

# Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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**Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time – 21/22 August 2021**

“Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life.”

**John 6, 63. 68**

## RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Wendy Fung who died recently. Her requiem Mass is here on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at 10.30am and will be the Mass of the day. May she rest in peace.

## CHANGE TO MASS TIME MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST

Please note that the daily Mass on 23<sup>rd</sup> August will be the requiem at 10.30am to allow the parish to pray for Wendy.

There is no Mass at 9.15 on that morning.

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. It is a family event which generates funds for the Motor Neuron Disease Association as well as being a major contributor to Parish income.

There is 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](http://www.facebook.com/rocknale).

**OFFICE CLOSED NEXT WEEK.**

**WILL RE-OPEN WED. 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER**

## SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER

There is now an option to sign up for the newsletter on the front page of the website.

## 30 YEARS OF PRIESTLY ORDINATION

This year Fr Patrick celebrates thirty years of priestly ordination. To mark this special occasion there will be a sung Mass on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm followed by a canape reception in the Cenacle.

If you are planning to stay to the reception please add your name to the list on Eventbrite to help with catering.

## CAFOD RESPONDING TO MULTIPLE EMERGENCIES ACROSS THE WORLD

CAFOD is working with local Church organisations in Haiti to deliver emergency aid to people affected by the catastrophic earthquake and tropical storm. In the tragic situation in Afghanistan, we are working to ensure the safety of our local partners and their communities. Read more about how to respond to these emergencies on the CAFOD

website: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news>. Thank you.

## GIFT AID TAX LETTERS

If you need to know your gift aided donations made in the last tax year, please email/ring the **parish** office. The diocesan team are still working from home and can't send letters so please don't ring them.



**OUR LADY'S LAMP** This week's lamp is lit:  
for an end to the pandemic. Please keep this intention in your prayers.

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**Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B – Mark):** In some EU countries there are two ways of leaving the Church: one can sign documents and have one's name formally removed from the Baptismal Register (and no longer be obliged to pay Church tax); or one can just walk away, the soft footfall of those who give no notice of parting from the Church, and still remain "officially" Catholic. Many of these latter complain about the Church, take exception to the remembered actions of priests, to the declarations of bishops or to the Pope. There is also atheism in today's world: people whose reason and intellect refuse to countenance belief in God or the teachings of the Church; and there are others who see no reason to believe in God, no benefit from a relationship with Jesus Christ, and who give religion a wide berth. We are all free to believe in God and have a religious/spiritual life based on our faith in Christ and the teaching of the Church, and we are free to live without religious faith. No one can oblige us to believe. In the 21st century in matters of faith and belief we are totally free.

**First Reading (OT): Joshua 24, 1 – 2. 15 – 16:** It is comforting for us in the 21st century to learn that in both OT times and in the NT age the question of God and of belief in him was very actual and current. Belief in God was never taken for granted. It was always a question. Joshua poses the question to the people and their answer is in the affirmative. And yet later in the Book of Joshua we learn that many of the people who said "Yes" were but paying lip-service. What mattered to Jesus and to every generation of the Church is whom it is we follow and what it is we believe, despite the blandishments of competing deities.

**Second Reading (NT): Ephesians 5, 21 – 32:** This model of the relationship between husband and wife is one which does not sit easily with people today, used as they are to equality and to partnership as a more suitable and appropriate model for marriage. Paul does say that Christ's relationship with his Church is a model for the ideal marriage, but at a time when we are asking many questions about the true nature and calling of the Church this analogy too raises questions.

**Gospel: John 6, 60 – 69:** We often say today, especially when talking of the fall-off in our Mass congregations, that people vote with their feet. They also did so at the time of Jesus. Jesus' teaching on the "bread of life", central to our gospel readings for the past couple of weeks, upset many of his hearers and caused a number to part company with him. Jesus gave even his closest disciples the option to walk away but the hard core remained. Jesus gave them the opportunity to make a very individual and highly personal decision. Faith is decisive. Whoever cannot believe, whoever cannot accept what Jesus teaches, he is free to go. That some may come back is not excluded. The decisive issue is however a choice for Jesus and the resolve to remain faithful to that option. Today, in these turbulent times where the Church is so regularly subject to major questions and at the heart of controversial issues, the question of belonging is still very current. The question posed by Peter too is still relevant: to whom else will we go?

**Mass Intentions for  
Twenty-first Week in Ordinary Time**  
All weekday Masses are now open.

**Twenty-first Sunday  
in Ordinary Time**

**Year B**

Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup> August	17.30	Private intention
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup> August	10.00	People of the parish
Monday	23 <sup>rd</sup> August <i>Feast of St John Wall, Priest, Martyr</i>	<u>10.30</u>	Requiem - Wendy Fung
Tuesday	24 <sup>th</sup> August <i>Feast of St Bartholomew</i>	09.15	Private intention
Wednesday	25 <sup>th</sup> August <i>Memorial of St Louis</i>	18.30	Private intention
Thursday	26 <sup>th</sup> August <i>Feast of Bl. Dominic Barberi, Priest, Religious</i>	08.00	Private intention
Friday	27 <sup>th</sup> August <i>Memorial of St Monica</i>	12.30	Private intention
Saturday	28 <sup>th</sup> August <i>Memorial of St Augustine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church</i>	10.00	Private intention

**Twenty-second Sunday  
in Ordinary Time**

**Year B**

Saturday	28 <sup>th</sup> August	17.30	People of the parish
Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup> August	10.00	Mr James Brendan O'Rourke RIP