

Voice from the Vicarage October 28th 2021

Dear All,

So today is the feast of St Simon and St Jude, two of the least known of the twelve Jesus chose to be with him. The New Testament can't imagine the Lord without them, even if they had terrible moments of misunderstanding what he was on about, times of spiritual blindness and loss of nerve. But in the end, they could not imagine their lives without him, even to the point of martyrdom. It is said Simon and Jude were martyred together in Syria.

If I may, let me repeat some wisdom from St Augustine I mentioned at the end of my sermon last Sunday, when he talks about following Jesus:

1. Follow him as the pattern of your behaviour
2. Let him be the bearer of mercy to you
3. Receive him as your eucharistic food
4. Wait for the endless reward of life with Him.

I have been reflecting a lot about these four things and how I measure up to them over the past week, sort of allowing my own sermon to be preached to myself...I reckon Augustine's wisdom is as pertinent now as it was 1600 years ago!

A couple of great days....

Well, November begins with two great days. **The Feast of All Saints'** when we give thanks for those who have so allowed God's grace to fill them that the Church has declared them to be saints with a capital 'S' and a marvellously crowd of witnesses they are. Let them give you hope for your own life!

That's on Monday and there will be a mass at 8 am.

The next day is called **All Souls' Day**, when we remember those we have known and loved who have died. I am always reminded of the dying words of St Monica to her son Augustine:

'Bury my body wherever you will; let not care of it cause you any concern. One thing only I ask you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord wherever you may be.'

That is exactly what we do on All Souls' Day. If you have persons you'd like remembered please email them to me by MONDAY MORNING. We generally have quite a list, but who cares how long it takes? I certainly don't. There will be two masses on that day to give more people the opportunity to come. *Talking of worship*, it has been such a joy to begin the mid-week public worship again in the church! The daily mass is said at the nave altar to allow for distancing. Evening Prayer at the Lady Chapel. **REMEMBER**, masks are necessary.

TUESDAY All Souls' Day
Masses at 8 and 6.30
Praying for our dead....

For those who made a bid for a prayer desk, I will be in touch over the next few days to let you know if you've been successful...

THIS SUNDAY there will be an **8 a.m. Mass** in the church at which any person, vaccinated or unvaccinated are welcome. Sacrament can be collected at the usual times.

The 10 a.m. service will be ONLINE We hope it will be the last online service that we will record on Saturdays and 'put up' on YouTube and the parish website.

DETAILS OF THE PROVISION OF WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS going forward will be made via 'The Voice' next Thursday. The wardens and parish council are seeking to reflect carefully about a faithful way to provide for worship that reflects the intention of the Lord that all the baptised be gathered around the altar without distinction in these days when it seems there is to be a separation between the vaccinated and those unvaccinated.

PLEASE PRAY that we might discern a good and proper way..

* * *

MEANWHILE a few folk have been working like trojans to clear the Bardin Centre in readiness for the handover to the Education department. The handover meeting is tomorrow. Many thanks to the team including Robyn White, Adrian Nye, Donna Davis, and John Vincent who has been the anchor man. John has every reason to be exhausted by it all!



Dn Jack lends a hand....No idea what was in this box originally...bit saucy if you ask me...

The parish office now has its home in the front room of the vicarage (aka 'Parish House') and the entrance will be from the porch via the fountain gate. Again that was quite a removal job. Many thanks to the workers.

And 264 'The Lamb' moves forward towards opening. Setting up is quite a business! We first hoped the lovely sign would hang outside, but for various reasons can't be so it now hangs above the servery and looks very seemly! Thanks to Lukas Drobik who worked with Albert to put it up under my expert supervision...



And finally, but on a sad note, our Heather de Viell-Richter for whom we have been praying for a long time as she battled with cancer is now near to the end of her earthly life. She has been fortified by the sacraments and commended to the Lord, and is peaceful. She is His now...+✠