

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

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## Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time : 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017

### CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

<b>TODAY</b> (20 <sup>th</sup> August)	<b>Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 6.00pm Vigil Mass John & Aine Burke - healing 10.30am Parish Mass <i>Pro Populo</i>
<b>MONDAY (21<sup>st</sup>)</b>	<b>Mem: St. Pius X, Pope</b> 9.30am Holy Mass Gertrude Fincham – R.I.P.
<b>TUESDAY (22<sup>nd</sup>)</b>	<b>Mem: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> NO MASS
<b>WED'DAY (23<sup>rd</sup>)</b>	<b>Feria of Week 20 in Ordinary Time</b> 11.30am Exposition & Adoration 12 noon Holy Mass Garry & Brenda Jennings
<b>THURS (24<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>Feast: St. Bartholomew, Apostle</b> NO MASS
<b>FRIDAY (25<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>Feria of Week 20 in Ordinary Time</b> 9.30am Holy Mass Lady Marie de Rowland Peel – R.I.P.
<b>SATURDAY (26<sup>th</sup>)</b>	<b>Feria of Week 20 in Ordinary Time</b> NO MASS
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b> (27 <sup>th</sup> August)	<b>Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 6.00pm Vigil Mass The Walker family 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.

✕ **Weekday Masses return this week to their usual schedule: Monday and Friday at 9.30am; Wednesday at 12 noon, preceded by a time of Adoration of the Most Holy Sacrament from 11.30am.**

✕ Sophie Mardini (née Keith) writes on behalf of Rosemary & Sarah Keith): **We are seeking an afternoon/evening food preparer for 2 hours** each afternoon for one of the parishioners and her daughter, paying £12 an hour. Must be a non-smoker and driver. Disabled parishioner based in Twineham with no public transport. Please ring 01444 881345 or 07846 818160.

**If you would like to donate flowers** – maybe in memory of a loved-one - to decorate our Shrine Church, please sign the clipboard on the table in the Church Room; or contact Jenny Blythe on 01403 865272.

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

Fr. Ray Blake, Patrick Brennan, Callum, John Challis, Catherine Clayton, Bridget Coghlan, Tito Coletta, Moya Connolly, Jim Chambers, 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, Sarah & Rosemary, Keith, Patricia Mallet, Paschal Radford, David Rees, Giles Rubens, Joe Ryan, Charlotte Walker and Stella Walls.

## Get off my Mountain!

We have all got holy mountains: our own special preserves where we feel at home and we do not want things to be disturbed by outsiders. Maybe it is some area at work where we like to keep things and do not want others to come meddling and messing things up. Maybe it is a group or society we belong to locally, and we are a bit wary about the membership being opened to people we think do not really qualify for it. Or perhaps our holy mountain means being left in peace and quiet to have a snooze after lunch on Sundays without our being invaded by Uncle Sid, Auntie Mabel and the kids.

God threatens to disturb the peace on the Jewish holy mountain by letting foreigners come and worship, and be as acceptable as the chosen people. This indiscriminate acceptance of strangers, irrespective of their origins, was unpalatable to many Jewish believers and they withdrew into their own little religious cliques.

Things do not change that much. Many parishes have choirs which freeze out new blood; organists who jealously guard their instrument even when others can do a better job; sacristans who are long past their sell-by date, but will not let anyone else near their territory. Instead of serving the community, the job becomes something which the individual needs for their own self-esteem. (None of which is true at West Grinstead, I am relieved to say!) An easy way to test a parish's "holy mountain" ratings is to ask how many new people have offered themselves for service in the past year and been accepted and integrated into the work of the community. Without them it can get very lonely at the top of the parish mountain!

## A Final Reflection on Today's Gospel

"Jesus said, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house dogs.' The woman retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even the house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.'" (Matthew 15:26-27)

The playful and witty banter between Jesus and the Canaanite woman in today's gospel shows her to be a woman not only of faith but of shrewdness. Although she pretends to "know her place", she succeeds nicely in appealing to Jesus' sensitivities, and is rewarded, not for her clever words, but for her persistent faith. Jesus then holds her up to us as an example for others to follow.

