

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

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29th Sunday in Ordinary Time : 22nd October 2017

CALENDAR FOR WEEK

TODAY (22 nd October)	29th Sunday in Ordinary Time 6.00pm Vigil Mass <i>Pro Populo</i> 10.30am Parish Mass Presentation Brothers – Living & Departed
MONDAY (23 rd)	Feria of Week 29 in Ordinary Time 10.00 am Holy Mass Lady Marie de Rowland-Peel – R.I.P.
TUESDAY (24 th)	Feria of Week 29 in Ordinary Time NO MASS
WED'DAY (25 th)	Feria of Week 29 in Ordinary Time 11.30am Exposition & Adoration 12 noon Holy Mass Fr. Augustine Hoey – R.I.P.
THURS (26 th)	Feria of Week 29 in Ordinary Time NO MASS
FRIDAY (27 th)	Feria of Week 29 in Ordinary Time NO MASS (Kerala Community Pilgrimage)
SATURDAY (28 th)	Feast: SS Simon & Jude, Apostles NO MASS
NEXT SUNDAY (29 th October)	30th Sunday in Ordinary Time 6.00pm Vigil Mass Canon Gerald Coates – R.I.P. 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.

✠ **Our last pilgrimage this year** The local Kerala Community (many living in the Horsham area) will be here on Pilgrimage this Friday. There might well be 250 coming (so the Shrine Church will be packed)! Our ✠Richard will be joining them. They are one of the world's oldest Eastern Christian Communities; and claim - with ancient authority - to have been founded by St. Thomas the Apostle in the 1st Century. Please note: **There will not be a 10.00am Mass this Friday.**

✠ As advised for the past three weeks, **the names that appeared last week in *italics* on the News-sheet**, having still raised no new information, have been deleted. If this action causes any anxiety or distress, do please let me know.

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

Fr. Ray Blake, Patrick Brennan, Callum, John Challis, Brian Cobb, Tito Coletta, Moya Connolly, Jim Chambers, Jim Corcoran, Philip Dean, Justine, Shane Fahy, Mark Forster, Joshua Hayter, Mike Kelly; Sarah & Rosemary Keith, Norbert & Patricia Mallet, Paschal Radford, Giles Rubens and Charlotte Walker.

✠ **The Annual Parish Requiem, with the Graveyard Blessing** takes place this year on Sunday 5th November at 3.00pm. Everyone is most welcome.

A God who holds Caesar

Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.
(Matthew 22: 21)

It is said that when a government department once sent King George V a speech to deliver, he sent it back with the note "What about AG?" The civil servants finally were defeated and asked, "What is AG?" George V replied, "There is nothing in this speech about Almighty God."



A leader who had such a sense of his own dependence upon God, whilst still being a king, was blessed indeed. But today the combination of politics and secularism, raises fears in many people's minds. It is common to hear the comment that religion should keep out of politics. When we first hear Jesus's reply, "Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God", we can be forgiven for thinking that he too agrees with the popular phrase. Maybe priests should stay in their pulpits and not make pronouncements about daily life, while politicians should limit their comments to parliamentary topics?

But what Jesus is saying is that God is greater than Caesar. Caesar is entitled to what belongs to him. But is there anything which does not belong to God? Even Caesar and Cyrus are held in the palm of God's hand. God is sovereign of the universe and nothing escapes his gaze. So if politics is about the way we organise our lives in society so that all runs smoothly and all are treated with equal dignity and rights, are there any political decisions which religion should have no voice on?

Christians believe that Christ's victory over sin and death lays the foundation for the society which we are invited to live in. All decisions which affect the social well-being of men and women are the concern of religion. No religion can ever align itself with a single political party because religion is greater than party ideology. In the same way no government can expect to be wholly at ease with the Church, since the Church serves the Kingdom which is not of this world. The Religious Broadcaster, Gerald Priestland, once commented: "*Christians ought not to fear a moral issue just because someone has stuck a political flag on it*". But if we allow ourselves to be confined to hymn-singing and flower arranging, while others make crucial decisions about the quality of life that our nation is to enjoy, then we *have* allowed Caesar to be given what really belongs to God and His Church.