

PARISH NOTICES

Welcome to St John's If you are new to the church, please make yourself known to one of the clergy or the welcomers. After the Parish Mass refreshments will be served at the back of church. Please stay if you can.

Today's readings In the passage we hear in the first reading today Moses sets before his people a picture of a glorious future - life in 'a land where milk and honey flow'. But if this is to be their destiny it requires their obedience. In ancient Jewish thinking, earthly prosperity depended upon obeying God - not as a response of love and gratitude, but out of fear of the consequences of disobedience.

In the second reading we are reminded of the function exercised by the Jewish high priest: his duty was to offer the ritual sacrifices on behalf of the people. But he could be a priest only for a limited time, until his death. Now, the writer of the letter to the Hebrews tells us, we have in Jesus Christ an eternal high priest who is God himself and who intercedes constantly and unfailingly for us. We need not approach him in fear because he was 'one of us' and knows well the weaknesses of humanity.

On a number of occasions during his ministry Jesus faced hostile questioning from the religious teachers. In today's Gospel the question seems to be a genuine enquiry, not an attempt to catch him out. Asked 'which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus gives the same answer Moses gave his people in the first reading. But then he adds another: 'You must love your neighbour'. Hearing Jesus's reply his questioner understands that guided by these two commandments he can face the demands of everyday life.

Parish Bible Study All are welcome tomorrow (Monday), 3 pm in the café area in church, to study the scriptures for next Sunday:

1 Kings 17: 10-16 Hebrews 9: 24-28 St Mark 12: 38-44

Merryl Talbot's Funeral Mass is on Thursday at 1 pm. There is no Mass at 9 o'clock that day.

To contact the clergy:

Fr Roger 01903 268295 07814 765990 burmateak@aol.com
Deacon Rachel 07810 350098 rachelbennett@talktalk.net

THE PARISH OF ST JOHN THE DIVINE, WEST WORTHING

3rd November 2024

31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8.00 am Mass

10.00 am Parish Mass (Hymns NEH 364, 73, 401, 304, 468) Intention: The Parish

6.00 pm Evening Prayer and Benediction

Monday 4th November 10.00 am Mass Theological Colleges
St Charles Borromeo

Tuesday 5th November 6.30 pm Mass The Government
Feria

Wednesday 6th November 11.00 am Mass Faithfulness in discipleship
Feria

Thursday 7th November 1.00 pm Funeral Mass Merryl Talbot
Feria

Friday 8th November 10.30 am Mass at St Andrew's All hostile to the faith
Feria

Saturday 9th November 9.30 am Mass Walsingham
Feria

Next Sunday: Mass at 8 am; Parish Mass at 10 am; Evening Prayer & Benediction at 6 pm

Please pray for:

The sick: Wendy Oakeshott, Jack, Reg Parker, Ros Cole, Linda Fryar

The recently departed: Merryl Talbot

Those whose anniversaries occur this week:

- 3 Muriel Clemens, Joan Cattermole
- 4 Nicholas Pierce, Pam Barker, Joan Burns
- 5 Doris Britt, Charles Britt, Jonathan Davidson
- 6 Philip Bevan *priest*, Amy Standing
- 8 Rhoda Bowles, Dorothy Gill
- 9 Joseph Cowan *priest*, Doris Bush, Roy Hillary