

NEWSLETTER 30th August 2020

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Join our Facebook group: St Teresa's Parish Community Princes Risborough

Parish Priest: Fr. Lijo Jose MSFS

Deacon: Sean Duffy (343705)

Safeguarding Representative - Phil Hughes (345006)

My dear parishioners

Sunday is the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time. The Gospel comes from Matthew 16: 21-27. In fact, this gospel is a continuation of last week's gospel. If you remember, in last Sunday's gospel Peter recognised Jesus as the Christ and he was called the Rock- upon which the church would be built.

But immediately after this 'high point' Peter shows his limitations. Jesus makes it clear that he is going to Jerusalem, where he will suffer grievously, be put to death and be raised up on the third day. Peter has not really understood who Jesus really is, because he cannot accept that the outcome of Jesus ministry will be suffering and death. He rejects that completely. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord. This must not happen to you.'

No doubt that he is hoping for a political Messiah, one who would free the Jews from the oppression of Rome. However, Jesus is a very different Messiah. And his teachings of love and forgiveness will lead him on a very different path- a path leading to suffering and death. Jesus does not run away from his mission- in fact he speaks very harshly to Peter, calling him Satan.

Jesus calls each one of us to follow him- and to follow him on the way to the cross by carrying our own cross. Following Jesus will not lead us away from difficulties, challenges, pain and suffering. Following Jesus, taking up our cross, means accepting and living with all the difficulties, pain and suffering that we have to face- all the challenges and sorrows of life.

When Jesus walked the road to Calvary, help was there to encourage him to the end. His mother gave him her loving and supportive presence, Veronica wiped the blood and sweat from his face and Simon shared the weight of the cross. We cannot go through life without help- we need it. And it will come, often from unexpected places- but come it will. Perhaps we too might ask ourselves this week- Who needs my help to walk on their journey? Who needs a phone call, a helping hand, words of reassurance?

What we do need to understand is that everything, absolutely everything can draw us into an ever-closer relationship with Jesus. There are no circumstances in which the living presence of Jesus cannot guide us and give us the strength to move ahead each day. Nothing can separate us from his love and his friendship. So let us not be afraid to take up our cross and follow him. Be sure that he will strengthen us, support us, encourage us and send us help on the way.

I end this week's reflection with these beautiful words of Pope Francis: "Jesus, with his cross, walks with us and takes upon himself our fears, our problems, and our sufferings, even those which are deepest and most painful. The cross of Christ bears the suffering and the sin of humankind, including our own. Jesus accepts all of this with open arms, bearing on His shoulders our crosses and saying to us: 'Have courage! You do not carry your cross alone! I carry it with you. I have overcome death and I have come to give you hope, to give you life.'"

Attending Mass at St Teresa's

I would like to thank all of you for continuing to book your place for mass and for following the guidance of How to Book which you will find at the end of this newsletter. I am very aware that having to book can be a bit difficult and time consuming but since the pandemic is still very much with us, it helps to ensure that everybody remains safe. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

On behalf of all of us I take this opportunity to thank Deacon Sean and his wife Liz. They very conscientiously and lovingly take care of the mass bookings for us every week and make sure that everybody receives their confirmation either on Tuesday or Friday. If you don't find your confirmation email in your inbox on the specified date, it would be worth checking your spam/junk mail folder.

Have a lovely week and a lovely Bank Holiday Monday! May God bless you all.

Fr Lijo

Bucks Historic Churches Ride and Stride, Saturday, 12th September

As mentioned previously people are asked to consider supporting this event through walking or cycling and/or sponsorship. So, get out your walking shoes, pump up your bicycle tyres, we need your support!

For those wishing to join the Parish walk of approximately 2 hours and visiting 7 churches we will leave our church car park at 9.30 am.

As the churches will be closed this year and not offering refreshments, I recommend everyone takes their own drinks.

It would be useful to know who is intending to join this walk, please contact Sue Bolton by phone/text 07775 840744 or email suebolton@hotmail.com

We hope very much that you will consider making a donation to Bucks Historic Churches, St Teresa's will receive half of the amount we raise. This can be done online through Just Giving ridestride@bucks-historic-churches.org or by putting your donation in an envelope marked Ride + Stride and posting it through the Presbytery letter box.

Thank you for your continued support of this annual event.

Sue Bolton

Bookings for Mass on Wednesday 2nd and Sat/Sun 5th / 6th September 2020

General points: (Reminder: we only take bookings one week at a time)

Please do wear masks to Mass.

Please do not come to Mass if you have Covid-19 symptoms or are self-isolating because of contact with someone who has tested positive.

Please do book for any of the above Masses you would like to attend. In the event of over-subscription, 'new' bookers will take priority.

You will receive confirmation on the day specified below. So far, we have not been over-subscribed for any Mass. In case numbers rise, **please** treat confirmation as a commitment. If you cannot attend, **please** let Deacon Seán know in good time so that another person can be offered your place. Thank you.

HOW TO BOOK

Information required EACH TIME you book: Full **name(s)** – individual, household or bubble; **phone number**; number of **seats** required; **which Mass**.

For Mass at 10am on Wednesday 2nd September:

Booking: **opens** 9am Saturday 29th August

: **closes** 9am Tuesday 1st September

Confirmation: on Tuesday 1st September by 6pm

Email: stteresa.WEDNESDAY.masses@gmail.com

Text: 07761 301435 (or answerphone)

For Masses at 6.30pm Saturday 5th or 8am or 10am Sunday 6th September:

Booking: **opens** 9am Monday 31st August

: **closes** 6pm Thursday 3rd September

Confirmation: on Friday 4th September by 6pm

Email: stteresa.WEEKEND.masses@gmail.com

Text: 07761 301374 (or answerphone)