

# The Catholic Parish & Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation, West Grinstead

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## 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time : 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017

### CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

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| <b>TODAY</b><br>(25 <sup>th</sup> June)      | <b>Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b><br>6.00pm Vigil Mass <i>Pro Populo</i><br>10.30am Parish Mass                               |
| <b>MONDAY (26<sup>th</sup>)</b>              | <b>Feria of 12<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time</b><br>9.30am Holy Mass Ken Longley – R.I.P.                                     |
| <b>TUESDAY (27<sup>th</sup>)</b>             | <b>Feria of 12<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time</b><br>NO MASS   |
| <b>WED'DAY (28<sup>th</sup>)</b>             | <b>Mem: St. Irenaeus, Bishop &amp; Martyr</b><br>11.30am Exposition & Adoration<br>12 noon Holy Mass Hugh & Mary Stokes - R.I.P.   |
| <b>THURS (29<sup>th</sup>)</b>               | <b>Sol: St. Peter &amp; St. Paul, Apostles</b><br>12 noon Holy Mass Pope Francis   |
| <b>FRIDAY (30<sup>th</sup>)</b>              | <b>Mem: The First Martyrs<br/>of the Roman Church</b><br>9.30am Holy Mass Parish & Shrine of O.L.C.                                |
| <b>SATURDAY (1<sup>st</sup>)</b>             | <b>Feast: Dedication of the Cathedral</b><br>12 noon Holy Mass Knights of the Holy Sepulchre                                       |
| <b>NEXT SUNDAY</b><br>(2 <sup>nd</sup> July) | <b>Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b><br>6.00pm Vigil Mass Florence Thompson – R.I.P.<br>10.30am Parish Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> |

✦ **The Sacrament of Confession** is available before the 6.00pm Vigil Mass every Saturday; at 11.30am on Wednesdays; or by arrangement.

Thursday of this week (29<sup>th</sup>) is the **Solemnity of the Apostles Peter & Paul. Mass will be offered in the Shrine Church at 12 noon.**

[The Solemnity of Ss. Peter & Paul is a Holy Day of Obligation, when all practicing Catholics are called upon to be at Mass in their own church or somewhere.]

✦ **The Knights of the Holy Sepulchre** will be on Pilgrimage on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July. **Holy Mass will be celebrated at 12 noon.** All are welcome. Help with Refreshments would be greatly appreciated.

✦ **The Parish Study Group** met last Wednesday for the final time this Term. It will convene again in the Autumn: more details nearer the time. In the meantime, our very grateful thanks to Geoff, Anneli and all who have taken part.

## Just for the Birds ...?

*What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the housetops. (Matt. 10:27)*  
God's providence is a difficult thing to grasp. "There is no need to be afraid," says Jesus, "you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows." But we do become afraid, because we know that

bad things can happen to people. And they do. So is this providential care of God just some pie in the sky, something just for the birds?

Providence brings out the extremes in people. Some see life as acting out a play written by God. So whatever happens to us, however badly we mess up our lines, does not really matter because the ending is already written and the final curtain call is either heaven or hell.

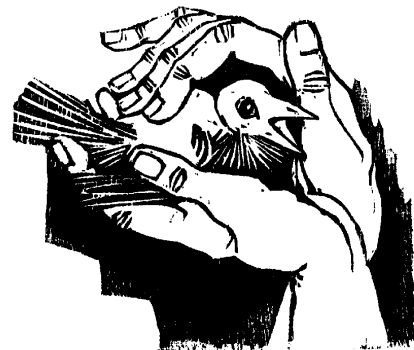
We need not trouble ourselves too much with this world's injustices because God, the scriptwriter, will take care of everything in the end.

At the other end of the scale are those who believe that God is the executive producer of the play. He backs it with his money but leaves us to get on with the script and the acting. So if we do not do something about the problems of the world then no one else will, and everything will come crashing down in disaster.

The play will flop. The balance is between an active God and human freedom. If we pretended we could adequately answer this question then we would be fooling ourselves. It lies at the heart of our understanding of God. In the deepest sense it is a Christian mystery.

Of course, one thing is certain: God is present in our world. "I will be with you always," said Jesus. And yet God does not seem to want to intervene directly. Not even in favour of thousands of refugees fleeing ethnic cleansing or innocent people dying of starvation or burnt to death in Tower Blocks. God appears to work through secondary causes, through other agents, through you and me. If God chooses to use other people in order to bring his presence to bear in the world, then it must be through people who are imbued with his values and teachings.

Somehow it is a joint effort. We raise the sails but God provides the wind. A survivor of the holocaust was asked how she could keep believing in God's providence after all that had happened to her. "Where was God?" she was asked. "He was there everyday saying 'Thou shalt not murder'." Maybe God is the drama's prompter.



**Please remember the sick and housebound in your prayers at this time; and amongst them:**

Fr. Ray Blake, Patrick Brennan, John Challis, Catherine Clayton, Bridget Coghlan, Tito Coletta, Moya Connolly, Jim Corcoran, Kath Davies, Philip Dean, Jo Dexter, Justine, Maggie Dougall, Suzanne Enbeigene, Norma Facer, Jeffrey Facon, Shane Fahy, Mark Forster, Vaughan Frederick, Lillian Fry, Sylvia Graham, Michael Handley, Joshua Hayter, Mike Kelly; Patricia Mallet, Paschal Radford, David Rees, Giles Rubens, Joe Ryan, Florence Thompson, Charlotte Walker and Stella Walls.