The Twenty-Eighth Sunday of the Year

Saturday 10th 6.00 pm Johanna O’Driscoll RIP
Sunday 11th 8.15 am The Parish

10.30 am Intention of the Dunne Family
2.00 pm First Holy Communion Mass (1)
Monday 12th 9.30 am Holy Souls
Tuesday 13th 9.30 am Reg Marshall RIP
7.30 pm Choir Practice
Wednesday 14th 9.30 am Roger Davis RIP
Thursday 15th 9.30 am Ann & Bernard Bandy RIP
Friday 16th 9.30 am Ann McClusky RIP
Saturday 17th 6.00 pm Marguerite Walsh RIP
Sunday 18th 8.15 am Pat Thornton RIP
10.30 am Colette Devlin RIP
2.00 pm First Holy Communion Mass (2)
6.00 pm Polish Mass

SATURDAY: Reconciliation: 10.15–10.45 am & 5.15 - 5:45 pm

TODAY’S READINGS: Isaiah 25:6-10, St Paul to Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20, Matthew 22:1-14
NEXT WEEK’S READINGS: Wisdom 3:1-9; St Paul to Corinthians 4:7-15; Matthew 10:17-20

COLLECTIONS: Church: £795 Thank you for your generosity.

This Sunday there will be a Second Collection for CAFOD Family Fast Day which may be left in the West porch as you leave. This may be Gift Aided using the special CAFOD envelopes available in the Main Porch

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Samantha Gridgman, Mick Brouder, John Smith, Father Chris Ingle, Eileen Beech, Ian Threlfall, Thomas Duggan, Len Argent, Sister Catherine Lai, Maithé Bennett, Justin Gould, Rose Little, Leila Murray, Mary Murphy, Anne Steere, Anthony Canneaux, Lawrence Brownlee, Margaret Birch, Lita Yong, Patrick Ryan, Brenda Peazold, Mary Wessel, Gina Palermo, Elizabeth Hoskins, Joan Cutmore, Christine Watson, Gordon Milne, Alfred Deacon, Roni Horstead, Ronnie Tyler, Jenny Begley, Bill Hogg, Breda Schlimgen, Michaela Finn, Winifred Lyons, Yvette Allen, Kerry McStravick, Lydia Van Meisen

2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY: TONI JUDD and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Ray Cottam, Molly Bellenger, Phyllis Davey, Johanna Hawkins, Maurice Chiverton, Kathy Bainbridge, Reg Marshall, Roger Davis, Violet Earl, Emily Hudson, Pauline Moody. May they rest in peace and rise in glory

3. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION will be received by eight of our children this Sunday during a special Mass at 2.00 pm. Please pray for Aidan Barnes, Connor Clark, Beth Hamilton, Hannah Iwuamadi, Sasha Omokaro, Mila Pantelli, Alessia Peci, Salina Rahman and their families.

4. PRAYER GROUPS and SPIRITUAL GROWTH: Our Prayer groups are recommencing in the Church.
DIVINE MERCY – 1st Wednesday of the month 7pm. Contact: Verona 07734 208273
PARISH PRAYER GROUP- 1st & 3rd Fridays of the month 7pm Contact: Jane-Anne & Dermot 07765 403883
(please contact us if you would be interested in a morning prayer group)
MOTHERS PRAYERS - Monday & Thursday Groups Contact: Mary 07889 065356
As we are following COVID guidelines it would be helpful if you can call the group contact you are interested in joining a group. Thank you and we look forward very much to sharing this precious time together.

5. CHOIR PRACTICES will resume this coming Tuesday 13th October at 7.30 pm in the church, following all relevant guidelines. Please enter by the Main door, wearing a mask. You will be guided to your place where you may remove your mask for the practice. Please exit through the West Door. New (and old) members welcome

6. MARY’S MEALS: We are now in particular need of Serviceable Towels, Toothpaste and Toothbrushes Many thanks
7. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021: Is your son or daughter in Year 3 this term? If so, they are at the age where they can start the preparation course for First Holy Communion. Please email the Parish Office so that a letter and application form can be emailed back to you. Please return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible.

8. PLEASE OBSERVE THE ONE-WAY SYSTEM throughout the church. In order to maintain social distancing it is most important that we all move in the same direction. Entrance is through the Front Porch and exit through the West Porch. When going forward for Communion please leave by one end of the bench and return by the other end. However, now that more people are attending Mass at the weekend, those sitting on the left side of the church (Chapel side) may leave through the Front entrance having been invited to do so by the stewards. The Repository is open after weekend Masses and entrance will now be from the Front porch and out through the shop office. Stewards will ensure only three people are in the shop at any one time. It is essential that we maintain social distancing at all times.

