

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

26, London Road, Chipping Norton, OX7 5AX

Father Clive Dytor fr.clive.dytor@rcaob.org.uk 07484 158642

holytrinity.chippingnorton@rcaob.org.uk

Website <http://holytrinityrc-chippingnorton.com>

Holy Trinity is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Trust

Sunday 22 September 2024 – Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: Year B

Dear Parishioners

This week the newsletter will be different. I want to share an experience of this last week and there is also a pastoral letter from the Archbishop.

On Wednesday I was admitted into The Churchill for a minor but necessary procedure under general anaesthetic. From the start of the journey I was treated, and I use that word on purpose, to the highest standards of care and professionalism by the doctors and nurses involved. All the nurses were from abroad and most were Catholics too. Kerala, Philippines, Africa, Mauritius...everyone were first class in their work and manner. Some people think we could do without people from abroad in this country. They should visit any hospital or care home to see the devastation it would cause if we had to rely on the home grown!

The first nurse was...from Ukraine! When I told her about our Ukrainian family in Holy Trinity, and that they were from the same city as her, the tears were welling up in both of us as she thanked the church for doing what we are doing to help fellow human beings who need the practical love of Christ.

The surgeon was young, British female, straight to the point. I noticed that she had clean, small hands which boded well for what she had to do! The lady anaesthetist was from Iran and we discussed Persian poetry. The two medical students were Palestinian and we sang Arabic songs as I slipped down into unconsciousness.

Late last night I returned home and slept well, thanking God for such facilities and people. We are so blessed to live in this country and it is no wonder so many want to escape their own countries where there may be no democracy, freedom of expression and no health care like in the West. And how fortunate are we to be in Oxfordshire with such a great tertiary hospital on our doorstep.

This weekend Fr's Martin and Tony are celebrating Holy Mass in our parishes and I hope very much to be back at the altar on Monday. Currently I lack a car as my Golf has died so I may call on volunteers to ferry me to and from Holy Trinity.

Reminders of mortality are not entirely a bad thing as it helps to put everything into perspective. We will all die one day but we believe and place our trust in a loving Saviour who has promised He will never abandon us...even to the end of time. To Him be praise and glory for ever. Jesu, have mercy. Mary, pray for us.

God bless everyone. Fr Clive

Parish Notices

Masses this week: 9:15am Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Friday: Rosary for Peace at 09:15 with grateful thanks to Mary Prior.

Second Collection: Our Diocesan Charity, Father Hudson's Caritas (see the information in Archbishop Longley's Pastoral Letter below)

First Communion/Confirmation/Reception /Marriage classes will begin as soon as Father Clive is up and mobile.

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.

Parish Pilgrimage 2025: For various reasons (mainly cost) the planned pilgrimage to Rome next year has been changed to a visit to Fatima and Lisbon. The date has also changed, from September to May around 11-16th. We're looking at convent accommodation in Fatima conveniently located near the Basilica and the opportunity to join the nightly torchlight procession, plus in Lisbon itself we can visit the Cathedral as well as the birthplace church of St Anthony, again with appropriate lodgings. Costs have yet to be determined precisely but we hope around £850 per person. If interested (no commitment, until we can arrive at a firm price) or for more details please contact: Johnny Hulme on 07770 433290, johnnyhulme@me.com or Paul Branch on 07771 624578, pnmebranch@btinternet.com

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

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.

Pastoral Letter of the Most Reverend Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham for the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (21/22 September 2024)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

They had been arguing about which of them was the greatest.

In today's Gospel the apostles show how human they are - yet there is something to be admired in aspiring to greatness. Every human being is called to be great.

But Jesus describes greatness as God sees it. It is in service, sacrifice, welcoming the most vulnerable. It is reminiscent of St Paul writing to the Corinthians and telling them to be ambitious. Paul is urging the people of Corinth (and us) to aspire to greatness - but he warns that this doesn't come with the eloquence of angels or even with a faith that can move mountains but rather in love. He uses a particular word for love. In Latin it is Caritas - and Agape in Greek.

It is the love that we show in service, in putting others before ourselves. That's why it is the very word used to describe the Church's work with those in need – Caritas.

All over the Archdiocese there are individuals and parishes who express this Caritas - sacrificial love - by welcoming the vulnerable - opening their doors to people who are lonely, bereaved, people with dementia, those with disabilities or special needs, others suffering with food poverty, by visiting the sick and prisoners and helping people with addictions. These are all signs of parishes living out that call to greatness, through service.

In his first letter to the faithful, Pope Benedict chose to write about Caritas. Here he describes the Church's rich history of care for those in need:

The exercise of charity became established as one of her essential activities, along with the administration of the sacraments and the proclamation of the word: love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to her as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel. The Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the Sacraments and the Word.

Pope Benedict also wrote: *As a community, the Church must practise love. Love thus needs to be organized if it is to be an ordered service to the community.*

In the Archdiocese we are blessed to have an agency that does precisely that. All its resources are dedicated to the service of people who are homeless, asylum seekers and refugees, people with disabilities and special needs, care of the elderly and vulnerable young people. We see this work going on in projects all over the Archdiocese.

I am, of course, referring to Father Hudson's Care, which is always looking for ways to do more. But this can only be done with the prayers and support of every parish. Father Hudson's is a key agency of Caritas but every Christian and every parish is co responsible for this. Every parish church is surrounded by people crying out for this love. Sometimes it is hard to respond - maybe we don't know how or we feel we don't have the resources.

This partly explains why the Archdiocese and Father Hudson's have decided to entrust the development of Caritas to the care of Father Hudson's. Father Hudson's has the experience and networks to help every parish to develop this ministry as part of our diocesan vision.

We have been blessed with generous financial support from our schools to fund a post which will focus on supporting parishes. This work will involve sharing ideas and good practise, helping to recruit parish volunteers and offer training, while working in partnership with other churches and charities – so that we can develop our care for those in need.

So, from now on, Father Hudson's name will reflect all this as Father Hudson's Caritas.

Changing a name and employing a worker will only bear fruit when our parishes respond to the words of the Gospel. I am grateful that in many parishes there are already SVP, Justice and Peace and other social action groups undertaking this work.

But with the Jubilee Year approaching - with its focus on Luke chapter 4 where Jesus says he has come to *proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free* - I invite every parish to look towards developing one new project to help people in need.

Today, please help Father Hudson's Caritas with your prayers and through your generous financial support. Pray especially that all our parishes will see how we can meet the needs of disadvantaged people in our communities.

It the Lord's a call to service - but also his call to greatness. May he bless you as you reach out with his love.

Yours devotedly in Christ, Bernard Longley Archbishop of Birmingham Given at Birmingham on 19 September 2024 and appointed to be read in all Churches and Chapels of the Archdiocese on the Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (21/22 September 2024)