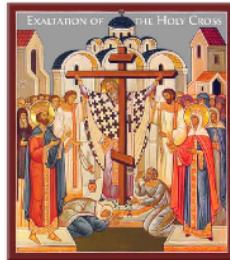
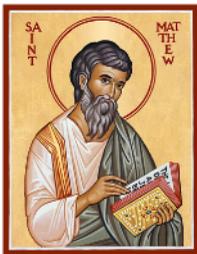




The Parish of Bickley, St George



Monthly Bulletin

September 2020

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KEY

Calendar Date | Church Calendar Date | *Parish Roads for which to Pray*
Daily Prayer Intention | Mass Readings

Tuesday 1	Feria	<i>Albyfield, Alpine Copse, Amesbury Road</i>
	<i>Vocations to the Religious Life</i>	1 Cor. 2.10-16; Luke 4.31-37
Wednesday 2	Feria	<i>Aspen Copse, Asprey Place, Aycliffe Close</i>
	<i>The New School Year</i>	1 Cor. 3.1-9; Luke 4.38-44
Thursday 3	St Gregory the Great	<i>Barfield Road, Baxter Close, Beech Copse</i>
	<i>The English Church</i>	2 Cor. 4.1-2, 5-7; Luke 22.24-30
Friday 4	(of Requiem)	<i>Belfry Close, Beresford Drive, Berryfield Close</i>
	<i>Monthly Requiem</i>	1 Cor. 4.1-5; Luke 5.33-39
Saturday 5	St Teresa of Calcutta	<i>Bickley Park Road, Bickley Road</i>
	<i>The Poor & Needy</i>	1 Cor. 4.6-15; Luke 6.1-5
SUNDAY 6	ORDINARY 23	<i>Bird-in-Hand Lane, Blackbrook Lane</i>
	<i>The Parish & Congregation</i>	Ezek. 33.7-9; Rom. 13.8-10; Matt. 18.15-20
Monday 7	Feria	<i>Boscobel Close, Boulter Close</i>

<i>Bromley Deanery</i>		1 Cor. 5.1-8; Luke 6.6-11
Tuesday 8 <i>The P.C.C.</i>	NATIVITY / BVM	<i>Brady Drive, Bruton Close</i> Micah 5.1-4; Matt. 1.1-16, 18-23
Wednesday 9 <i>baby Archie, newly baptised</i>	Feria	<i>Bullers Wood Drive</i> 1 Cor. 7.25-31; Luke 6.20-26
Thursday 10 <i>Bishop James</i>	Feria	<i>Canon Road, Cavendish Place, Cedar Copse</i> 1 Cor. 8.1-7, 11-13; Luke 6.27-38
Friday 11 S.S.C.	(of the Holy Cross)	<i>Charlotte Park Avenue, Chislehurst Road</i> 1 Cor. 9.16-19, 22-27; Luke 6.39-42
Saturday 12 <i>The Byfield & Weekes Families</i>	Most Holy Name of Mary	<i>Claremont Road, Clarence Road</i> Gal. 4.4-7; Luke 1.39-47
SUNDAY 13 <i>The Parish & Congregation</i>	ORDINARY 24	<i>Coates Hill Road, Coombe Lea, Daly Drive</i> Ecclus 27.30-28.7; Rom. 14.7-9; Matt. 18.21-35
Monday 14 S.S.C.	HOLY CROSS	<i>Denbridge Road, Eastmead Close</i> Numb. 21.4-9; John 3.13-17
Tuesday 15 <i>The Bereaved</i>	Our Lady of Sorrows	<i>Ellen Close, Elmbank Drive</i> Heb. 5.7-9; John 19.25-27
Wednesday 16 <i>Bishop Norman</i>	Sts Cornelius & Cyprian	<i>Faro Close, Farrier Close</i> 2 Cor. 4.7-15; John 17.11-19
Thursday 17 <i>Christian Unity</i>	Feria	<i>Fidgeon Close, Gardenia Road</i> 1 Cor. 15.1-11; Luke 7.36-50
Friday 18 <i>baby Carter, newly baptised</i>	Feria	<i>Glen View Road, Golf Road, Grayland Close</i> 1 Cor. 15.12-20; Luke 8.1-3
Saturday 19 <i>baby Harrison, newly baptised</i>	St Januarius	<i>Grove Wood Close, Harrison Drive, Hartley Close</i> Heb. 10.32-36; John 12.24-26
SUNDAY 20	ORDINARY 25	<i>Hawthorne Close, Hawthorne Road</i>

