

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

Parish Priest
Monsignor Patrick H. Daly

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Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 1 August 2021

“I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.”

John 6, 35

PRINTED NEWSLETTERS

To reduce our carbon footprint, a much smaller number of newsletters will be printed for those who are unable to access the internet. In the near future there will be an option for others to sign up for the newsletter on the website and it will arrive in your inbox.

VOLUNTEER GARDENING

Some people expressed an interest in volunteering in the parish survey.

We would like to set up a **Garden Maintenance team** that could help out with some basic gardening once a month or so. If you are interested in contributing your time, please email [ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk] or ring the office [947 1787] with your name and what you can offer.

The **ROCK 'N' ALE FESTIVAL** is now into its 9th year. This year's event will be held on Saturday 4th September and tickets are now on sale. The event is a family event and not only generates funds for the Motor Neuron Disease Association but is also a major contributor to Parish income. A full bar is provided by the Purple Turtle, children's entertainment, three live bands playing music from the last 30 years, and a hog roast. Tickets are £10 for adults, £5 for under 16's and under 5's are free.

They can be bought after Mass or by calling 0118 958 4628 during office hours or visit www.facebook.com/rocknale.

STEP 4 GUIDANCE

In response to the Bishop's announcement we are keen to increase the capacity at Mass whilst remaining cautious and keeping everybody safe. Here at Our Lady & St Anne's it has been decided that:

- every pew will be open
- there will still be booking through Eventbrite with more tickets available
- people are asked to choose their own seat. Please leave plenty of space as you sit down. There may be a card asking you to leave a space on the pew.
- mask wearing is still expected for the benefit of the all members of the community
- hands still to be sanitised on entry
- singing still restricted to the choir for the moment
- the church will continue to be disinfected after weekend Masses

2014 CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATES

Certificates for the following people have been found. If you would like to collect them, please contact the parish office by email or phone:

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| A. Gomes | O. Walters | C. Reilly |
| D. Buckle | J Patrick | S Totton |
| A Sheedy | W Sekula | A Robayo |
| E Parr | A Edwards | I Griffiths |

POST LOCKDOWN OFFICE HOURS

Mon, Wed, Thurs - 9-5 in the office
Tues. working from home, available on email - ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk



OUR LADY'S LAMP This week's lamp is lit for:
Elizabeth and John Davison. Please keep them in your prayers.

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B – Mark): We have only to consider the number of cookery programmes on TV and the food supplements in our weekend newspapers to realise that food is big business and that it has little to do with feeding the hungry. In the developed world it is about novelty, the exotic, what is really healthy. We don't want the same old thing over and over because we get bored easily. In a certain sense, this type of hunger is a potent symbol for what is being spoken about in this Sunday's readings. To quote from Deuteronomy, 'Human beings do not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'. We hunger for meaning, a sense of purpose and if that is addressed then we can be truly content. This is what Jesus, as the bread of life, is speaking about. In him we can come to understand ourselves and be amazed at our own dignity and worth in the sight of God. We are, at heart, spiritual beings and if we don't address that, then we might easily spend our time satisfying our appetites and never our deepest need.

First Reading (OT): Exodus 16, 2 - 4. 12 - 15 The Israelites have been led across the Red Sea and are now in the desert. They complain that Moses has brought them out into the wilderness to starve them to death. The fickle and self-serving aspect of our human nature is very much to the fore in the story. Nonetheless, God hears their complaint and promises to send them food. This manna, bread from heaven, will nourish them and be a reminder to them during their desert wanderings that God is indeed with them. Efforts to explain the phenomenon by recourse to science and certain natural occurrences in the desert miss the point of the narrative, which is a challenge to the chosen people to put their trust in the God who saves them and is faithful no matter what.

Second Reading (NT): Ephesians 4, 17. 24 - 35: Paul continues with this final exhortation when he advises the community on how they must put into practice what they have learned since becoming disciples of Christ. If they are converts from paganism (rather than Judaism) then this new faith they have embraced stands in sharp contrast to the religions of the Greco-Roman world. These were characterised by superstitious beliefs and practices and a sense that one's fate was predetermined. Only by the use of magic or mystery religions could people hope to escape their destiny. What they heard about Christ was a rejection of all that and offered them instead the love of a personal God, whose Spirit living within them was a source of transforming power.

Gospel: John 6, 24 - 35: We return here to the fallout from Jesus' miracle of the loaves and fishes. The crowd are depicted as still searching enthusiastically for Jesus but when they do find him he confronts them as to their motivation. He has fed them yes, but the real hunger he wants to still is that spiritual hunger which, no matter how well fed they may be, everyone searches for. What God is asking of them is that they believe in the one whom he has sent. In the fourth gospel faith is not a concept, it is an activity. We need to reflect on how we are active disciples.

Mass Intentions for Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time

All weekday Masses are now open.

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

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| Saturday | 31st July | 17.30 | People of the parish |
| Sunday | 1st August | 10.00 | Intentions of the choir |
| Monday | 2nd August | 09.15 | Our Lady & St Anne |
| <i>Memorial of St Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop</i> | | | |
| Tuesday | 3rd August | 09.15 | Loreta DCosta & Romedios DCosta RIP |
| <i>Tuesday of week 18 in Ordinary Time</i> | | | |
| Wednesday | 4th August | 18.30 | People of the parish |
| <i>Memorial of St John Mary Vianney, Priest</i> | | | |
| Thursday | 5th August | No Mass | |
| <i>Memorial of the Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary</i> | | | |
| Friday | 6th August | No Mass | |
| <i>Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord</i> | | | |
| Saturday | 7 th August | No Mass | |
| <i>Memorial of St Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs</i> | | | |

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

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| Saturday | 7th August | 17.30 | Deceased family of Santan DCosta and Jesla Barreto |
| Sunday | 8th August | 10.00 | Zygmunt Powiecki RIP |