

ST ETHELBERT'S CHURCH, LEOMINSTER
& ST JOSEPH'S, BROMYARD

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19th July 2020: 16th Sunday of the year

In this week's Gospel we hear Jesus speaking about the Kingdom of Heaven. So often when we speak about Heaven we think of the after-life but when Jesus speaks of the Kingdom of Heaven he is speaking about the world in which we are living now. For Jesus, the Kingdom represents the kind of world that God wants to see realised among us here on earth and if we think about it, this is something that we pray for each day in the Lord's Prayer – "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

When Jesus speaks about the kingdom he is not referring to a place but the reign or the rule of God; a situation where God's values prevail and these values include truth, love, compassion, justice, a sense of solidarity with all other human beings, a deep respect for the dignity of every other human person. People who, individually and collectively, try to live these values belong to the Kingdom of God. They are united with the rule of God in trying to build a world we would all like to see happen. It is very much something for the here and now.

In the parable of the weeds sown among the wheat we are being reminded that we live in a rather messy world and that people who are filled with the vision and values of God must learn to live side by side with a whole spectrum of people who, in varying degrees, do not yet share or live by God's values. By striving to live the high ideals of the Gospel we can have an influence, however small, on the world in which we live and so help to build up God's Kingdom



'Behold, I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door to me, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.'

(Communion Antiphon Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)



Masses for this week

Sunday	16th Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am 5.30pm	People of our parishes In Thanksgiving
Monday		Catherine Stockford	
Tuesday			
Wednesday	St Mary Magdalene	Holy Souls	
Thursday	St Bridget of Sweden		

Friday		Sick of the parish	
Saturday	St James		
Sunday	17th Sunday of Ordinary Time	9.00am 5.30pm	People of our parishes

Private Prayer at St Joseph's Bromyard

St Joseph's will be open for private prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursday from 10am until 12 noon. Please follow the instructions at the church door.

Unfortunately, we are not yet in a position where we can celebrate Mass at Bromyard in a way which complies with current legislation. Hopefully the situation will change in the not too distant future.

Mass at St Ethelbert's, Leominster

Next Sunday there will again be a public celebration of Mass at 9.00am and 5.30pm. Because the number of people attending Mass has to be restricted, I would ask that those wishing to attend contact the presbytery, preferably by email leominster@rcadc.org or phone if you do not have email, stating which Mass you wish to attend.

A reminder that there are a number of requirements and restrictions that have to be strictly adhered to.

- The number of individuals/ household units that can be accommodated at each Mass will be 14.
- Those attending Mass will be required to sanitise their hands on entering the church and wear a face mask throughout the Mass (this is essential to comply with the reduced 1 meter plus social distance inside the church.)
- outside the church the social distance of 2 meters should be adhered to
- For the time being the ministries of reader, Eucharistic ministers and altar servers will be suspended.
- Anyone feeling unwell or showing symptoms of COVID-19 should not enter the church
- Also anyone who is shielding or living with someone who is shielding should not attend Mass.
- In order to comply with the Government's Track and Trace system, a register has to be kept of all those present at Mass. These details will be kept for 21 days as per Government requirements.

Hopefully, we will be able to increase the number of Masses as time goes on but this will depend on the availability of Stewards and people who can help to sanitise the church after each Mass.

Supporting Your Parish Financially.

I would like to thank you to those who have been concerned about how our parishes can keep going financially without the regular income from the collection. I am very grateful to those of you who have continued to donate by standing order, those who sent cheques and those who have put a donation through the letterbox.

The Archdiocese has now created a way that card donations can be made online to individual parishes through the Archdiocesan website. This online giving can be accessed from the homepage of the diocesan website under the heading: Support you parish during COVID-19 lockdown or from the main donations page at rcadc.org/donations

The instructions should be straightforward to follow and by clicking on the relevant parish you will be able to make an offertory donation via Virgin Giving.

I know that these are difficult times when many are experiencing financial difficulties and I do thank you for thinking about our parishes at this time.

A note from the Universe & Catholic Times

To our Catholic Universe and catholic Times Readers: - at the moment you are unable to collect your paper at Mass, but you can get it delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you. SPECIAL OFFER 3 MONTHS: -£18.00 or 12 Months: - £72.00