



St. Helen's Parish

Barry, Rhoose, Sully

St Helen's Church, Wyndham Street, Barry CF63 4EL

Parish Priest: Canon Pat O'Gorman

St Helen's Presbytery, Court Road, Barry CF63 4ET

Telephone: 01446 735051



E-mail: barry@rcadc.org

www.sthelensrcchurch.co.uk

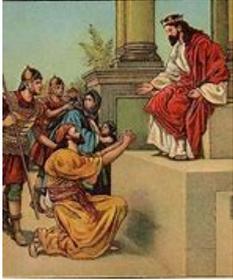
Registered Charity No 242380

13th September 2020

24th Sunday Of Ordinary Time

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Eucharistic Prayer: IV with its Preface



'Forgive your brother from your heart'

13th September 2020, 24th Sunday Of Ordinary Time

Saturday	6.30pm	Margaret Jane Hayes
Sunday	8.30am	Sam & Julia Hanlan
	10:30am	People Of The Parish

20th September 2020, 25th Sunday Of Ordinary Time

Saturday	6.30pm	Trudy Rowsell
Sunday	8:30am	Patrick McLoughlin
	10:30am	People Of The Parish

Please pray for all the sick and elderly members of the Parish, their families, carers and all their families.

Parish Hall Events

No Parish Hall Events Until Further Notice

Sacramental Events

Baptism Preparations— please contact the parish office for more information.

First Holy Communion— First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Saturday 10th October. Reconciliation/ Confessions to take place on

RCIA— Sessions continue on Thursday 17th September at 7:00pm in the Presbytery.

Confirmation— Postponed until further notice.

Sanctuary Lamp: May, Jim & John Canty

Weekday Masses: Mon 14th Sept– Sat 19th Sept

Monday The Exaltation Of The Holy Cross (Feast)	9:00am	Ted Svendsen
Tuesday Our Lady Of Sorrows	12 Noon	Michel Berndt
Wednesday Sts Cornelius & Cyprian	9:00am	John & Mary Nelson RIP
Thursday Weekday in Ordinary Time	9:00am	Wellbeing Intention
Friday Weekday in Ordinary Time	9:00am	Stanley Joseph Williams
Saturday Weekday in Ordinary Time		No Morning Mass 10am-11am Confessions/ Reconciliation

Collections—Sunday 6th September 2020

Ordinary- £256.72

Gift Aid- £197.50

Mass Steward Volunteers

Sat 6:30pm 12th Sept	Leelama Reji, Anne Reynish Nikki Cole & Jennifer Hanson
Sun 8:30am 13th Sept	Anne Munroe, Obi Ofokansi, Chris Owens & Pat Wilkins
Sun 10:30am 13th Sept	Phillip Kitchen, Soniya Johny, Stephanie Tarling & Michelle O'Hare
Sat 6:30pm 19th Sept	Leelama Reji, Paul Burke Nikki Cole & Jennifer Hanson
Sun 8:30am 20th Sept	Anne Munroe, Menna Jones, Chris Owens & Pat Wilkins
Sun 10:30am 20th Sept	Obi Ofokansi, Soniya Johny, Phillip Kitchen & Michelle O'Hare

St Helen's Catholic Primary School

Mrs Kathy Giernalczyk (Head Teacher)

01446 700034

St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School

Mr David Blackwell (Head Teacher)

01446 729250

Dates For Your Diary

+Reminder Weekday Masses

Please check the weekday Mass times on the front of the newsletter each week as times & days may change due to funerals and insufficient number of volunteers. In the event that we are unable to celebrate public Mass due to having no stewards/cleaners for that day, Mass will be live streamed, you will be able to find the details of this on the front of the newsletter.

+Mass Bookings

If it is your intention to attend Mass, booking is essential. Please book by email: barry@rcadc.org or by telephoning the parish office: **01446 735051** (option 2), You can also use the temporary mobile number **0739495159**, please state which Mass you wish to attend and how many people are attending.

The booking times for Mass are Tuesday & Thursday between 9am-1pm. The church doors will be open **20 minutes** before Mass begins, please follow the stewards instructions as a seating plan & one way system are in place. In the event of a fire you would not be expected to follow the one way system, please exit at the nearest safest exit. The toilet facility is now available, children must be accompanied to the toilet by an adult.

+Live Stream

Masses are still available via live stream by visiting our website: www.sthelensrcchurch.co.uk

+Mass Intentions

Parishioners are welcome to continue to send in Mass intentions by posting them through the door of the Presbytery or by contacting Kirsty in the office.

+The God who speaks

‘Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life.’

(Gospel Acclamation Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

The Exultation of the Cross.

The Book of Numbers tells of Israel’s *“wilderness experience”*, a journey that was both geographical and spiritual. In it we read of the rebellion, complaints and human weakness of the people – and God’s faithfulness to them. The seriousness of the people’s complaint in our reading is evident in that it is directed for the first time against both God and Moses, yet for the first time the people sincerely confess their sin, and the passage ends on a healing note. The story of the *“bronze serpent”* seems strange, but tales of the healing influence of serpents are found in other cultural traditions. Such copper serpents have been found at various excavations. Later, the bronze snake became a fetish and was

destroyed by Hezekiah (cf. 2 Kings 18:4). In Wisdom 16:6 the bronze snake is called *“a token of deliverance ... for he that turned toward it was saved, not by what he saw but by the Saviour of all”*. We read in a rabbinical commentary, *“And our Rabbis said: Did then the serpent slay or bring to life? No, but so long as the Israelites looked upwards, and subjected their hearts to their Father in Heaven, they were healed; and if not, they decayed.”*

+Perfection

I expect most of us have in our kitchen cupboards a few items of crockery or glassware that have chips or cracks in them. But we don’t throw them away, because we can still find a use for them. Their flaws don’t mean that they are of no use and have to be discarded. However, when we have visitors, we may tend not to display the flawed crockery and glassware, but only get out those items that look perfect, as if we don’t have anything that is less than perfect. (A bit like Hyacinth Bucket in the TV series ‘Keeping up Appearances’!)

A common exchange on the telephone is: ‘How are you?’, to which the response is almost always, ‘I’m fine. How are you?’, even though we might be feeling very un-fine at the time, due to health issues or just having a very bad day. We tend not to want to admit to having any health issues (which is the equivalent of cracked crockery in our lives), unless we are talking to someone very close.

Prayer can be the same. When talking to God, we may not be eager to talk about our faults. We may be ashamed of them. Instead, we concentrate on praying for other people. Praying for other people is a good thing, but we need also to acknowledge our faults to God and ask for his forgiveness.

God is not going to discard us because we have chips or cracks. Like the chipped and cracked items in the kitchen cupboard, he can still find a use for us in his kingdom, and he is always ready to forgive. He would rather that we approach him with humility and ask forgiveness than approach him with a false pride that says, ‘I’m fine’, when we know we are not.

Much as we may strive for perfection, we are human, and it is part of human nature that we are imperfect, that from time to time we make mistakes, and that we all have our weaknesses that make us fall short of perfection. (I am reminded of the words of the Rev. Canon Chasuble in Oscar Wilde’s play, ‘The Importance of Being Ernest’: *“None of us are perfect. I myself am peculiarly susceptible to draughts.”*)

Fr. Ray Hemingway