<i>The Parish & Congregation</i>		Isa. 55.6-9; Phil. 1.20-24, 27; Matt. 20.1-16
Monday 21	St MATTHEW	<i>Thornet Wood Road, Timms Close</i>
<i>Devotion to God's Word</i>		Eph. 4.1-7, 11-13; Matt. 9.9-13
Tuesday 22	Feria	<i>Heath Park Drive, Hever Gardens</i>
<i>Parish Mission Partnership</i>		Prov. 21.1-6, 10-13; Luke 8.19-21
Wednesday 23	St Pius of Pietrelcina	<i>Hill Brow, Homesdale Road</i>
<i>baby Ethan, newly baptised</i>		Gal. 2.19-20; Matt. 16.24-27
Thursday 24	Our Lady of Walsingham	<i>Huntsmead Close, Hurstwood Drive</i>
<i>Shrine O.L.W.</i>		Gal. 4.4-7; John 19.25-27
Friday 25	Feria	<i>Inglewood Copse, Kingsmere, Laurel Gardens</i>
<i>baby Sienna, to be baptised</i>		Eccles. 3.1-11; Luke 9.18-22
Saturday 26	Sts Cosmas & Damian	<i>Lewes Road, Liddon Rd, Little Redlands</i>
<i>Doctors</i>		Wisd. 3.1-9; Matt. 10.28-33
SUNDAY 27	HARVEST FESTIVAL	<i>Logs Hill, Logs Close, Meadow Croft</i>
<i>The Parish & Congregation</i>		Ezek. 18.25-28; Phil. 2.1-11; Matt. 21.28-32
Monday 28	Feria	<i>Merewood Close, Merlewood Drive</i>
<i>The Newly Ordained</i>		Job 1.6-22; Luke 9.46-50
Tuesday 29	MICHAELMAS	<i>Merrydown Way, Moriarty Close</i>
<i>Petition to our Guardian Angels</i>		Dan. 7.9-10, 13-14; John 1.47-51
Wednesday 30	St Jerome	<i>Those living outside the parish</i>
<i>Biblical Scholars</i>		2 Tim. 3.14-17; Matt. 13.47-52

In Remembrance, September

Gladys McLaughlin (1st)	Michael Minter (5th)	John Haggar (2006)
Betty Little (2nd)	Avis Gilbert (6th)	Nicholas Richards, priest (2006)
Emy Marlow (4th)	Mary Seal (8th)	David Say, bishop (2006)
Olive King (5th)	Bertha Rumens (29th)	Mario Zimowski (2006)



From the Vicar

AND SO IT BEGINS - the rebuilding, that is, of the life of this parish, as the worst of the pandemic - please God - passes into memory. Let us be under no illusion as to the scale of the task ahead, however: for on the basis of average attendance over the first six weeks of renewed public worship, *all* of the



growth of the past five years has been forfeited, with the number of those at Mass on Sundays (c.77) barely 75% of what it was in the first quarter of this year.

Doubtless these figures do not tell the whole story: indeed, each week we have welcomed (back) additional worshippers, with 65% of the Electoral Roll present on at least one Sunday so far (not to mention children and other regular members of the congregation whose names are not yet on the Roll). Furthermore, some have shifted their attendance to weekdays: this week alone, some 93 Communion were made. New faces have been made welcome, and we eagerly await the day when those of our number who are continuing to shield for medical reasons are able to join us in person once again. We are faring well in comparison with other parishes, and levels of commitment and enthusiasm are strong. Careful stewardship of our resources leaves us well-placed to face future challenges.

But, as always, we must approach the matter theologically - and revisit the question, *Quite simply*, why do we need to come to Mass? As you may be aware, the "Sunday obligation" - which ordinarily obliges all baptised Christians to attend Mass each and every Sunday, or otherwise fall into sin - has been suspended, but still may profitably be thought of as providing a framework for our devotional lives. In much the same way as civilised society deems it an obligation for children to be in education, or that employers be obliged to grant periods of rest and holidays to their employees, so the Church recognises that our full *human* flourishing cannot take place without the obligation of the Sunday Mass.

