



Encountering Christ
Prayerfully preparing for the
Sunday Mass and praying in
particular for our school families



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 20th September 2020 - The Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Relax & Remember

Set aside 10-15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present.** Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.



2 Read

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 20th September 2020 - The Generosity of God (Matthew 20:1-16)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of Heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing around, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us," they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last," they said, "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

3 Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

It is hard not to sympathize with the workers who have sweated it out right through the day in the hot sun. The idlers who have hardly got earth on their spades or grease on their hands get a great bonus and I get no bonus at all! Is this fair? No. God is not fair. You can't apply the concept of "fairness" to God at all. We can't enter into a reckoning with God. God does not calculate as we do. In the terms of this world, this is obvious enough. The wicked do prosper, while honesty and high moral standards, instead of being rewarded are often simply mocked. Can we go deeper and say that the reward is in heaven? This hardly fits with the way Jesus worked here on earth. He did not reward the virtuous. He said he was the doctor who had come to the sick. His favourites were the worst of society, tax-collectors and prostitutes, not even amiable rascals. Heaven was open to anyone who accepted him. It is no good looking for fairness in God, for this implies that we deserve something. We cannot claim to 'deserve' anything; we are simply called into a loving relationship and to put our trust in Jesus.

What does this Sunday's Gospel say about the generosity of God? When have you experienced God's generosity, his kindness and forgiveness in your own life?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

4 Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. **Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph.**



The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph

www.wednesdayword.org

Welcome to the Parish of Our Lady & St. Robert

Robert Street, Harrogate, HG1 1HP (Diocese of Leeds) Registered Charity No: 249404

Clergy: Canon Jim Callaghan –Parish Priest

Fr. Ben Hilton -Assistant Priest

Parish Office (St. Robert's Presbytery)- Closed until further notice

web:strobertsharrogate.co.uk

Tel: (01423)504988 e-mail: office.strobert@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

St Robert's Centre—Closed until further notice

Tel: 01423 529771 e-mail: info@strobertscentre.co.uk web: strobertscentre.co.uk



Sunday Sept 13th Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat Vigil 6.15pm St Robert's	Mass (People of the Parish)
Sat Vigil 6.30 St. Aelred's	Mass (Parish Dead List)
9.00am St. Robert's	Mass (In Thanksgiving Marie & Dave)
10.00am St. Aelred's	Mass (Parish Dead List)
11.00am St. Robert's	Mass (Jean Bond)
6.00pm St. Robert's	Mass (Vicky & Lizzy Ward)

Monday Sept 14th The Exaltation of the Holy Cross FEAST

12.00 noon St. Robert's	Mass (Priest's Intention)
-------------------------	---------------------------

Tuesday Sept 15th Our Lady of Sorrows

No Public Mass ()
()

Wed Sept 16th Ss Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

10.00am St. Aelred's	Mass (Priest's Intention)
12.00noon St. Robert's	Mass (Fr Lawrie Lister)

Thurs Sept 17th St Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

No Public Mass ()
()

Friday Sept 18th Weekday in Ordinary Time

10.00am St. Aelred's	Mass (Priest's Intention)
Confessions St. Robert's	11.00-11.45am
12.00noon St. Robert's	Mass (Priest's Intention)

Sat Sept 19th Mass of Our Lady

Confessions St. Robert's	5.00pm - 5.45pm
Sat Vigil 6.15pm St. Robert's	Mass ()
Sat Vigil St. Aelred's 6.30pm	Mass ()

Sunday Sept 20th Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.00am St. Robert's	Mass ()
10.00am St Aelred's	Mass ()
11.00am St. Robert's	Mass ()
6.00pm St. Robert's	Mass ()

Sunday Mass will be video-recorded on Saturday evening and available to view on the link below.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1ON0w9Vg1R8-nGyLWMA?view_as=subscriber

St Robert's and St. Aelred's is OPEN for MASS :

Many thanks to the Volunteers for Stewarding the Church when open for Mass —we could not open without you!
We will need more Stewards, so if anyone is interested or can spare an hour or two per week please ring Canon Jim or Fr. Ben on 01423 504988

Any changes or updates will be updated on this bulletin and uploaded to the website, so please check often as information is coming through and changing sometimes on a daily basis.

Parish Finance:

Huge thanks to everyone who has continued to support St. Robert's and St. Aelred's, and especially those who have made new arrangements to donate towards the church during these difficult times.

