

**NEWSLETTER 6<sup>th</sup> September 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

I thought this week I might just write a short reflection on the second reading from Sunday's readings. It comes from Paul's letter to the Romans 13: 8-10. It is a very short passage but very beautiful and meaningful. I think it merits our attention.

Rom 13: 8-10, **"Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: *You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.*"**

Paul is making it clear to the Romans that the freedom which Jesus bought for us by his death on the cross brings with it a debt-to love and to care for others and to live out the consequences of our faith. This is really the heart of the Gospel message, **"You must love your neighbour as yourself."**

How do we love ourselves? I love myself when I take care of myself and try to meet my needs. So, if I am tired, I take some rest. I take time to relax and spend time with my family and friends. If I am thirsty, I make sure I drink. If I am hungry, I try to eat some nourishing food etc.

Loving others means trying to meet their needs. As Pope Francis says 'A Christian does not get points for just standing by. Love is **"concrete" and faces the challenges, struggles and messiness of everyday life.**'

Maybe I need to spend more time just listening to a friend or relation who is depressed, even if I have heard their story many times. Maybe I need to be more patient, more kind, more thoughtful, more gentle. The list is endless and I am sure in the ordinary

circumstances of our lives, we will find many ways to love our neighbour in a very concrete way.

But I think that there are times in our lives when we find it difficult to love ourselves and to look after our own needs. Maybe we feel we are sinners, or we feel hurt and betrayed and think we are not lovable. So we might become workaholics, or drink too much alcohol or eat too much of the wrong kind of food. We can neglect our own needs in many ways.

We need to remember that we are loved by God, just as we are. I know that I quite often write that, but it is because I am deeply convinced that the more we come to know and understand just how much God loves us, the more free we become. When we are convinced of that love, we can truly love ourselves and when we love ourselves we are able to love our neighbour.

I end once again with the words from Pope Francis (from a General audience given in February 2017), **“It is easy to say: God loves us. We all say it. But think a bit. Each one of us needs to ask: Am I sure that God loves me? It is not so easy to say it. But it is true. This is a good exercise, to say to oneself: God loves me. This is the root of our certainty, the root of hope. The Lord has abundantly poured into our hearts the Spirit—which is the love of God—as artisan, as guarantor, precisely so that he may nourish the faith within us and keep this hope alive. This is a certainty: God loves me. “But in this difficult moment?”—God loves me. “I, who have done this bad and cruel thing?”—God loves me. No one can take this certainty away. We must repeat it as a prayer: God loves me. I am sure that God loves me. I am sure that God loves me.”**

Have a lovely week and stay safe. Perhaps we can entrust all our prayers for ourselves and for the world into the hands of our Blessed Mother Mary, whose birthday we celebrate this week on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

**Mary, Mother of kindness and of tenderness, pray for us and walk with us on our journey through life.**

Fr Lijo

**Sponsored walk for Cafod:** In order to support CAFOD, a group of parishioners are planning a sponsored walk of 85 kilometres. We will start the walk on September 21<sup>st</sup> and, hopefully, complete it on September 25<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to sponsor us in helping those suffering from extreme poverty and the pandemic, please go to <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/cecilia-sparkes-anne-harding>. Alternatively cash or cheques, in an envelope marked 'CAFOD' may be left at the presbytery. Thank you very much for all your support. Anne Harding

**Webinars on the Post-Lockdown Church:** On 5th August Pope Francis called on the Church to reflect on our current situation. In response, the diocesan Pastoral Ministry Office is hosting a series of online webinars on Monday evenings through the autumn. We begin on 21st September with Bishop David reflecting on the last six months, and posing some key questions as we go forward. Other topics include reaching out to the needy, building community, prayer and spirituality, and catechesis. The webinars are free to attend, but you will need to register to receive the web link. For more information and to register, please go to <https://postlockdownchurch.eventbrite.co.uk>.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:ridestride@bucks-historic-churches.org) or by putting your donation in an envelope marked Ride + Stride and posting it through the Presbytery letter box. Sue Bolton

## **Bookings for Mass: Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> and Sat/Sun 12<sup>th</sup>/ 13<sup>th</sup> 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**

**EACH TIME you book, please give:** Full name(s) – individual, household or bubble; number of seats required; which Mass; and N.B. - phone number.

#### **For Mass at 10am on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September:**

**Booking: opens** 9am Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September

: **closes** 9am Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September

**Confirmation: on** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September by 6pm

**Email:** [stteresa.WEDNESDAY.masses@gmail.com](mailto:stteresa.WEDNESDAY.masses@gmail.com)

**Text:** 07761 301435 (or answerphone)

#### **For Masses: 6.30pm Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> or 8am or 10am Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September:**

**Booking: opens** 9am Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September

: **closes** 6pm Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September

**Confirmation: on** Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September by 6pm

**Email:** [stteresa.WEEKEND.masses@gmail.com](mailto:stteresa.WEEKEND.masses@gmail.com)

**Text:** 07761 301374 (or answerphone)