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 **7th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)** February 19th, 2023

**SUNDAY MASS TIMES**

Saturday 6.00pm St. Patrick’s church

Sunday 9.30am Christ the King church

Sunday 11.00am St. Patrick’s church

**WEEKDAY LITURGY TIMES**

 Tuesday 10.00am Christ the King

 **Ash Wednesday 10.00am St. Patrick’s**

 **Ash Wednesday 6.30pm Christ the King**

 Thursday: 10.00am Christ the King

 Friday: 10.00am St. Patrick’s

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** any time on request

**MASS INTENTIONS RECEIVED**: Special Intention, Jim Goodwin, Gregory Wardell (Anni.), Cecelia Belbin (3rd Anni.),

Esther Mossop (Anni.),

**ANNIVERSARIES: February 19th – 26th:**

Thomas Heatley, William Doherty (Jnr), Margaret Micallef, Brian Meadows, David Peter Flynn, Elvira Costello,

Valerie Corr, Gregory Wardell, Eric Allen, Norman Ayres, Mary Connor, Win Latham, Elizabeth Annie Cross,

Esther Mossop, Cecelia Belbin.

**PLEASE REMEMBER** in your prayers all our sick and housebound brothers and sisters.



**The word this week**

Leviticus 19:1–2, 17–18 Love your neighbour as yourself.

Psalm 102 (103) ***‘The Lord is compassion and love.’***

1 Corinthians 3:16–23 God catches the wise in their own ruses.

Matthew 5:38–48 Love your enemies.

*“Love your neighbour as yourself.”* These are words we associate so clearly with the teaching of Jesus and the way of life the Gospel calls us to. But it may be a surprise to some people to hear that these words come first from the Old Testament, in the mouth of Moses himself. Moses was speaking the Lord God’s instruction for the community – the community of the people of Israel in flight from Egypt in their long sojourn in the wilderness. God’s instructions were about how that community had to work – without grudges, resentment or vengeance, but with love and forgiveness and tolerance. When Jesus comes with the message of the Kingdom of heaven, it is the same instruction for a perfect, God-guided society, which depends on how each of us lives with others. The *“wisdom of this world”,* which Saint Paul mentions in the Second Reading, will not teach us this: the world will believe in vengeance, and friendship only for your friends. Each of us must ask how we can embrace the apparent folly of Jesus’ teaching: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you

**AT MASS TODAY WE PRAY** Eucharistic Prayer 3 and Preface 3 for Sundays.

As disciples of the Lord, we stand around this table to offer praise and thanksgiving.

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** This Wednesday, February 22nd, is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Season of Lent.

Mass times for Ash Wednesday are shown above. Ashes will be Blessed and distributed at both Masses.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** **20 minutes before Mass on Thursdays and Fridays during Lent**

**ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE** **would like to invite parishioners to take part in their Hunger Lunch on Family Fast Day, Friday, 3rd March. As always, the students will prepare homemade soup for you to enjoy.**

**Lunch service will begin at 1pm and will take place in the School Hall. Our Young CAFOD Leaders are really excited to see you all!**

**Please let Alison Fisk know if you will be attending by emailing her at: fisk.a@stpatricks.npcat.org.uk**

**Or contact the school on 01642 613327 (before the 1st March please) This will enable the school to ensure that you are catered for.**

**THANK YOU:** The Allison Family wish to say “Thank You to everyone who contributed to the donations for Dementia UK at Mary Allison’s Funeral Mass recently. A total of £326 was donated.”

**Prayer**

“O God, the source of human dignity, in your image every person is fashioned and by your Son all people are redeemed.

Make us honour the work of your hands, that we may reverence you in those whom the world considers least and serve you in all whom society neglects.”

7th Sunday of the Year (A)

**January 19th, 2023**

**First reading** Leviticus 19:1-2,17-18

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: ‘Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them:

 ‘“Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

 ‘“You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.”’

**Second reading**  1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Didn’t you realise that you were God’s temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

 Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men’s thoughts: he knows how useless they are; or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

If anyone loves me he will keep my word,

and my Father will love him,

and we shall come to him.

Alleluia!

**Gospel Reading**  Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

 ‘You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.