9. TURNING TIDES (WCHP) HARVEST APPEAL during which items are requested that can be stored and used as needed throughout the year. Please could you donate: Boxer Shorts, Men’s Socks, Dish Cloths, Dishwasher Salt, Dishwasher Tablets, Dishwasher Rinse Aid, Shampoo and Conditioner, Tinned Fruit and Veg, Pickles or chutney, Shaving Foam or Gel, Washing Powder, Razors, Herbs, Liquid Soap, Tinned Meat, Rice Pudding and Custard. There is a blue box in the West Porch for your donations. Many thanks in advance

FATHER LIAM SAYS: The Canonisation of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales took place on Sunday 25th October 1970. The Golden Jubilee of this event will be in two weeks’ time. The 10.30 Mass on that day will be in honour of the Forty Martyrs with readings and prayers of their feast. Bishop Richard will relay a message for the occasion to all the churches of the Diocese. Since our church is dedicated to the English Martyrs it will be a particularly special day for us though we are limited in what we can do at this time. We can count ourselves fortunate to have scheduled the events marking the Golden Jubilee of our Parish church to conclude in January. Sunday 25th October 1970 was the day that St Peter’s basilica in Rome became the Parish church of England and Wales when Pope Paul VI canonised 40 of the nearly 400 men and women who gave their lives rather than deny their faith during the turbulent years of the 16th and 17th centuries. About 10,000 pilgrims had made the journey to Rome and had gathered by 9.00 am when the long procession of bishops and dignitaries began filtering into the basilica. The Pope walked at the end of the procession dressed in red vestments – the colour of martyrdom. Our bishop at the time was David Cashman – first bishop of our diocese - and the Archbishop of Westminster was Cardinal John Heenan.

The cause for the canonisation of the Forty Martyrs originated in the mid-19th century, Following the restoration of the Catholic hierarchy in England and Wales in 1850 Cardinal Nicholas Wiseman, the first Archbishop of Westminster and Cardinal Henry Manning, who succeeded him led a campaign for the recognition of those who had been martyred for their faith. In 1849, Frederick William Faber had written the rousing hymn ‘Faith of our Father’ in memory of the martyrs. By 1935 nearly 200 Reformation Martyrs had been beatified, earning the title of ‘Blessed’, but only two, Cardinal John Fisher and Thomas More had been canonised both on 19th May by Pope Pius XI. Copies of their portraits are in our church. After the Second World War the cause for the canonisation of the Forty Martyrs was gradually revived. Thirty-four were English and six were Welsh. Of the forty 33 were priests. About a quarter of the English Martyrs came from Lancashire, a very poignant reminder that the region had remained a stronghold of the faith despite the persecution and difficulties that they suffered. On 24th May 1961 the reopening of the cause was formally decreed by Pope John XXIII.

For the canonisation to proceed it was necessary that two miracles granted through the intercession of the forty as a group be recognised. A list of 24 miracles was drawn up and submitted by the English and Welsh bishops. Two of these were chosen for further scrutiny. The Sacred Congregation for the Causes of Saints granted a special dispensation, subject to Papal approval, that one of the two miracles would be sufficient to allow the canonisation to proceed. This was the case of a young mother affected with a malignant tumour. The path was now open for the canonisation to take place.

However, there were concerns in some quarters about the effect the canonisation might have on the ecumenical agenda. In 1969 Dr Michael Ramsey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, had expressed his apprehension that this canonisation might rekindle animosity and polemics detrimental to the ecumenical spirit that has characterised the efforts of the church recently.’ It was clear however that the majority of people within both faiths supported the canonisation and in May 1970 Pope Paul VI declared that it would take place on 25th October that year. The Pope emphasised the ecumenical value of this cause, stressing that we need the example of these Martyrs, not only because the Christian religion is still exposed to violent persecution in various parts of the world but also because the 40 Martyrs – men and women from all walks of life stand out as notable witnesses to human dignity and freedom. Among the pilgrims at the canonisation were representatives bishops from Scotland and Ireland and descendants of many of the Martyrs including the Duke of Norfolk, a descendant of St Philip Howard. The singing at the Mass was by the Westminster Cathedral Choir, rather than the Sistine Chapel Choir, which normally sing at all canonisation Masses.