



The Parish of St CUTHBERT

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
25 JULY 2021

Parish Website www.stcuthberts.org.uk

Contact Details for Fr Chris:
christopher.gorton@dioceseofsalford.org.uk
Phone: 01204 587996

Address: 7 Eastbourne Grove, Heaton, Bolton BL1 5TR
Mail will be redirected to SToC school until further notice

Office hours: Mon - Fri (10.30-12.30)

Phone Number: 01204 524597 / **01204 497068**
the old number above, calls will shortly no longer be redirected.
Please start using the new number (in Bold)

Office email: office@stcuthberts.org.uk

Newsletter: newsletter@stcuthberts.org.uk

Pope Francis has announced a special day of Celebration for Grand Parents and the Elderly, Today on Sunday July 25th.

Our parish & schools have marked the occasion
with a special card, to be given to every
Grandparent or Elderly person we know of, or, are
in a Local Care Home. Collect your card(s) from the
back of the church. There is also a PDF card on the
Parish website you can print for your loved ones if
you can't get to church.

Prayer for Grandparents and Elders

Lord Jesus, with the intercession of your grandparents,
Saints Joachim and Anne, shine your love and
protection on all grandparents and all our elderly family
members. Help us to welcome their wisdom, and
together with them, praise you for the gifts of faith,
hope and love. Give them strength and grace to
embrace a living faith. And when our earthly life is
through, may we all be reunited together, one day, in
heaven. *Amen*

Please remember in your prayers.....

*All in your families & those of
our
parishioners who are sick*

*Remember all those
who have
died recently....*

*All those with Anniversaries at
this time ...*



*Mass
Intentions*

Tom O'Sullivan
Evelyn Mary Hough RIP
Francis O'Rourke
Kevin Harmon
Mathew Jerger

Sick
Anniversary 5 yrs
Anniversary
Lately Dead
Lately Dead

We all wish Fr Chris the very best in his Marathon,
especially in this heat. We also wish him a very
good holiday so he comes back to the parish
refreshed and renewed for the year ahead.
Meanwhile we welcome the Spiritan Fathers who
will take over saying the masses whilst Fr. Chris is
away.

VACCINATIONS A message from Bishop John.

"Bishop John is urging all adults, who are able to do
so, to be vaccinated. Pope Francis has reminded
people of the duty to be vaccinated if they are able.
The Church is clear that all Catholics can take any of the
vaccines on offer with a clear conscience. Even if you are
at a low risk of becoming seriously ill, being vaccinated
will lower the risk of transmitting the virus to somebody
else who might then have a severe reaction or even die.
It is particularly important that those in our parishes,
clergy and lay-people who visit those who are
housebound or otherwise vulnerable are vaccinated."



The Parish Liturgy for the Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time

Monday July 26	Tuesday July 27	Wednesday July 28	Thursday July 29	Friday July 30	Saturday July 31	Sunday August 1
St Joachim & St Anne	Weekday	Weekday	St Martha	St Peter Chrysologus	St Ignatius of Loyola	18th Week Ordinary
No Service	Mass	Mass	Mass	Mass	Vigil Mass	Masses 9.30 am St Joseph & 11.15am St Thomas of Canterbury
	10.00 am	10.00 am	10.00 am	10.00 am	5.30 pm	
	Thomas of Canterbury	St Joseph	Thomas of Canterbury	St Joseph	Thomas of Canterbury	

Horticultural Reflections

This verse from "God's Garden" written by the
hymnologist, Dorothy Frances Gurney neatly expresses
the connection between spirituality and horticulture:

"Kiss of the sun for pardon
The song of the birds for mirth
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
than anywhere else on earth".

Gardens have long been associated with a sense of
spirituality from ancient times. Gardens for the Egyptians
and Persians were designed to represent heaven on
earth, based on a formal layout and the use of water. They
were places for meditation and relaxation. Religious rites in
Ancient Greece took place in hillside olive groves.
Medieval monastic gardens were both places for
contemplative exercise combined with the more utilitarian
function of providing food and herbal cures for the
community beyond the walls. If we jump many centuries,
the National Arboretum in Staffordshire is a series of
memorials to casualties of war set in woodland
surroundings, again to encourage a sense of reflection to
assist in remembering and forgiving.

Of course there are many horticultural references to be
found in the Bible: starting with the Garden of Eden. We
can pick up at random the parable of the mustard seed;
references to various labours in vineyards, mention of
wheat, chaff, lilies and manna. If we want to explore this
theme further we might make the obvious point that the
whole process of planting, nurturing and harvesting is
parallel to our human life span. Being in harmony with
nature expresses the notion of balance, respect and
natural beauty as part of the design for the universe.
Growing food provides sustenance for others as a
community obligation. The First Nation inhabitants of
North America only took what they required to survive
when hunting the bison unlike the Buffalo Bill who
delighted in mass slaughter for fun.

So how do we react to the challenge of gardening? Do we
go for ordered formality or create a wild environment? Do
we respect weeds? Do we cope with the ravages of slugs
with a philosophical acceptance that all creatures are to be

respected? Do we find digging and mowing as a chance
for free exercise that helps us to combat other stresses?
What do we look for in a favourite bloom: fragrance,
colour, ease of growing, usefulness? Have we planted
trees to help counteract climate change? Do we feel
perhaps too competitive when growing prize winning roses
or marrows? Are we peat free/organic? Our responses
reveal our attitudes to our environment and each other,
perhaps connecting more with St Francis and a much
simplified monastic routine?

During the extended lockdowns, those fortunate enough to
have gardens even if this is a window box, balcony tubs or
a few house plants with have been able to focus on these
visual delights perhaps as a centring down preparation for
our prayers. A walk in the local park can also provide the
same opportunities for praying outside. We can feel
pleased about successfully bringing seeds to fruition and
being out of doors is good for our health and state of mind.
Perfection is not the main object and we shouldn't feel
guilty that we are not as successful as Carol Klein or
Monty Don We can always have our own mini Tatton
Flower Show or RHS Bridgewater in our own back
gardens. There is a place for simply enjoying horticultural
pleasures in a world that can seem all too gloomy. One
would like to think that the Old Testament Jews in exile in
Assyria got some momentary delight in the sight of the
Hanging Gardens of Babylon and a whiff of their fragrance
to sustain them in their woes.

Nick Tyldesley – copyright July 2021

