**The English Martyrs**

- **Saturday**: 24th 6.00 pm Tina Moran RIP
- **Sunday**: 25th 8.15 am Pat Thornton RIP
- ** Monday**: 26th 9.30 am Holy Souls
- **Tuesday**: 27th 9.30 am Maria & Joquin RIP
- **Wednesday**: 28th 9.30 am Patrick Murphy RIP
- **Thursday**: 29th 9.30 am Holy Souls
- **Friday**: 30th 9.30 am Josephine O’Shea RIP
- **Saturday**: 31st 6.00 pm Deceased Relatives of Gina Marshall
- **Sunday**: 1st 8.15 am The Parish
  - 10.30 am Colette Devlin RIP
  - 6.00 pm Polish Mass

**SATURDAY:** Reconciliation: 10.15–10.45 am & 5.15 - 5.45 pm

**TODAY’S READINGS:** Isaiah 53: 3-11; Psalm 15: 1-2,5-7-11; Hebrews 11: 33-12:2; John 17:11-21

**NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:** Malachi 1:14-2:2,8-10; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13; Matthew 23:1-12

**COLLECTIONS:** Church: £296 Thank you for your generosity.

This Sunday there will be a Second Collection for World Mission Sunday (MISSIO) which may be left in the West porch as you leave. If you would like a Red Box for the Missions please contact Teresa 01903 243401

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:** Liz Harvey, 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, Lelia 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 Melsen

**2. THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY** and those whose anniversaries occur about now: Walter Leach, Zaza Field, Canon Bernard Thom, Patricia Hennessy, Patricia Ferin, Reginald Mosely, Constance Clark, Kathleen Hope, Giuseppina Pryke, Jean Murphy, Tony Sassi, Roy Bellm, Brian Hayes, Donald Rodrigues, Josephine Hills, Doris Hayes. May they rest in peace and rise in glory

**3. 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. Lessons commence on Tuesday 3rd November at 4.30 pm in The Barn

**4. NOVEMBER – IS THE MONTH FOR HOLY SOULS:** The usual ‘November envelopes’ are available in both porches for those wishing to remember their loved ones at the Altar. Any donations will go towards offering Masses for the Holy Souls. Please fill in and leave on the table in the West Porch as soon as possible

**5. 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

(Mother 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.

**4. THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE** has been updated and the new address is: www.abdiocese.org.uk
5. THE 10.30 am MASS OF THIS SUNDAY, at which the choir will be singing, will be filmed and available on line from 5.00 pm Sunday afternoon

6. CHOIR PRACTICES have resumed on Tuesdays 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

7. MARY’S MEALS: We are now in particular need of Serviceable Towels, Toothpaste and Flannels. Many thanks

8. 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

THE BISHOP’S OF ENGLAND & WALES SAY: The feast of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales honours the hundreds of British men and women who suffered persecution and died for their Catholic faith during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries in the wake of the dispute between the Pope and King Henry VIII. Countless loyal Catholics were tortured and killed between 1535 and 1679. On 4th May 1535, the first of these many martyrs of the English Reformation were hanged, drawn and quartered on the gallows at Tyburn. Although some have been canonised or beatified, the true number of those who died on the scaffold, perished in prison, or were tortured or persecuted for their faith – the ancient faith of their country – is not known. Thousands of others were driven into exile or deliberately reduced to penury under merciless penal laws.

The martyrs celebrated today came from every walk of life: rich and poor; married and single; men and women; priests, religious and lay people. They are remembered for the example they gave of constancy in their faith, and courage in the face of persecution which lasted almost a hundred and fifty years and left a permanent mark on English culture. When King Henry VIII, after his break with Rome, proclaimed himself “the only Supreme head on earth of the Church of England”, Catholics felt that he had appropriated a supremacy in spiritual matters that belonged only to the Pope. While they wished to remain loyal subjects of the Crown, as the legitimately constituted authority, for reasons of conscience they refused to recognise the ‘spiritual supremacy’ of the King. When the Act of Supremacy was passed in 1534, many faced a serious dilemma, and even death, rather than act against their conscience and deny their Catholic faith. (From an ecumenical point of view, it is important to note that these deaths were not the result of internal struggles between Catholics and Anglicans; rather, that those who died were not willing to submit to what they saw was an illegitimate claim of the Crown. The schism created by Henry set in motion more than a century of religious turmoil during which Protestants were sometimes burned for heresy, with some 300 dying during the five-year reign of Queen Mary I as she struggled to re-establish the Catholic faith in England.) There were four distinct waves of persecution. The first followed the passing of the Act of Supremacy in 1534 when Henry VIII broke with Rome and suppressed the monasteries. The second came after 1570 when Pope Pius V, believing that Queen Elizabeth I was illegitimate and had no right to the throne of England, issued a papal bull excommunicating her and absolving all her subjects from allegiance to her and her laws. Persecution intensified markedly in the latter half of Elizabeth’s reign, following the arrival of the Jesuits on the English Mission, coupled with the threat of invasion by Spain. In 1581 an Act was passed that made it treason to withdraw English subjects from allegiance to the Queen or her Church, and in 1585 the entrance of Jesuits into the country was prohibited by law. The third wave followed the failed Gunpowder Plot in 1605. The final wave came in 1678, following the so-called ‘Popish Plot’, a totally fictitious but widely believed plot, fabricated by Titus Oates, in which it was alleged that Jesuits were planning to overthrow King Charles II in order to bring his Catholic brother (later King James II) to the throne. Even this rumour was enough to stir a new and unprecedented era of persecution for Catholics. The cause of about three hundred martyrs was introduced in Rome shortly after the restoration of the Catholic hierarchy of England and Wales in 1850, and the long campaign began under Cardinals Wiseman and Manning. By 1935, nearly two hundred Reformation martyrs had been beatified (by Leo XIII and Pius XI), but only two of these had been canonised: in 1936, Cardinal John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, and Henry VIII’s chancellor, Sir Thomas More, became the first Englishmen to be made saints since John of Bridlington in 1401. After the Second World War, the cause was revived in 1960 and, in 1970, the Vatican selected forty martyrs, men and women, lay and religious to represent the full group. On 25th October 1970, at St Peter’s in Rome, Pope Paul VI canonised these forty English and Welsh martyrs as saints. Auberon Waugh described it as “the biggest moment for English Catholicism since Catholic emancipation in 1829”. In England, these martyrs were formerly commemorated by a feast day on 25th October, but they are now celebrated together with all the canonised or beatified martyrs of the English Reformation on 4th May. Each of the forty martyrs has their own day of memorial, but they are remembered as a group on this date, marking the first deaths at Tyburn in 1535 of those observed from the Tower of London by Thomas More “cheerfully going to their deaths as bridegrooms to their marriage.”

In Wales, 25th October is kept as the feast of the Six Welsh Martyrs (from the group of forty) and their companions (the thirty-four English Martyrs). Wales continues to keep 4th May as a separate feast for the beatified martyrs of England and Wales.