Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 8/9 February 2020 "Your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give praise to your Father in heaven."

DEAR PARISHIONERS,

during my recent short stay in and throughout hospital my somewhat more extended period of convalescence, I have been hugely touched by all the prayers, cards and tokens of friendship delivered at the presbytery. I am very grateful. Recovery is steady and proceeding at a gentle pace, incremental return to normal life. Your encouragement been hugely and have prayers appreciated. Thank you, and God bless! Father Patrick

WELCOME

We welcome Fr David Sillince who is kindly offering all Masses again this weekend.

HELP YOUR CHILDREN ACCESS THE YEAR OF THE WORD WITH THE 'SUPERBOOK BIBLE' app

This app contains a whole range of different bible based activities including games and videos aimed at younger people and is a fun way to introduce young people to the Word of God. Available at Google Play.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Gift Aid £105.62 Loose £484.15 Standing Orders £1,120.00

WALKING THE ST JAMES

WAY from Reading Abbey to Southampton in 6 stages on a Saturday starting 21st March at St James Church, Reading RG1 3FD. The route passes through beautiful countryside, past points of historic and religious interest, to a place where many pilgrims in former days will have set sail for Spain. Why not re-enact their journey by joining us this year. Please email the St parish office lames stjames@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to register your interest. See poster for full list of dates.

FOOD CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE AND ZAMBIA

Crippling drought and failed crops have left 10 million people without food or water.

Find out more and/or donate at: https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news/Southern-Africa-food-crisis

LAUDATO SI ACTION GROUP TIP FOR THE WEEK:

Use biodegradable wet wipes whenever you can.

GOING INTO HOSPITAL?

On admission to Royal Berkshire Hospital all Catholics should inform the hospital staff that they are Roman Catholic and if they wish to receive Communion or see a Priest.

All arrangements are 'patient led'. Tel 0118 322 5111.

The diocesan Privacy Policy is available at https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/privacy-policy or by request from the parish office.

Our Lady & St Anne Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Charity No. 234216

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A - Matthew): We have just had a general election and during the campaign all political parties, those who won and those who lost, made extravagant promises regarding how much better life would be for all of us once they were returned to/admitted to power. We live in a world where the pressure of expectation is beyond what most of us can bear: we must be fitter, eat healthier food, have more "quality time" for our spouses/partners/children, and we must savour more of the many attractive experiences life today has to offer. There are an increasing number of people questioning this relentless pursuit of capitalising on all the modern world has to offer, not least its impact on the poor and on the climate. Nonetheless the pressure to maximise everything, our talents, our health, our experiences is very much a feature of the society in which we live. Paul the Apostle, probably the figure from early Christianity of whom we know most, knew he was talented and learned, yet he was not shy about admitting his failings, his sins, or his imperfections, and he was very open with those communities to which he wrote about his sufferings as well as his joys. The gospel presents us with two of the most striking images Jesus used to explain how he expected his followers to make their presence felt in the society of their day: salt, which becomes invisible once absorbed in a liquid yet transforming the total taste experience by enabling the original elements to taste more like themselves vegetables, meat, fruit; light, highly visible yes, but not attracting attention to itself but rather illuminating the paths of those struggling with darkness. Iesus wants his disciples/followers to be everywhere and to transform their world, but it is not about themselves and what they achieve for themselves, it is about the way they can make the lives of others different and better.

First Reading (OT): Isaiah 58, 7 – 10: Once the exiled Jews returned from Babylon to Israel they rebuilt the Jerusalem temple and resumed their religious rituals. Alas, their neglect of those who were poor and needy was shameful. All our cities today have their homeless population, people sleeping in doorways, people begging. So, nothing is new! But the message from Isaiah is that observance of religious rituals are to no avail if we neglect the indigent and the needy. That is why so many Christian organisations do so much to alleviate the plight of the poor at home and overseas.

Second Reading (NT): 1 Corinthians 2, 1-5: Paul is not shy of his failings or his incapacities. His awareness of weakness is, he believes, his strength. He does not draw attention to himself but rather to Jesus Christ, whom he proclaims as Saviour and Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 5, 13 - 16: The contrasting images of salt and light are deliberately chosen by Jesus. Both enable: food to taste good, light to make vision possible.

Sunday readings

Masses and Intentions Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

•	8 th February dinary Time	10.00h	No Mass
5 th Sunday in Ordinary Time		Гime	Year A
Saturday Sunday	8 th February 9 th February	17.30h 10.00h 18.30h	Arthur Taylor RIP People of the parish Judy Aspel
,	10 th February dinary Time	No Mass	
,	11 th February dinary Time	No Mass	
Wednesday12 th February <i>Memorial: St Agatha</i>		No Mass	
,	13 th February <i>St Paul Miki</i>	No Mass	
•	14 th February <i>dinary Time</i>	No Mass	
•	15 th February dinary Time	No Mass	
6 th Sund	ay in Ordinary '	Гime	Year A

6 th Sunday in Ordinary Time			Year A
Saturday Sunday	15 th February 16 th February	17.30h 10.00h 18.30h	Jennifer James (sick) People of the parish Repose of holy souls

Contessions:	Saturday	No contessions	
Exposition & Benediction:	Saturday	No exposition	
Evening prayer, Rosary:	Saturday	16.45	