

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

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19th July 2020: 17th Sunday of the year

During the week. I came across this thoughtful reflection on today's Gospel:

Jesus likens the kingdom to a man who finds a buried treasure and sells all that he has so that he can buy the field containing the treasure. He likens the kingdom to a merchant who sells all that he has in order to be able to buy *one really valuable pearl*.

What is the one really valuable pearl that we are willing to sacrifice everything in order to have? What is that buried treasure for which we would be willing to sacrifice everything?

The thing that Solomon wanted most was "an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong."

Isn't it possible that what we want most is something very selfish: possessions, security, power, pleasure, comfort? What would the world be like if, instead of these, our *one really valuable pearl* was something like world peace based on justice for all? or the development of a classless society based on respect for all and the priority of need over want? Or the worship of God through prayer, service, and a preferential option for the poor? What would the world be like? Jesus says it would be like the kingdom.

The cross of Jesus Christ shows us the deficiency of other value systems. Jesus yielded up his life for us in perfect loving union with the Father's will, and this is the meaning of his life which also gives meaning to our lives as his followers.

If we can acknowledge selfishness as folly and self-sacrifice as victory, if we can love enemies, be vulnerable to injustice and, in being so, still say that we have triumphed, then we shall have learned to live in Christ Jesus.

U.S. Bishops, To Live in Christ Jesus, 1976:116. Gerald Darring

St Ethelbert's Leominster

Last weekend it was a great joy to be able to celebrate Mass with a congregation, even though we were few in numbers and had to adhere to strict guidelines. For the time being I will celebrate a public Mass at 9.00am and 5.30pm on Sunday and at 9.00am on Monday and Friday. At present the number of people attending Mass has to be restricted, and we can only accommodate a relatively small number of people at each Mass, so to avoid disappointment, I would ask that those wishing to attend Sunday Mass to book a place by contacting 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.

St Joseph's, Bromyard

St Joseph's will be open for private prayer on Thursday from 10.00am until 12noon. Unfortunately we are not in a position to open St Joseph's for public worship. I will review the situation again during the week and again make the necessary application to the diocese. Hopefully we will soon be able to celebrate Mass at St Joseph's with a limited congregation.

Services during the week

Sun 26 July	17 th Sunday of the year	Mass 9.00am Leominster Mass 5.30pm Leominster	People of the Parish
Mon 27 July		Mass 9.00am Leominster	
Tue 28 July		Private Mass	
Wed 29 July	St Martha	Private Mass	
Thur 30 July		Private Prayer 10am-12noon Bromyard	
		Private Mass	Mary Millar
Fri 31 July	St Ignatius Loyola	Mass 9.00am Leominster	
Sat 1 Aug	St Alphonsus Liguori	Private Mass	
Sun 2 Aug	18 th Sunday of the year	Mass 9.00am Leominster Mass 5.30pm Leominster	Fr Edward McMahon

Confessions

A few parishioners have asked about the situation regarding Confession. At present it is still not possible to hear confessions in the usual way however if you wish to go to confession, please contact the presbytery and I will make suitable arrangements.



**'My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me than silver or gold.'**
(Responsorial Psalm Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

