

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

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30th August 2020: 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday Reflection

Does God want us to be happy? How could anyone answer "no"? How could anyone suppose God is good or loving if it is not true that he wants us to be happy?

And yet look at Christ's line in the Gospel reading. Deny yourself, Jesus tells his faithful followers; take up your cross and follow me.

What will save us from the evil that infects us and leaves us so willing to afflict others?

Denying yourself seems the very opposite of going for happiness, and the cross is an instrument of torture. Why would God want these things for his people? Does God want us to be unhappy?

A man divorcing his unaccomplished, middle-aged, dowdy wife to marry a much younger, prettier, successful woman explained his decision to his devastated wife this way. "God wants me to be happy," he told her, "and I can't be happy with you. I will be happy with her."

It seems never to have crossed the mind of this husband that God might have any care for his wife's happiness. The husband's full view of the matter could be put this way: "God wants me to be happy, but God doesn't care at all about you."

This little story, common in its selfishness, shows the sickness of the post-fall human condition, so apt to privilege its own power or pleasure over any greater goods. We can't be happy in this condition, when we are glad enough to crush others to get what we want. What is to be done with us? What will make us happy? What will save us from the evil that infects us and leaves us so willing to afflict others?

This is where Christ's line comes in. The route to the happiness God does want for us has to go through the cross of Christ. Christ is The Way for us, and the cross is where we meet him for the road to our true happiness in love and holiness in him.

Eleonore Stump, Professor of Philosophy, Saint Louis University

RIP

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Michael Easton of Bredenbury and Maggie Dallow of Leominster who have died recently. The funeral for Michael Easton took place last Friday and the funeral for Maggie Dallow will take place at Leominster cemetery on Tuesday. May they rest in peace.

Services during the week

Sun 30 Aug	22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Mass 9.00am Leominster Mass 11.00am Bromyard Mass 5.30pm Leominster	People of the Parish Catherine Stockford
Mon 31 Aug	St Aidan	Mass 9.00am Leominster	Staff & Pupils of St John Lloyd School
Tue 1 Sept		Private Mass	
Wed 2 Sept		Private Mass	
Thur 3 Sept	St Gregory the Great	Private Mass	
Fri 4 Sept	St Cuthbert	Mass 9.00am Leominster	
Sat 5 Sept		Mass 5.30pm Bromyard	
Sun 6 Sept	23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Mass 9.00am Leominster Mass 11.00am Bromyard Mass 5.30pm Leominster	People of the Parish

St Ethelbert's Leominster

At present there will be Public Masses at St Ethelbert's at 9.00am and 5.30pm on Sundays and at 9.00am on Monday and Friday. The number of people that can be accommodated at the Masses is limited and face coverings are essential in order to comply with government regulations. To book a place at one of the Sunday Masses, please contact Fr Paul preferably by email leominster@rcadc.org or by phone.

St Joseph's, Bromyard

As a temporary measure there will be Mass at St Joseph's on Saturday evenings at 5.30pm and Sunday Morning at 11.00am. The number of people who can be accommodated at each Mass is restricted due to Covid regulations. To book a place at one of the Masses, please contact Fr Paul preferably by email leominster@rcadc.org or by phone.

Confessions

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.

Hospital Chaplain

Fr Patrick Lobo is the Catholic Hospital Chaplain. His mobile number is 07922323603.



'The words of the Gospels echo through the centuries precisely because they speak afresh in every generation. Ever ancient, ever new, this story of transformation invites us to be transformed and gradually conformed to the likeness of the one who was the gift to others. Not dead words on a page, but a living message addressed to each of us personally.'

The Rt Revd. Peter M Brignall Bishop of Wrexham