



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 15 September 2024 – Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Year B

Dear Parishioners

"O Crux, Ave Spes Unica" "Hail to the Cross, our only Hope." The words of an ancient Roman hymn, which can be found in one of the four major Basilicas in Rome, St Paul's outside the Walls. They sum up today's Gospel as Jesus tries to reveal to His disciples the Reality of who He is beneath the Appearance, and what is required of a disciple to follow the Master.

The disciples, in St Peter's response, are beginning to grasp that Jesus of Nazareth is not just a Wonder-Worker or charismatic Preacher, but they are still far from grasping the nature of the Word made Flesh. He asks them: "Who do people say I am?" John the Baptist, Elijah or one of the Prophets, they reply. But this is only an introduction to the real question: "But you" He asked, "Who do you say I am?" St Peter replies on their behalf: "You are the Christ."

It would be satisfying if we could leave things there but it then becomes very clear that although the disciples have grasped that Jesus is no ordinary man, they are still stuck in a worldly, power-dominated mind-set. For them a Messiah would be victorious over their enemies and establish an earthly rule with the disciples at top table. This was the current Jewish belief. This is exactly not what the Son of Man was about and Jesus, after rebuking St Peter, then lays out in stark terms what following Him entails. "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me." This is hardly inviting news and allied with Jesus' words about being the Bread of Heaven, is it any wonder that eventually all those eager crowds had shrunk to the Twelve, and one of those about to fall away and betray the Master? Things get worse with the arrest, scourging and Crucifixion, the complete public humiliation of Jesus and the apparent disaster of following the carpenter's son. The empty tomb finally opens their eyes.

What about us? Will we do what He asks? If not...why not? There is a consequence to this but also a reward: "For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake and for the sake of the Gospel, will save it."

Many thanks to all who "held the fort" while I was away in Austria. It was very hot...31-35C (85-95F in old money)!

God bless everyone. It is good to be back! Fr Clive

Parish Notices

Second Collection: Catholic Evangelisation

Masses this week: 9:15am Monday and Tuesday. Thursday no Mass as Father Clive has to have a minor procedure at The Churchill. Please remember him in your prayers. Friday: Rosary for Peace at 09:15 with grateful thanks to Mary Prior.

First Communion/ Confirmation Classes will be starting up this month, slightly delayed due to Father Clive's hospital appointment.

In the Autumn we are hoping to start a film club on a Wednesday evening, once a month. Uplifting and inspiring films to combat the gloom of the news!

In September we pray with Pope Francis for The Cry of The Earth: We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

Please continue to pray for our sick, housebound and frail parishioners of both our Parishes.

Please also pray for all who can no longer be with us at the Lord's Table: Lynette, Gerard, Paula, Serita, Catherine, Richard, Tom, Mary, Carol, Betty, Audrey and Peggy.

In addition to your own daily prayers please remember: All those who mourn the loss of loved ones: The repose of the souls of those who have died: People whose anniversaries occur at this time: The people of the Middle East, Morocco, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria.

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdiocese policies and procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is **Tammy Lawson**. Alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or at safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.