It has shown the endless connections between the Old and the New Testaments and answers to many questions I had. This has opened my eyes to understand what God is telling me through "His Word" at Mass each Sunday. The knowledge I acquired through these sessions has further deepened my faith". We welcome you to come, taste and then decide.

For more information you may contact Mohan or Maureen on 07517453338 or e-mail: ecmak1@aol.com

St Francis of Assisi - Ascot

If you would like to start receiving Ascot's Parish Newsletter, please subscribe using this link:

<https://dashboard.mailerlite.com/forms/328304/80177558794011978/share> It is usually sent on Thursday or Friday, every week.

Good news, Alpha is returning in September!

This year, we are going to offer the course both **online** and **in-person**. Many people find it difficult to secure childcare or prefer to meet others whilst in the comfort of their own home, so by offering an online version, we hope you will give it a try. If meeting in-person is your preference, that is still a great option too.

Start dates are as follows:

Monday, **18 September, Alpha Online**, 19:30 - 21:00

Tuesday, **19 September, Alpha In-Person** at St Edwards Parish Centre, 19:00 - 21:00

Alpha is a 10-week course that explores life's big questions, in an open, non-judgmental and safe place. We'll be discussing questions like: Is there more to life than this? Does God exist? Why did Jesus have to die? and, why is there so much suffering in the world?

To RSVP, please follow this link:

<https://forms.gle/miZUsLvKeFs2LMRf7>

If you have questions about joining, inviting others, or joining our team of volunteers, please email Ryan Greig at:

alphawindsor316@gmail.com

March for Life

March for Life on Saturday 2 September are looking for help in one of these roles: Marshal/Steward - Musicians on the march - Helpers for stalls - if you think you can help please send an email to march4lifeuk@gmail.com

Deceased

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Rodger Austin**, who died recently. His Funeral Mass will be at St Edward's on Monday 31 July at 10:30.