



PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Reg. Charity 242380

Parish House : 01432 265177 Abbot Paul 01432 374718

Parish Website: www.olqmhereford.org.uk – Parish email dominion: olqm@talktalk.net

Our Lady's Primary School: 01432 274814

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time- year cycle B – 15 February 2015

Entrance: *Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me, for you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.*

Responsorial psalm: *You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation*

Gospel: *Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call hold for us. Alleluia*

Communion: *The ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved*



PARISH PRAYER

God our Father, pour forth your spirit upon our parish. Grant us a new vision of your glory, a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word and a new consecration to your service so that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

On Ash Wednesday, ashes will be blessed and placed on our heads as a sign of repentance and conversion and as a pledge of the acts of penance we will practise this year. It's the traditional way in which we begin Lent in the Western Church. The prayer of blessing takes its theme from those well-known words from the book of the Prophet Ezequiel, "Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, says the Lord God, and not rather that they should turn from their ways and live?" (Ez. 18:23) God does not desire the death of the wicked, but that we repent and live. It's strange and upsetting how some Christians seem to hate sinners, when God loves them, and fail to recognise that we are all sinners in one way or another. In fact, as St John teaches us in the words of Jesus, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life." (Jn 3:16) Lent, then, is a time, "a favourable time", for us to take stock of our sinfulness and, through God's grace and mercy, find that healing remedy that will bring us to new life in Christ as we prepare for Easter and the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of our salvation.

The prayer also speaks of "a steadfast observance of Lent". We probably don't need reminding that we often give up too easily on our Lenten observances, that it doesn't take long before we forget what we had proposed doing. That's because we tend to think in a negative way about what we need to give up rather than positively about what we could take on. In this the advice of St Bernard is helpful. He writes, "Sorrow for sin is indeed necessary", but it should not involve endless self-preoccupation. You should dwell also on the glad remembrance of the loving kindness of God." Lent is not only a time to say sorry, above all it is a time to give thanks to God for his mercy and love. We should also be careful as to what we intend doing or giving up. On the First Sunday of Lent, St Jerome had this to say to his congregation, "If you have fasted for two days, do not for this reason think yourself better than those who have not. You fast and perhaps become angry; another eats, but perhaps exercises kindness." We all need to check our passions, indeed keep them in check, and Lent is a good time to begin again. Fasting in the Christian tradition, of course, is meant to do just that. The purpose of fasting is not to become obsessive about food, even less about losing weight, but rather it is a control over our wayward passions and vices, such as pride, envy, wrath, sloth, greed, gluttony and lust. It should encourage in us the God-like virtues that are their opposite. Fasting also goes hand in hand with almsgiving and prayer.

As we begin Lent we ask God to pardon our sins and grant us newness of life, to recreate his image within us so that we may grow into the likeness of Christ, his Risen Son. May you enjoy a happy and holy Lent and may the good Lord be pleased to bless us all with the abundance of his grace. Amen.

Dates for Your Diary

Please come along and enjoy tea and coffee in the parish room after the Sunday morning Masses

The numbers drawn week 21 were 35 36 3 31 & 8
No winner
Prize money for week 22 is £650.00, and six numbers to be drawn
Get your Tote Tickets on Sale after all masses

Second Collection Church decoration

Tuesday devotions: Divine Mercy chaplet and Novena before Mass and the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary afterward.

The Welsh National Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The National Pilgrimage will be from 25th July – 2nd August full details on the notice board at the back of church.

Marriage Encounter Weekend.

Enrich your marriage with a weekend for married couples 27th February – 1st March

See notice at the back of church for further information.

Jumble Sale Help needed for setting out Friday 20th February 9am - noon. Help for the sale February 21st from 9.00am onwards (Approx 3.30pm. Cakes are urgently needed PLEASE

Wanted for the Missions. Statues (even damaged ones), religious pictures, rosaries, prayer books, religious books, relics etc. Items can be handed into the Repository until the end of Lent when they will be collected together for despatch.

Ruth Baker, a member of the Youth Team for the Diocese of Lancaster, is undertaking a sponsored walk next week as she heads home from Castlerigg in Cumbria via Hereford to her parents house in Ross-on-Wye in Monmouthshire. All monies that Ruth raises have been pledged to help with Aid to the Church in Need's work with persecuted Christians, especially those who will be without homes this Christmas. You can sponsor Ruth through: <https://www.justgiving.com/ruthiebakes/> Thank you very much for your help with this. Please feel free to get in touch if you require any further information. Dr. Caroline Hull, North West Manager, Aid to the Church in Need (UK)

There will be a Requiem Mass at St Francis Xavier's, after the reception of the body of Canon Tom Keane on Monday 16th February at 7pm.

