

Parish of Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham

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Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
19th-20th August 2023

Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom
and cured all kinds of sickness among the people.

FR JOE'S INDUCTION MASS

This will be at 7pm on Friday 6th October.
Save the date!

ROCK N ALE 2023

The Rock 'n' Ale Festival is now into its 11th year. This year's event will be held on Saturday 2nd September and tickets are now on sale.

The event is a family event and not only generates funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association but is also a major contributor to Parish income.

There will be a full bar provided by the Last Crumb, children's entertainment, three live bands playing music from the last 30 years, a hog roast and vegetarian chilli. Tickets are £13 for adults, £5 for under 16's and under 5's are free.

They can be bought after Mass, by visiting www.facebook.com/rocknale or www.wegotickets.com/event/575697#tickets

PROPOSED PARISH PILGRIMAGE

Provisional Church Pilgrimage 15-21st October 2024. Taking in Santiago De Compostela, Burgos, Avila and Segovia. £1200-£1350 depending on numbers. More details on the noticeboard. Contact the parish office by phone or email by 17th Sept 2023 to register interest.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

[SVP] The SVP and Churches in Reading Drop in Centre (CIRDIC) would like to thank all parishioners who have donated toiletries over the past weeks. You may also like to know that the SVP has used the donations from the Seniors' afternoon tea to buy new men's underwear which was also urgently needed by CIRDIC.

Now the SVP are concentrating on their work in partnership with the Weller Centre supporting their food donations appeal.

Items for donation are cereals, pasta, tinned goods, dry foods, long life milk, rice and kitchen staples.

WEEKLY PARISH INCOME

30/07/23

C'less: £ 125.00
Loose plate £ 182.08
Candles £ 24.07

Weekly S Orders: £700

06/08/23

C'tless: £ 65.00
Loose plate £200.31
Candles £ 23.80
Shop £ 5.00

Weekly S Orders: £700

ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, Reading seeks a part-time Chaplain (Lay or Religious) from Sep 2023. Info at

<https://www.sjcr.org.uk/vacancies/>



OUR LADY'S LAMP

This week's lamp is lit for:

Gerard Semple RIP

Please remember him
in your prayers.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we move ahead in our reading of Matthew's Gospel. Last week we read about Jesus walking on the water and the disciples' confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew's entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean.

Knowing about Jesus' debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today's Gospel. In fact the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus' exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone.

The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, "dog." But the woman cleverly turns Jesus' insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter.

Jesus' unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today's Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world.

Behind Matthew's text we can hear this early Christian community's struggle to understand how God's selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel's rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles' acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today's second reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern.

The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God's abundant mercy. Yes, salvation comes through Israel, but it overflows for the benefit of all.

Mass intentions for Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time			Year A
Saturday	19 th August	5.30pm	People of the parish
Sunday	20 th August	10.00am	Thresia Vargheese RIP
Monday	21 st August	No Mass	
<i>Memorial of St Pius X, Pope</i>			
Tuesday	22 nd August	9.15am	Th'giving Our Lady & St Anne
<i>Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>			
Wednesday	23 rd August	9.15am	Private intention
<i>Feast of St John Wall, Priest, Martyr</i>			
Thursday	24 th August	9.15am	Harrison Lavell RIP [8 years]
<i>Feast of St Bartholomew, Apostle</i>			
Friday	25 th August	9.15am	Tom & Mary Feeney RIP
<i>Memorial of St Louis</i>			
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time			Year A
Saturday	26 th August	5.30pm	People of the parish
Sunday	27 th August	10.00am	James Brendan O'Rourke RIP

No rosary before Saturday Mass next weekend.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Julia Feeney**. They can be contacted at: sg.ol.stanne.caversham@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.