In the absence of this obligation, we return to first principles of morality. Put simply, all human action seeks *the good*: we seek that which we believe to be to our advantage, that which is of value, that which will bring happiness to our lives. What is given us in the Mass - that is, Communion with the Lord Jesus - is a good which outshines all other pursuits and projects. There is nothing which can

compare with this, and thus to prefer *anything* over the Mass is to make a moral error, is to choose to our own disadvantage: the logic of morality stipulates that we must always choose the *greater* good, which means always choosing Jesus in the Mass. Where it is legitimately *possible* to attend the celebration of the sacraments, so it is *necessary* - necessary not least for our own human flourishing.

Too often we think of the liturgy in solely *therapeutic* terms - we say, *I come to church because of the way it makes me feel*: I feel better, calmer, more peaceful; I gain strength and focus to face the week. The undoubted *therapeutic* benefits of the liturgy are important; however, this is not the primary meaning of the Mass.

Rather, the Mass is at base an act of *justice*, by which we attempt to render to God what is *owed*. To God we all owe everything - our life, our health, our salvation. There is nothing of *ours* we can offer in recompense for what we have received. But in the Mass it is nothing of what *we* have that we offer: rather, we offer to God Christ His Only Son. The Father looks on Jesus and says, *'This is my Son, the Beloved, in whom I am well pleased.'* The Father *desires* the Son - He is filled with love for His Only-Begotten, and - as such - Christ himself is the only proper gift we can make. In the Mass, we offer the Son to the Father, by uniting our celebration with the sacrifice of Calvary, by pleading that sacrifice which takes away the sins of the world.

This means that, even were we "to feel" nothing, yet metaphysically the Mass would still profoundly impact our lives, because we would still be engaging in that sublime action of justice. Sometimes, indeed, our liturgical participation *does* feel fruitless: we can become irritated, distracted or tired. But the objective *value* of what we are doing remains the same, regardless of our mental and emotional states.

There is much in our current situation which may detract from our *experience* of worship: we may lament the absence of choral and congregational singing; we may chafe at needing to wear a mask; we may yearn for human contact in sharing the Peace, or we may feel bereft not tasting the Precious Blood. But these things belong only to our *sensible* experience - they do not detract from the objective spiritual benefit of the Mass. We all, I hope, believe that the worshipping life of our church is worth saving - but the question to us is, *what is saving it worth?* Is it worth putting up with inconvenience, discomfort, even the anxiety of being in the closer presence of other people? The Eucharist is worth all of these and more, because the Eucharist is the offering of a gift of inestimable value. It is the offering of the Son to the Father, made on the Cross at Calvary, and into the mystery of which we are caught up in each celebration of the Eucharist: *nothing* compares to this in worth.

Let us, then, feel the prompt of *moral* obligation, even where *juridical* obligation remains absent for a time; and, as ever, may God bless you.

“The Little Things”

New Directions, the magazine of *The Society* and *Forward in Faith*, can always be relied upon to provide articles that challenge as well as inform. In the July/August edition, retired priest Fr Michael Fisher ‘*considers his call*’. He shares the story of “*a lady who had once been a very active member of her church, but who became confined to her house because of disability and old age*”. Despite her disability and confinement she found a way in which she could still be of use. “*Every day she received the local evening newspaper, she took it upon herself to read through the Births, Marriages and Deaths columns and to use them as a stimulus to prayer; praying for the newly-born, for those preparing for marriage, for the departed and their families, knowing that she might possibly be the one to bring those people before the Lord in prayer*”. “*Now isn’t that as valid a Christian ministry as any you might name?*” asks Fr Michael.



Christian ministry, Fr Richard has reminded us, is not the monopoly of the priesthood; all baptised Christians are given both the gift, and the responsibility, of ministry. Could more be done for God and for His Church? Time, or lack of it, is as ever the problem, the excuse, the “opposition”. The prevailing mantra seems to be that there is just not enough time in today’s “just grab a sandwich”, hectic lifestyle to accommodate effective ministry. But ministry, serving God and serving others in God’s name, does not always take a lot of time to be effective. Not everyone has the time, nor perhaps the energy, for a demanding job such as churchwarden, but there are other opportunities, and other contributions to be made. By God’s grace, we are given free will which enables us to plan our contributions carefully and to schedule the “when” and the “how long” for our commitments. Through the exercise of our gift of free will, God’s will is accomplished.

