HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, MARPLE
www.holyspiritmarple.com
Fr.Bill Fitzgerald 427:4922
23rd August 2020
21st SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

First Reading: (Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18)
We will serve the Lord, for he is our God.
Second Reading :(Ephesians 5:21-32)
This mystery has many implications for Christ and his Church.
Gospel: (John 6:60-69)
Who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life

Pope Francis's prayer intention for August: Prayer for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

Sunday **Vigil 4pm** **Vigil 6pm** **9am**	**23rd August** **Thanksgiving (Blundell)** **Albert McDermott** **Parishioners**	**Thursday**	
Monday		**Friday**	
Tuesday **5pm (Brinnington)** **All welcome to attend**	**25th August**	**Saturday** **Vigil 4pm** **Vigil 6pm**	**29th August** **Parishioners** **Private Intention**
Wednesday Mass **10am** **Confessions 10.30am**	**26th August** **Leslie Gill**	**Sunday** **9am**	**30th August** **Maureen Matthews**

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	£381.06 (8/9/20) 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

As we approach the final weeks of August, we have been remind this past week that the Summer holiday season is fast giving away to preparations for the "New Academic Year" The past weeks have been extremely stressful for those students and their families trying to gain entry to third level education, and sadly the stress continues in many cases. This issue along with so many other issues that our society is trying to deal with, all began with the arrival of Covid 19 some six months ago now. It has put a strain on every aspect of daily life, because it is so closely linked to our "Social Interactions" each of us can so easily be the source of Covid 19, and likewise we can by our choice of life style prevent its transmission. The next major step in the Covid 19 saga, will be the return of the children to school in early September, the governing bodies of all Primary and Secondary Schools under the jurisdiction of Catholic Diocese's have all put in place a "Covid 19" plan, which has been formulated after consultation with Parents/Guardians and their Local Education Authorities. It is hoped that all Schools will have a full cohort in all year groups, which will then be formed into " Bubbles" this will be an important time for school children as many have lost almost half a year in the classroom. Across Catholic Diocese's the directives as issued by "Conference of English Bishops" have been effective overall, some parishes have had some Covid 19 cases, and these in the main where Mass was being celebrated every day, and clearly the deep clean was not rigorous enough. The recent advice from our own "Diocesan Trustees" is that those who have volunteered as "Stewards must be respected" it is unreasonable to expect them to be on call every day. Fr. Bill with advice from the "Parish Finance and Management Team" has tried to strike a balance in this regard, with the number of Masses being celebrated, hopefully when restrictions ease further later in the Autumn more Weekday Masses will be possible. Communion to those who are housebound or in Nursing / Rest Homes is again under restriction, due to the local lockdown here in the Greater Manchester Area, hopefully this will ease soon and we can recommence visiting the sick. Fr. Bill has recently booked in a number of Baptisms at both Churches, thankfully the family groups are well under the permitted number of thirty allowed. Requiem Mass is also permitted, though the number allowed remains for now at thirty. Fr. Bill will give consideration to "Families with Candidates for First Sacraments" once the present lock down in the Greater Manchester" eases, it may be that "Candidates / Families" would prefer to wait until 2021 ?? This past week the funerals of Maureen Matthews and Norman Jackson were celebrated, Fr. Daniel (newly appointed priest of St. Mary's, at Marple Bridge) conducted the internment of Maureen Matthews on Tuesday afternoon last, Fr. Bill, Frank & Marian Thompson attended the Committal. On Wednesday Fr. Bill conducted the Committal of Norman Jackson at the "Rowan Chapel" Stockport Crematorium. May they rest in peace. Weekend Masses are being pretty well attended, we are averaging approximately a hundred, still a number fearful or with underlying issues not venturing out, but being remembered each Sunday in our Mass Intentions. Thank you kindly to all who continue to support our "Weekly Offertory" by Envelope / Loose Plate / Standing Orders it is greatly appreciated.

SCRIPTURE READINGS - 21st Sunday of the Year

Scripture Scholars believe that Isaiah's dislike of this person called Shebna was probably greater than any offences he may have committed. Shebna became overly pompous in the position he held, preventing people from getting directly to his Master. Isaiah also believed that he was helping Hezekiah's alliance with Egypt against Syria. Both Officials are an example of how not to use ones authority. The keeper of the keys of David's House was an image of the early church applied to the person of Jesus.This authority of Jesus was subsequently passed on to the Apostles. Today's Psalm interestingly reflects what Isaiah wrote in the First Reading, that Gods plan will not be thwarted by unfaithful human beings. Paul in his Letter to the Romans set forth his Theology of Salvation, concluding, as most theologians do, that God cannot and will not be confined or defined. The riches and wisdom of God are always too deep to penetrate his judgements and his ways are unsearchable. No theologian has ever known the mind of the Lord, despite their intellectual greatness. There comes a time when the theologian must lay down his or her pen, and marvel at the wonders of God. Theology emerges from Liturgy and inevitably returns to it. In today's Gospel the authority to bind and loose will allow the "Church" to determine what is permitted and what is forbidden. Peter was entrusted with the authority to establish what was permissible or otherwise, and to make decisions based on the Gospel of Jesus. The authority to interpret also includes the task of Governing / Discipline / Condemnation / Acquittal. Since this revelation of Jesus was also given to others, and since the blessing given to Peter was also shared by others, it holds that the authority to bind and loose was given to the entire "Church" which we enjoy today in the celebration of the SacramentofConfession.