HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, MARPLE
www.holyspiritmarple.com
Fr.Bill Fitzgerald 427:4922
30th August 2020
22nd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

First Reading: (Jeremiah 20:7-9)
The word of the Lord has meant insult for me.
Second Reading :(Romans 12:1-2)
Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice.
Gospel: (Matthew 16:21-27)
If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself.

Pope Francis's prayer intention for September: That the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.

Sunday **Vigil 4pm** **Vigil 6pm** **9am**	**30th August** **Parishioners** **Lionel Barnie** **Maureen Matthews**	**Thursday**	
Monday		**Friday**	
Tuesday **5pm (Brinnington)** **All welcome to attend**	**1st September**	**Saturday**	
Wednesday Mass **10am** **Confessions 10.30am**	**2nd September** **Drago Lacie**	**Sunday** **4pm Vigil** **6pm** **9am**	**6th September** **Parishioners** **Thanksgiving (Howes)** **Private Intention**

One decade of the Rosary	**Suspended**
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Adoration and Rosary	**Suspended**
Baptism/Marriage	By appointment
Sacrament of Reconciliation	After Mass on Wednesdays or by appointment.
Collection	£362.35 (23/8) Standing Orders (July) £1054.37p

Those who are sick:

Please pray for Bill Davies, Christopher Brown, Stuart Madden, Christopher Clifford, James Tanner, Annie Shufflebotham, Marie Sidebottom, Malcolm Garrett, Libby Webb, Nina Noworyta, Fr.John Cairns, Marie Hayes, George Williams, Ruth Grace Crosby, Jarek Tomaszewski, Emily Small, Ann Crossley, Kathryn Smith, Steven Platts, Fr.Kevin Gradwell, Clare Hadlow, Pauline Magrath, Kathleen Jones, Father Pat Munroe, Renata Broda, , Gino Belli, Cyril Nield.

.A warm welcome to everyone. If you are new to the parish, please fill in a card and give it to Fr Bill. We shall be glad to visit you and make you as welcome as possible.

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SOCIAL

During this past week, Fr. Bill has been speaking with a number of fellow clergy across various diocese, and they have expressed the feeling that because so many of the regular activities associated with the life of Church Communities are on hold, there is a feeling of emptiness. Church congregations are at about half the size they were post Covid 19, and while the "Sunday Obligation" still does not apply, the future for a number Parishes is starting to look very uncertain, as financially they are becoming unviable, which means essential repairs, and being able to support a resident priest will not be an option. An interesting if not concerning aspect of Covid 19, is the number of families that have not returned to Church after the "Church Lockdown was eased" at the beginning of July, despite the "extremely stringent measures put in place regarding Social Distancing and Hygiene" Here at Holy Spirit we currently have approximately three families coming to the weekend Masses, interestingly at St. Bernadette's, Brinnington there are five families with three or more members under the age of twelve who make up approximately fifty per cent of the Sunday Congregation of fifty. There are a number of concerns for most parishes with regard to enabling families to feel secure and safe when they feel the time is right for them to return to Sunday Mass. With our Schools opening this coming week it will be learning experience for Church / Parish Communities in what we will need to do, so that families will be able to feel confident to return to Sunday Mass, when they feel the time is right. For the present at least, visiting the sick in their homes or in nursing or rest homes is not encouraged, except in case of "Extreme Emergency" when the Priest in accordance with the directives as issued by the Conference of English Bishops" may pay a visit, using the proper PPE Kit, to be disposed of immediately after the visit. Fr. Bill is available before or after the Weekend Mass and again on Wednesdays after the 10am Mass for Confession. Confirmations or First Sacraments have not been celebrated this year 2020 so far in our diocese, and the directives from the Diocese is that this should remain the case for now at least, perhaps later in the Autumn circumstances might be different. Any family wishing to celebrate Baptism, should make contact with Fr. Bill, in order to set the process in motion. A lot of positive comments on the return of a more complete "Weekly Newsletter" gracious thanks to Mary Abbott for the production. A big thank you to our "Parish Stewards" for the great leadership shown in opening our Church at the beginning of July and setting continuous high standards every time that the Church is used, not all Parishes are as lucky. Thank you to Tony Walker for helping to set a lovely relaxed atmosphere for our Masses, with some quality music, it is appreciated. As many schools reopen this coming week, for the "New Academic Year 2020 / 21" we pray for all school communities that it will be a safe, secure and successful academic year for them. Our Parish Finances are in reasonable shape despite smaller congregations, so thank you to all who are able to keep up their weekly contributions, it is greatly appreciated. Renewed thanks to Mike Blundell for taking care of all Parish Finances at this time.

SCRIPTURE READINGS 22nd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Perhaps of all the Old Testament prophets, Jeremiah sounded and acted most like a new covenant prophet. In his preaching he said that "witness to God means suffering" St. Paul centuries on would preach, "Jesus Christ crucified" and that through suffering we share in the crucifixion of Jesus. The word goes forth through the witness of the "Servants faithful life of suffering" In today's psalm likewise, in the midst of their forty years in the desert, Gods people have the confidence to gather in worship and praise of God calling on his holy name. Paul's snippet from his letter to the Romans, once again is an exhortation that true Christian Worship exists in the way that the Christian lives his or her life. True (Metanoia) conversion is evidenced by our behaviour, I cannot live a life that separates me from God and call myself a believer. Conversion is a call to transform my mind, so that it is able to discern the will of God for me, and then live that life in love. Paul's famous phrase, "when one opts to embrace the Cross, thus listening and trying to respond to the Word of God" they become an entirely new creation. This is the main function of our Liturgy to gather in praise, and be sent out as believers. In last weeks Gospel we celebrated St. Peter's confession of Faith, today Jesus reminds us that unless we loose our lives for his sake, our salvation will be nigh impossible. At the very centre of today's Liturgy, we have the invitation to be "Suffering Servants" for the Gospel of Christ. The "Prayer after Communion today asks that our reception of Communion which we have just shared will strengthen us to love and serve God in one another.