“Small” does not mean “insignificant” (see Christ’s parable of the mustard seed in Matthew 13.32). Simple opportunities for ministry include helping out from time to time with church cleaning, and helping to run a stall at the Summer Fete (*when St George is in the happy position to hold to such an event again that is!*). Another straightforward option would be to support our mission partnership parishes by attending church services occasionally at St Mary’s and/or The Annunciation and/or St Augustine’s. Bickley residents will know that parish residents account for only 33% of St George’s Electoral Roll. Why is that? As the opportunity arises, seeking the opinions of parish friends and neighbours should be interesting, and would provide useful feedback for St George’s. To those who express interest, follow up with

encouragement “to come and see for yourself”. The majority, who don’t live in the parish, have a very positive message to share with friends and neighbours explaining why taking extra time and making the extra effort to travel to St George’s for worship every week is so rewarding.

With thought and prayer, ideas for simple, “doable” ministry will emerge. Talk to a warden or PCC member for suggestions. Fr Michael offers the words spoken by St David to followers shortly before his death, ‘*Be joyful. Keep the faith. Do the little things.*’

Len Brown



“The New Normal” in September

We are delighted to announce that Children’s Church activities during the 10.30am Mass on Sundays will recommence in September. Likewise, the first monthly healing service after lockdown will take place after the 10.30 Mass on Sunday, 13 September. The Hall is now open for private bookings - contact Margaret Brading.

The choir has now returned, providing music at the 10.30 Mass on Sundays, and we are monitoring Government guidance closely with regard to the resumption of congregational singing.

We welcome additional volunteer readers & intercessors, and are grateful to the altar servers, who will be providing larger teams weekly to support our worship.

Please note that live-streamed Masses in September will take place only on the following occasions:

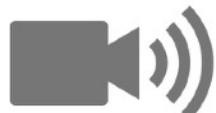
- Thursday 10 September, 12 noon, *and*
- Thursday 24 September, 12 noon

We welcome your thoughts as to whether and how live-streaming should continue beyond September - please speak to Fr Richard.

We hope to restart refreshments in the Hall after Mass at some point during September.



**LIVESTREAM
WORSHIP**



“Ave Verum Corpus”

In 1791, the composer Mozart was busy writing his opera *The Magic Flute*, when suddenly he broke off to compose a short setting to the Latin hymn “Ave Verum Corpus”. The reason was that his wife Constanze, who was expecting their sixth child, was staying at the Spa, Baden Bei Wien. She was struggling in the heat. A friend, Anton Stoll, the organist of St Stephan’s Church, found her ground floor rooms, with no stairs to climb. Mozart was so grateful that he immediately wrote his setting of the Corpus Christi hymn as a thank-you.

This motet is only 42 bars long, just three minutes of music. It has been described as ‘*musical perfection.*’ It is often performed in churches, and its beauty never fails to move its hearers. (The Latin hymn, “Hail, true Body” (NEH 289) was written in the fourteenth century, possibly by Pope Innocent VI. Mozart composed his setting of it less than six months before his early death. It foreshadows aspects of his last work, *The Requiem*. It expresses eucharistic thoughts, set simply for the church choir in a small town.

This amazing little work is in Mozart’s most ethereal late style. Hushed, and never going above the softest dynamics, it gives us a picture of otherworldly peace, unlike almost any other work. Christ’s suffering on the Cross is linked to His presence in the Eucharist, which strengthens the Christian in life and death. Mozart did not set the last two lines, which are included below.



Hail, true body
born of the Virgin Mary,
Which truly suffered, sacrificed
on the Cross for humankind,
Whose pierced side overflowed
with water and blood,
Be for us a foretaste of salvation
In the hour of death. Amen
O Jesu sweet, O Jesu Merciful,
O Jesu, Son of Mary,
Have mercy on me. Amen

Ave, verum corpus
natum de Maria Virgine,
vere passum immolatum
in Cruce pro homine,
cujus latus perforatum
unda fluxit et sanguine,
esto nobis prae gustatum
in mortis examine. Amen
O Jesu dulcis, O Jesu pie
O Jesu, Fili Mariae,
miserere mei. Amen

“Thoughts on the Food Bank”

Just over a year ago, due to a pending move, Kamalini Arul had to stop being our representative for the Bromley Borough Foodbank. As I had a car I volunteered to deliver the donated goods from the church to the depot in Bromley on a regular basis. What a pleasant shock I got when I first arrived at the depot – such a warm friendly welcome who foremost were concerned as to the reason why Kamalini was no longer transporting the donations. After an explanation, greetings and thanks were given to me to pass on to her.

