



St. David's Parish
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,
Holywell. CH8 8PE



PARISH NEWSLETTER
THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY

November 6, 2022

“Be acted upon rather than active. In this way, God will do through you alone what all men put together could not do without Him”.
St. Vincent De Paul

READINGS

1st Reading: 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

2nd Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5

Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

Scripture Reflection

The Book of Maccabees describes the heroic fortitude of the seven sons and their mother in suffering persecution and martyrdom (2 Maccabees 7:1-14). In the responses of the young men we see strong faith in the resurrection of the dead and reward of eternal life. This gave them hope and strength to lay down their life for their belief. In all ages we can see few who stand firm in their faith in the midst of persecutions, when the majority either drift away or try to compromise their faith. They become models to be followed by other believers. They challenge us in our life of faith to stand firm in adversities and oppositions.

Today's Gospel explains how Jesus escaped from the trap laid by the Sadducees. The Pharisees believed in life after death, but Sadducees did not believe in it. So they tried to mock at Jesus who declared himself as resurrection and life by using the Jewish custom of Levirate, according to which the younger brother should marry the

widow of the elder brother who die without children (Deuteronomy 25:5-10). In response to their question Jesus explained the nature of life in heaven. Vocation to marriage and family life is for this world. Husband-wife relationship is presented by St. Paul as a means of witness to the relationship between Jesus, the head of the Church, and Church as the body of Christ (Ephesians 5:23-34). By faithful execution of their duties they are justified, and grow in holiness, which is needed for admittance to the kingdom of God. In heaven they will be like angels who incessantly glorify God. So the married couples are called to live here on earth looking to the heavenly bliss and glory.

PRAYING FOR THE DEAD

(Bishop Michael J. Sheridan)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (no. 1032) teaches us that prayer for the dead is one of the spiritual works of mercy. Why should we pray for the dead? Isn't our fate sealed at the moment of our death? What good does prayer do?

The Catholic practice of prayer for the dead is bound up with our belief in the reality of purgatory. Unless we die in a state of perfection, i.e., not only with all our sins forgiven, but also with all temporal punishment due to sin remitted, we cannot enter heaven. Nothing imperfect can enter the presence of God. *The Catechism* teaches that "all who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned." (Nos. 1030-1031)

So, yes indeed, our fate is sealed at death, but for those whose sins have been forgiven — those destined for the eternal joys of heaven — but still in need of final purification God's mercy, purgatory exists as

God's final act of mercy toward the sinner. When we pray for the dead we do not pray that those who died without their sins forgiven will be taken to heaven. Rather, we pray that those souls in purgatory will be granted swiftly their eternal reward.

Because we do not know whose souls are in purgatory and whose are not, we pray for *all* the faithful departed, especially those who were closest to us in this life or those most in need of prayer. Even though a person may have led an exemplary life, no one but God knows if that person went immediately to heaven at the moment of death. For that reason it is an injustice to assume that any one of the faithful departed (unless canonized by the church) does not need our prayers. Because the souls in purgatory cannot pray for themselves, they rely on our prayers.

It is a revered practice of the church that the faithful give an offering to the priest so that Mass might be offered for the eternal rest of one who has died. These Mass stipends represent a very concrete expression of love for and spiritual solidarity with those who have died. Prayers for the dead should be part of our daily prayer, not just in the month of November, but throughout the year. The practice of remembering the dead at the conclusion of grace after meals is an excellent way of incorporating prayer for the dead into our daily prayers. The custom of visiting and praying at the graves or other places of entombment of the dead is another laudable practice.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

October 23, 2022

Gift Aid collection	146.00
Loose cash	108.61
Total	254.61

MASS INTENTIONS

Date	By	Intentions
November 5	Mrs. P Stokes	Kathleen & John Jones RIP
November 6		For the Parishioners
November 7	Richard Oats	Relatives of Joan and Richard Oats
November 8		Ann & John, John Wilfred Churchil
November 9		Freda Capitelli, Deceased members of Bailen Family
November 10	Tony Whalley	Bullock Family (Specially Daniel)
November 11	Susan	For the intentions of Susan

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday

Please Pray for our Sick

Eliza Brizzi, Mary Toumaine, Patrick Nagle,
Phillip Mc Greavy, Toni Whalley,

“Behold, I will bring to it health and healing, and I will heal them; and I will reveal to them an abundance of peace and truth. (Jeremiah 33:6)

ANNIVERSARIES

Elizabeth Hill, Joseph Fleming, Janet Jones, Br. Crispin Jones, Sr. Immaculata Coullaut, Arthur Husion, Catheriine Bellma, Paul Logue, Thomas Desmond Neale, Trevor Shackleton, Pat Taylor Margaret Ann Slattery.

“Let His face shine up on them and may they rest in Peace”

Website: <http://www.pantasaph.org.uk>

Email: pantasaphstdavids@gmail.com

Phone: 01352 711053

Registered Charity No. 70042