CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: LEIGH AVENUE, MARPLE: 11th - 12th JULY 2020

Newsletter:

Saturday 11th July: ***Vigil Mass: 4pm. Int: Sheila Foster & Tony Howes. - (both rec`d - dec`d)***
Vigil Mass: 6pm. Int: Parishioners.
Sunday 12th July: ***Mass: .....9am. Int: Sr. Joan Taylor. - (rec`d - dec`d)***

Wednesday 15th July: ***Mass: 10am. (Fr. Bill will hear Confessions immediately after the 10am. Mass in the Parish Meeting Room)***

Welcome to everyone who is joining us this weekend for the celebration of the Eucharist, this is our second weekend reopened for ***Sunday Masses*** *since the lockdown on places of worship relaxed at the start of July. Last weekend was a* ***joyous occasion*** *for* ***Holy Spirit*** *with* ***Parishioners, Friends of the Parish and Visitors*** *coming together for the first time in over fifteen weeks, for the* ***celebration of the Sunday Liturgy.*** *This coming together was made possible due to the terrific work put in by our* ***Parish Finance & Management Team*** *and those who are giving their time as* ***Stewards, so that all the "Directives" with regard to the Safe Opening of Churches by "Public Health England" are adhered to. To remind all those who have put their Names down for a particular Mass, you do not need to contact Fr. Bill each week, unless you want to attend a different Mass, or you want to remove your name from the attendance list permanently.*** *The Present* ***Mass Times of Saturdays 4pm Vigil / 6pm Vigil & Sundays 9am are likely to remain a permanent fixture into the Autumn.*** *The following of* ***"Social Distancing Directives"*** *is the* ***most essential requirement*** *for all of us coming together for the* ***"Celebration of Mass"*** *closely followed by the* ***sanitisation of our hands and the wearing of a "Mask" Fr. Bill*** *understands that such measures are not easy for lots of our people, but it is only by adherence to the* ***"Directives as outlined by Public Health England and as endorsed by The Trustees of the Shrewsbury Diocese*** *that our Church of the* ***Holy Spirit*** *can be* ***safely opened for the "Celebration of Mass".*** *The celebration of* ***Mass in Schools*** *will remain in suspension for the* ***remainder of this Academic Year 2019/20*** *it will be reviewed in* ***September at the beginning of the "New Academic Year" Fr. Bill will commence the celebration of Requiem Masses from this weekend.*** *The stipulation being that the* ***maximum number allowed to attend is 30 Mourners.***

Money Matters:

Thank you kindly to all who contributed so generously to last Weekends Offertory Collection:

JULY: 4th / 5th : Offertory £1293:00 / Funeral Stipend : £200:00 / Online Donations: £200:00.

JUNE 2020 / Standing Orders: £1099:00

The New Series of "Offertory Envelopes" *for the* ***"Financial Year 2020 21"*** *are available at the* ***entrance to the Church.*** *There are still a lot of* ***Parishioners*** *who have not picked up the* ***"New Series"*** *if you live near someone who is* ***Shielding currently*** *you might consider dropping of* ***their "New Series of Offertory Envelopes. It would be helpful if anyone using "Envelopes" could contribute using "Standing Orders"*** *if it is convenient for you to do so, please contact* ***Michael Blundel on 0161-427-1953.*** *The* ***"Development Fund"*** *will be* ***relaunched this coming Autumn, in September*** *with a new* ***Series of Envelopes / or Standing Order.*** *The* ***Offertory Collection*** *for now at least will not be taken in the customery way of* ***passing the "Collection Bags" around. Parishioners/Friends/Visitors*** *are invited to make their* ***Offertory Contributions by placing them***

in the Basket *either as you* ***enter or leave the Church.*** *Fr. Bill is especially thankful to all who have made* ***Offertory Contributions for the fifteen weeks that "Holy Spirit" was in Lockdown, it is greatly appreciated.*** *The question was asked of Fr. Bill how much did the* ***Lockdown cost in terms of "Weekly Offertory & resultant Gift Aid" ?*** *The answer is about* ***4k*** *but with* ***Parishioners very generously making up the monies*** *for the weeks they were away from* ***Church, that sum will be much smaller in time.***

Parish Newsletter & Other Church Ministries:

It is hoped that as ***Lockdown eases*** *we will be able to resume* ***Parish Ministries*** *among which is the production of the* ***Weekly Newsletter.*** *All* ***Ministries going forward*** *will have to be "****Risk Assessed****" so Fr. Bill would ask all those who* ***exercise Ministies in the Parish*** *to be patient at this time, as* ***directives*** *from the* ***"Confrence of Bishops"*** *with regard to the* ***Celebration of the Sacraments and Ministries*** *are being* ***updated on a daily basis*** *regarding what is* ***Safe Practice & what is not.***

Parish Mass Books / Hymn Books:

For the forseeable future, ***Parish Mass Books*** *which were provided by* ***Holy Spirit*** *cannot be used, however you can bring your own* ***Personal Missal or Prayer Book, but you must take it home with you after Mass is ended. Singing*** *is likewise not allowed for now at least,* ***Tony Walker*** *has knidly offered to provide some* ***"Reflective Music"*** *for our* ***Masses*** *and this will create a more relaxed atmosphere for the* ***Prayer of the Mass.***

St. Bernadette`s Brinnington, Parish / School:

St. Bernadette`s School, has continued to remain open during the Covid 19 Pandemic mainly for the Children of Essential Workers, the numbers however have continued to increase since the ***Lock Down*** *has eased, and the* ***Governors are confident*** *that by the start of the* ***New Academic Year in September*** *that there will be a* ***full cohort in each year group. St. Bernadette`s Church reopened last Sunday July 5th for the regular 10:30am Mass. Fr. Bill*** *and the* ***Parish Management Team*** *spent a number of days in the week leading up preparing the Church in accordance with the* ***directives issued by Public Health England, and endorsed by the "Trustees of the Shrewsbury Diocese"*** *It was most encouraging to have an* ***attendance of 40+*** *and again the* ***members of the "Parish Management Team"*** *did a sterling job in* ***Stewarding the arrival and departure of the Parishioners/ Friends of the Parish & Visitors.***

Scripture Readings / Fiftheenth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Isaiah reminds us that everything has a purpose in ***Gods plan,*** *the elements that are often dimissed as being inconvenient or destructive when viewed in the greater scheme of things, they complete a beautiful pattern.* ***St. Paul*** *in his* ***second letter to the Romans*** *is sounding very philosophical, he is reminding them and all of us, that because of our decadence we have not been able to get the very best out of the* ***Gifts that God has stored in Creation.*** *We are too engaged in our own enterprises so that we neglect the* ***Gifts that are present all about us in the World. Paul*** *is obsessed by the notion of* ***Man being in Harmony with the World,*** *he sees this* ***Harmony as opening a window for man into Gods presence. St. Matthew,*** *excites us with the* ***"Parable of the Sower"*** *something as simple, yet as fruitful as a single* ***grain of seed, carrys such potential.*** *If that grain is to fulfil that* ***potential, we must be a fertile panting place for it.*** *To be that* ***fertile planting place*** *for the* ***Word of God,*** *so often we have to overcome our own inadaquacies, we have to go forward trusting the little* ***faith*** *we have. Has* ***Covid 19*** *I ask, given us courage to trust in the* ***Things that God has left at our disposal ?***