

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

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24th Sunday in Ordinary Time : 17th September 2017

CALENDAR FOR WEEK

TODAY (17 th Sept.)	Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 6.00pm Vigil Mass Anneli Figura's intentions 10.30am Parish Mass Pro Populo
MONDAY (18th)	Feria of Week 24 in Ordinary Time 9.30am Holy Mass Lady Marie de Rowland Peel - R.I.P.
TUESDAY (19th)	Feria of Week 24 in Ordinary Time NO MASS
WED'DAY (20th)	St. Andrew Kim Taegon & Companions, Martyrs 11.30am Exposition & Adoration 12 noon Holy Mass Brian Cobb - healing
THURS (21st)	Feast: The Exultation of the Holy Cross NO MASS
FRIDAY (22nd)	Mem: Our Lady of Sorrows 9.30am Holy Mass Jim Corcoran - his healing
SATURDAY (23rd)	Mem: SS Cornelius & Cyprian, Martyrs NO MASS
NEXT SUNDAY (24th)	Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 6.00pm Vigil Mass Michelle Crabb's intentions 10.30am Parish Mass Pro Populo

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

✦ **Weekday Mass times as normal this week: Monday and Friday at 9.30am (Bl. Francis Bell Chapel); Wednesday at 12 noon, preceded by a time of Adoration of the Most Holy Sacrament from 11.30am.**

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, Brian Cobb, 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, Rick Halpin, Michael Handley, Joshua Hayter, Mike Kelly; Sarah & Rosemary Keith, Patricia Mallet, Paschal Radford, David Rees, Giles Rubens, Joe Ryan, Charlotte Walker and Stella Walls.

Under the Thumb

You wicked servant. I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you? (Matt18:32-33)

Why do we make Christians? Why do we baptise people? So that they can qualify to go to our Catholic Church schools? So that we can reward friends by making them god-parents? To keep the mother-in-law happy?

The Creed tells us what baptism is for. *"I believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins."* We become Christians so that we may be forgiven. That is the primary purpose of conversion, the reason we accept Christ, the motive that keeps us going. Forgiveness.

Our scripture readings today let us know that there is only one condition attached to this forgiveness. It is ours for ever, as long as we offer the same forgiveness to anyone who has offended us. *"If a person nurses anger against someone else, can they then demand compassion from the Lord?"* And this is the point where we part company from many others, including some other religions.

We do not believe in retribution, revenge, evening up the score. An eye for an eye is not on our agenda. Nor do we believe in having someone under our thumb just because they "owe us one".

The problem with the wicked servant in the gospel was that he forgot about his own debt and demanded payment from others. He treated others as though he himself was perfect, forgetting that he too had been a debtor.

If we forgive someone it does not mean that we have to condone what they have done to us. It just means that we free them from being indebted to us for their actions. It means letting them back with dignity. That is what Jesus did by redeeming us on the cross. He does not hold our sin against us.

So the reason we become Christians is to be forgiven. And we can be sure of this forgiveness for as long as we are prepared to hand it on to others. Not grudgingly but generously. Not with conditions but freely. Not once but seventy-seven times.



His Eminence Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor

There is to be a Memorial Mass in Arundel Cathedral for Cardinal Cormac on **Sunday 1st October at 3.00pm**. It is particularly hoped that anyone who might have wished to attend the Funeral Mass in Westminster Cathedral, but was unable to do so, could attend on this later date. Further information about this Mass will be made available shortly.