The painting of the main body of the church will begin on Thursday 18th February, daily Mass will be celebrated in the newly painted Lady Chapel.

The painting of the Hall and parish rooms will also commence next week.

Dear friends in Christ,

As you know, Lent begins this Wednesday, 18th February, with Ash Wednesday, which is a day of complete abstinence and fasting. By abstinence we mean that meat may not be eaten or, strictly speaking, any meat derivatives. Fasting means that we have only one full meal, and that only if necessary. Those who have completed their 14th year are bound by the law of abstinence and those who have completed their 18th year are bound by the law of fasting. Once you reach the age of 60 you are no longer bound to fasting but you are bound to abstinence. It all sounds rather complicated, doesn't it, but older members of the congregation will remember when we had to do this throughout the 40 days of Lent and Holy Week. Holy Mass, with the distribution of ashes, will be celebrated at 10am and at 7pm on Ash Wednesday. Every blessing for a holy Lent, Fr Paul and Fr Andrew

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalter week II

Today:

9:30 am Con & Annie McGee R.I.P
11:30 am Michael Wadky R.I.P
6:30 pm

Monday 16 February 10.00 am Mass –
Feria

Tuesday 17 February 7:00 pm Mass –
Feria

Wednesday, 18 February 10.00 am Mass –
Ash Wednesday 7.00pm

Thursday, 19 February 10.00am Mass – Jean & Tom Carter
Feria R.I.P

Friday 20 February 7.00pm Mass –
Feria

Saturday, 21 February 10.00-11.00 am Adoration and
Benediction
Feria 11.00am Mass

Sunday, 22 February (6th Sunday in Ordinary time)

9:30 am
11:30 am
6:30 pm Fr Andrew/Paul

Rota Schedule for 16 February – 23 February 2015

Flower Arrangers: No flowers during Lent

Cleaners: Denise Schofield

Ushers: 9:30am P Roberts J Sullivan
11:30am D Lissaman D Scholfield
6:30pm Mr & Mrs Seamarks

Readers:
9:30am P Roberts
11:30am J Meenaghan
6:30pm G McAleer

Eucharistic Ministers:

9:30am J Winter R Jones S Thompson
11:30pm C Balestra M Davies E Cotterell
6:30pm C Milsom

Altar Linen: Annie Whitehead

Counting C Sharland PBennett

Polish Information:

Następna Msza Św w języku polskim odbędzie się w niedzielę, 22 Lutego godz 16:00

Finance:

The collection on Sunday, 8th February raised **£591.94inc**
£172.46 Catholic Education thank you

Please pray for:

The sick, especially Ann Morris, Brian Morris, Alice Jones, Sue Watkins, Shelaigh Fawcett, Dymphna and John O'Neil, Andrew Walker, Sylvia Jones, Sylvia Aiello, Chris Turville, Eva Zakrzewska, Pat Franklyn, Glyn Matthews, Anna Foggo, Catherine Rollings, Katie Richardson, Agnes McGowan, Michael Morris Chris Burns Rita O'Leary Pat Cotterell and all in our prayer book

The recently dead, especially, Prezmyslav Grzybowski, Sister Veronica, Ann Jenkins, Phylis Warzynski, Canon Tom Keane,

Those whose anniversary falls in the month of February, including William Johns, Bill Morris, Agnes Cooper, Emil Bieler, Mary Mulraine, Joan Keogh, Lucy Dale, Michael Wadley, David Stanton, Alexandra Podmore, Joseph Lambert, Paul Harrison, Mary Anderson, Jay Bourne, Elizabeth McColgan, Phyllis Price, Trevor Tipping, Margaret Jones, Edward Dzierza, Teresa Govett and Alice Deans John Hodgson, Jason Houten, Lukasz Maziarski Ivan Champion Ken Davis

Not so long ago an old German man was feeling guilty about something he had done, so he decided to go to confession. "He said Bless me Father, for I have sinned, I feel terrible because during the World War II, I hid a refugee in my attic." The priest said "but that's not a sin! I wouldn't feel bad about that if I were you" "But I made him agree to pay me 50 Marks for every week he stayed." The priest said "well I admit that certainly wasn't the most noble thing to do, charging the man to save his life – but you did save his life after all, and that is a good thing. Don't worry about it too much; God forgives" The man said "O thank you Father, that eases my mind. I have one more question to ask you – do I have to tell him the war is over?"

Wisdom is knowing what to do next, virtue is doing it