

CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTBOURNE NEWSLETTER



28 AUGUST 2022

22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A gift to others

Jesus loved banquets. We never hear that he refused the offer of a good meal. Once there, he would transform the table into a space for evangelizing repartee. In today's scene, we can imagine him wryly observing as people vied to position themselves for the best seat in the house. If he wasn't actually chuckling into his beard, his eyes were surely laughing as each guest preened in the attempt to appear more distinguished than the rest.

Aware of the learning capacity of his audience, Jesus first offered advice about how to avoid humiliation: *'Choose the lowliest place and nobody else can put you down.'* He directed this pragmatic counsel to folks highly concerned about appearances — a few of them might have been astute enough to grasp his wisdom.

Pope Francis follows Jesus' lead in his letter, *Fratelli Tutti*. Critiquing entertainments like the dinner where the place of honour grabbed everyone's attention, Francis laments that we can feed ourselves *'on dreams of splendour and grandeur, and ended up consuming distraction, insularity and solitude'* (Paragraph 33). He goes on to remind us that, *'Human beings are so made that they cannot live, develop and find fulfilment except "in the sincere gift of self to others"'* (Paragraph 87). He wants us to constantly enlarge our table of encounter.



Following the advice Jesus and Francis offer would be an adventure — a step into the unknown. They are inviting us not just to eat and drink in the presence of others (pews apart), but enter into mutually nourishing and transforming interchange. As Francis says, *'Life, for all its confrontations, is the art of encounter. ... We, as a people, should be passionate about meeting others, seeking points of contact, building bridges, planning a project that includes everyone.'* (Paragraphs 215-216). Francis says this can be our aspiration and style of life. Jesus calls it the resurrection of the righteous.

Visit our website: www.catholicwestbourne.org

MASS TIMES

Sun 28 Aug - 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9.00am
11.00am

Tuesday 30 August – FERIA

10.00am

Wednesday 31 August – FERIA

10.00am

Thursday 1 September – FERIA

10.00am

Friday 2 September - FERIA

10.00am

Mass is followed by Adoration at 10.30am.

Sun 4 Sept – 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9.00am
11.00am - *Benjamin Samuel Oakley Armas*
(Baptism)

CONFESSIONS after Mass or by appointment.

SUNDAY MASS READINGS

Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Ps 85: 3, 5

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

Gospel Acclamation - Jn14:23

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

Communion Antiphon - Ps 30: 20

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

DATE FOR THE DIARY – PARISH CHRISTMAS

LUNCH You are invited to our Parish Christmas lunch at The Riviera Hotel, Bournemouth on Saturday 17 December for a 12.30pm start. The menu and sign-up sheet are on the foyer noticeboard. We hope you can join us.

PRAYER FOR PREGNANT WOMEN We pray for the families and friends of pregnant women. That they would recognise their responsibility to care for the mother and child, and that they would shower them with love and support through the journey of pregnancy and beyond. Lord hear us

MARRIAGE CONCERNS Retrouvaille is a Catholic programme that is open to married couples of any faith, or none. It is offered as a gift from the Catholic Church to any married couple who wishes to heal the difficulties they are experiencing in their marriage. Visit the website www.retrouvaille.org.uk for further information.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST 'Let us pray for small and medium-sized businesses, hard hit by the economic and social crisis, so they may find ways to continue operating and serving their communities.'

OUR PARISH

OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH
SEAMOOD ROAD, WESTBOURNE,
BOURNEMOUTH, BH4 9AE

Parish Priest: Fr Leslie Adams

Telephone: 01202 764027

Email: ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
(Baptism, Marriages, Sick Visits,
Funerals and Confessions)

Parish Office (Wed 9.00am - 12.00pm)

Parish Administrator – Suzanne Quinn

General enquires and hall bookings

Telephone: 01202 760640

Email: oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Matthew French

Email: mail@matthewfrench.net

PARISH NEWS

St BERNADETTE OF LOURDES RELIC TOUR UK

The relics of St Bernadette (a section of bone from her thigh in newly built reliquary) for the very first time will journey on a pilgrimage to England, Scotland and Wales. Her relics will come to St John's Cathedral from Thursday 8 September, 9:30am, o/night to Friday 9 September, 10.00am.

This special once in a lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the charisms of Lourdes. Do come and make a personal pilgrimage to the French saint, to venerate and to pray for her intercession.

Special Evening Prayer of the Church and Torchlight Procession Thursday 8 September at 7.00pm.

(Please arrive at the Cathedral by 6.45pm) Why are relics important to Catholics? Relics are venerated to honour the holiness of God. The veneration of relics is rooted in the natural human instinct to treat anything connected with those we love, who have died, with care and reverence.

From earliest times the bodies of martyrs were held in special veneration. The relics of St Polycarp, for example, were described as being *'more valuable than precious stones and finer than refined gold.'* In Rome, prayer services were held in the catacombs, and from the



fourth century, the Eucharist was celebrated over the tombs of the martyrs. St Augustine explains this by highlighting that the bodies of saints and martyrs had enabled them to live as organs of the Holy Spirit. Relics help us to feel close to a holy person, making the communion of saints more real and fostering in us a desire for holiness.

Pope Benedict XVI said: *'By inviting us to venerate the mortal remains of the martyrs and saints, the Church does not forget that, in the end, these are indeed just human bones, but they are bones that belonged to individuals touched by the transcendent power of God. The relics of the saints are traces of that invisible but real presence which sheds light upon the shadows of the world and reveals the Kingdom of Heaven in our midst.'*

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

You can donate directly into the bank account:

**PRCDTR Bournemouth
Our Lady Immaculate**

Sort code: 309304 Account: 00875075

Thank you for your continued support.

PRAYERS PLEASE

Please remember all the sick and housebound of our parish especially:

Teresa Wraith,
Win Sheridan, Kathleen Wood,
Phillip Rockford, Germain McAulay,
Geoffrey Dixon, Joe Bonnici and
Christopher Browne