You can give weekly or monthly in several ways:

1. Set up a standing Order with your bank or building society (GAD forms can be downloaded)
2. Make a one off payment via internet or telephone banking to the church using the details below:

Diocese of Leeds: Our Lady Immaculate St. Robert's Harrogate. Sort Code. 40-27-15 Account No: 81017489

Diocese of Leeds: St. Aelred of Rievaulx. Sort Code 40-27-15 Account No: 41017470

Donate from the webpage pressing the donate button

3. Leave a donation at St. Robert's Presbytery (cash or cheque) through the letterbox.

200 Club July Winners:

1st 162
2nd 53
3rd 468
4th 279

200 Club August Winners:

1st 116
2nd 527
3rd 248
4th 13

NEW OFERTORY ENVELOPES

There are still some boxes of envelopes awaiting collection at the back of Church. If you normally use envelopes and have not yet picked up your box would you please do so. There is usually an Offertory Collection box by the Exit door from Church or you can put your Offerings in the Presbytery letter box.

SVP shop Knaresborough;

Volunteers to work in the shop on Knaresborough High Street are urgently needed. Any help you can spare, even if only a couple of hours, will be gratefully received. The shop has lots of good stock, but only one person to do all the work. Please telephone the shop on 01423 869771.

Deanery Day of Renewal. Saturday 26th September from 2.00pm to 4.00pm ONLINE

Speaker Fr. Chris Thomas

There will be Praise and Worship "Listening to God in Scripture and our lives"

Sharing groups for reflection. Intercessory prayers and farewells.

To Register please email VAL at vmese@hotmail.co.uk zoom number will be sent to you on the day.

THE BRIERY RETREAT CENTRE

The upcoming programme at the Briery Retreat Centre includes the following events in September:

18th to 20th September 2020 – Parish Retreat (Weekend Retreat with opportunity for Day Guests) – Led by the Briery Team, this retreat is open to small group or individuals who would like the opportunity for a quiet and reflective times.

25th to 27th September 2020 - Living with Loss – Part 1 (Bereavement Weekend with opportunity for Day Guests). Led by Abi May, an experienced retreat leader, author and educator (www.livingwithloss.co.uk). The aim of this retreat is to help deal with life changing loss.

Further information can be found on the website: www.briery.org.uk or by contacting the Briery, Tel: 01943 607 287 or Email: briery@btconnect.com.

Phased re-opening of Churches for the public celebration of Mass.

We would ask you please to note the following information The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days has been suspended by our Bishops until the end of the current health crisis. The Bishops are encouraging those who can to attend one of the scheduled weekday Masses and thereby allow greater access to the Sunday Masses for those who are working. The seating capacity in all churches has been greatly reduced, so that we can adhere to social distancing at 2m. A one-way system will be in operation in all churches and stewards will be on duty to assist worshipers at all public Masses and will take responsibility for sanitizing the building after each service.

*****BOOK FOR MASS*****

We would be very grateful if you would please try to book the day before the Mass you want to come to. We appreciate it is not always possible, but as numbers are rising the lists we compile have to be produced the evening before. Our lists have not been accurate where last minute bookings have taken place. The permitted total at St. Roberts for Mass is 46 and St. Aelred's 22 and we do not ever want to be in the situation where parishioners have to be turned away as we would exceed our permitted total for the church.

www.strobertsharrogate.co.uk to book online for whatever Mass you want to attend or ring the dedicated phone line during office hours 9am-5pm Monday to Friday. **0778 361 1229**

It is now MANDATORY until further notice to wear a face covering in Church, so please bring one with you.

First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation 2020-2021

Our Diocese have recently sent us outline plans for the preparation and celebration of the above sacraments for our children and young people. The "normal" programmes are suspended, as you would expect but some work may be possible "on-line" or by parents using the relevant books to catechise their own children, with some remote support from the Parish. There are two online meetings taking place on 17th September and 1st October for catechists and clergy, after which I will be able to advise parents and children how we intend to proceed. Canon Jim

Clergy Changes

The coming week is Fr. Ben's last week in the Parish; he will celebrate the morning Masses at St. Robert's next Sunday 20th September and then depart for a short holiday before taking up his new appointment at the cathedral in Leeds.

Usually, when a priest leaves the parish we would then take up a collection and invite him back for an evening Mass and Reception to present him with a parting gift.

In the present circumstances such a social gathering is not possible and so, in agreement with the chair of the parish finance committee I will present Fr. Ben with a cheque next Sunday, as a gratuity from the Parish, to mark and give thanks for his ministry here.

Canon Jim

Please remember in prayer those who have died this week: Fr Lawrie Lister May they rest in peace.

Please pray for all the sick of the Parish.

And those whose anniversaries occurs at this time: Stephen Ryle