The depot is huge – formerly the soft play zone for Bromley – and help was given to unload my car and take the donations for a weigh-in so that it could be recorded how many kilo’s St George’s had donated. I was amazed how much was loaded into my car on a fortnightly basis – thank you all.

As Christmas approached an SOS went out for extra help, on a day after Christmas, to sort the donations which had accumulated, especially from the local supermarkets. So I went along thinking an hour of my time would be sufficient, but how wrong I was ! I arrived at the depot to find it buzzing with folk of all ages and abilities. First of all goods were divided into groups – pasta, rice, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables, sauces, toiletries, cleaning and hygiene products etc. Once a box was full this was taken away for sorting into best-before or use-by order – obviously some to be distributed straightaway, whilst others were taken off for storage for a later date.

Three hours later I left them to it ! It is hard to describe the atmosphere - such love, care and concern all helping and supporting each other.

Some may say that food banks should not exist but unfortunately there is, especially at these times, a need and one should be grateful (a) that food banks exist, and (b) that one is able to help. I understand that it is anticipated that each person is given three days of food for healthy, well-balanced meals as well as toiletries, cleaning and hygiene products as is required.

It has been agreed that this year at our Harvest Festival on Sunday 29 September, instead of the usual donations of food, **we will instead invite monetary donations to support the food bank’s work.** Please listen out for further details!

So thank you for all your donations on a week-to-week basis and please keep these coming, watching out for the latest “shopping list” on the notice sheet.

Monica Sanderson



Dates for the Diary

[Breaside Prize-Giving Ceremony]	Friday 4 September (<i>tbc</i>)
Holy Baptism: <i>Zenaye & Suraiya Byfield, and Lucas Weekes</i>	Sunday 6, 12.30pm
Holy Baptism: <i>Archie Darling</i>	Sunday 6, 1.30pm
PCC Meeting	Tuesday 8, 7.30pm
Funeral: <i>RIP Joan Broad</i>	Wednesday 9, 2pm
Live-Streamed Mass	Thursday 10, 12 noon
Junior Confirmation Class	Friday 11, 6pm
[Ride & Stride]	Saturday 12
Monthly Healing Service	Sunday 13, after 10.30am Mass
Holy Baptism: <i>Carter Avon</i>	Sunday 13, 2pm
Senior Confirmation Class	Friday 18, 6pm
Holy Baptism: <i>Ethan Gee</i>	Sunday 20, 12.30pm
Live-Streamed Mass	Thursday 24, 12 noon
Junior Confirmation Class	Friday 25, 6pm
Holy Baptism: <i>Sienna Sanfilippo</i>	Saturday 26, 12.30pm
Harvest Festival	Sunday 27
Priestly Ordination: <i>Fr Simon Walker</i>	Sunday 27, 2pm (<i>Perry Street</i>)
<i>Save the Date!</i>	
Annual Parish Meeting	Sunday 18 October, after 10.30 Mass
Bible Sunday	Sunday 25 October
Dedication Festival: <i>Annunciation</i>	Sun. 25 Oct, 4pm (<i>Chislehurst</i>)

Contact us

Parish Priest

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Churchwardens

Mrs Vera Bilby
Tel. 07943 098 828

Miss Isobel Whelan
Tel. 07952 471 034

Child Protection and Safeguarding Officers

Children's Representative: Miss Isobel Whelan Tel. 07952 471 034
Vulnerable Adults' Representative: Mrs Jackie Walton Tel. 07985 196 928

Health & Safety Officer

Mr David Hood 020 8467 9623

St George's Church Hall - Bookings

Mrs Margaret Brading 07793 402 459

Director of Music

Mr Nick Stein

	Mass	Other Sacraments
Sunday	8.00am Low Mass 10.30am Sung Mass (with Children's Church)	Holy Baptism, Marriage, Sick Communion, Anointing & Reconciliation by appointment
Weekdays		
Monday	<i>no Mass</i>	Healing Service we anticipate recommencing the monthly (2nd Sunday) healing service after Mass on 13 September (*this Mass live-streamed to Facebook)
Tuesday	9.30am Low Mass	
Wednesday	9.30am <i>Holy Hour</i> 10.00am Low Mass	
Thursday	12 noon Low Mass*	
Friday	9.30am Low Mass	
Saturday	9.30am Low Mass (followed by Rosary)	