

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY
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13 September 2020
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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FORGIVENESS IS HARD

There is no getting away from the fact that forgiveness is hard and the bigger the hurt and injustice the harder it is to forgive. In this Sunday's Gospel reading from St Matthew, St Peter asks Jesus, 'How often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times? Peter probably thought that seven times was doable but may well have been disheartened at Jesus' response, "Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times". While it's important not to get into the numbers game, we need to be clear that we cannot put a limit on forgiveness and must always be open to it in the power of God's grace.

Last Thursday we heard a passage from St Luke's Gospel (6:27-38) which opened with these challenging words from Jesus, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on the one cheek, present the other cheek too." This kind of teaching would have been regarded by many as weak, unreasonable and even impossible to follow. One man who demonstrated it could be done was the Reverend David Wilkerson who, as a young skinny pastor in 1950's America, felt called by God to preach love and forgiveness in the heartland of a gangland ghetto. My apologies for repeating some of what I said at Thursday's Mass but I feel it is an important message that more people hear, reflect on and put into practise.

David Wilkerson's first encounter with Nicky Cruz, a Puerto Rican gang leader, was far from encouraging and even, on the surface, an outright failure. Many years later Cruz recalled, how he slapped Wilkerson across the face, spat at him, vowed to kill him and send him to hell. But the pastor's response was extraordinary and totally unexpected: "You can kill me, cut me up into little pieces and throw me into the sidewalk but every piece will cry out, Jesus loves you". Cruz had never been afraid of guns, knives or indeed any person but now for the first time in his life he felt scared because for the very first time he knew with certainty that he was in the presence of something or someone of infinitely greater power and presence than he had. Later, Cruz reflected that God had to have been truly with Wilkerson for him to have not only entered gang territory, but to have done it with such faith and conviction.

It's important to mention that Cruz's conversion didn't happen overnight. In those early days he described himself as 'a mad dog wanting to kill this guy'. But the more hostility and resistance Cruz displayed the more Wilkerson relentlessly blessed him and told him that God was after him and Jesus Christ loved him. This went on for two weeks. It seemed that everywhere Cruz went, he came face to face with this annoying preacher who repeated the same message of love to him. At the end of the two weeks he caved in, giving his life to God and within a year he was attending Bible school. It was here that Cruz, met a Mexican student whom he later married and started a family. They are happily married today.

Since his conversion Nicky Cruz with the support of his wife and family has preached all over the world about the love and mercy of God, how he was profoundly converted from being a ruthless and hard-hearted gang leader to a man of faith with a heart of flesh. If David Wilkerson hadn't uncompromisingly loved his enemy and turned the other cheek, Nicky Cruz might have continued his life of violence and hatred, damaging and possibly destroying many lives including his own. He wouldn't have met his wife and with her raised three children, and many thousands of people the world over would not have had the opportunity to hear his story and themselves encounter God's personal love for them.

Fr Steve



There are several feast days this week. Happy feast day to those who have John, Mary, Cornelius, Cyprian, Robert, Edith, Theodore, Januarius as a Christian name, second name or indeed confirmation name.



Living Well - at Holy Trinity Church on Lennard Road in Penge - provides regular help and support to people in need. To keep Living Well running smoothly and safely, we rely on the continuing support and involvement of lots of different people.

There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer - from helping with our foodbank, to providing a listening ear, making up food bags, collecting food from super-markets, serving hot drinks or getting stuck in behind the scenes. We run regular volunteer information sessions for people who are interested in volunteering with us.

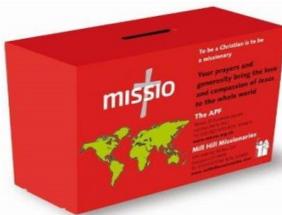
If you'd like to come along to one of our induction sessions, please let us know by emailing hello@livingwell.life or completely a volunteer form at <https://www.livingwell.life/p/volunteer>

Alternatively you can help out by:
Making an online donation at:
<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/living-well-emergency-covid-appeal>

Donating food and other essential items.
Donations can be brought along to Holy Trinity Church on Tuesdays 11am - 1pm or Thursdays 12.30 - 2pm. We also have drop off boxes in Sainsbury's Penge and Waitrose Bromley South.

In particular we are currently low or completely out of the following items:
Tinned vegetables
Tinned meat
Toilet Roll
Toiletries (men's deodorant, shower gel, shampoo)
Biscuits

With thanks from all at Living Well



We cannot collect Missio boxes at the present but urge you to keep putting your change into them so when we are able to collect and count the money we will be able to send a bumper sum to Missio to help finance their work all over the world.



Stress in Your Marriage? – This has been a very difficult year for many couples. Retrouvaille is a program for married couples who feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it.

This programme has helped 6,000 couples who were experiencing difficulties in their marriage in the past year alone. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on **12th -15th Nov 2020**, call or text 0788 729 6983 or 0797 338 0443 - or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Some of you are applying to Catholic secondary schools for your children, and the current situation has made changes to our procedures. As part of the procedure you should be able to download a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) from the school's website – please do so and email it to Father Ashley, who will then complete it and return it to you for uploading to the school site. Unless there are problems it shouldn't be necessary to arrange a meeting and please deal direct with Father Ashley, not the parish office.

Normally the process of applying to St Mary's and other primary schools begins slightly later so please wait before beginning a similar process so that secondary applications can be dealt with first.

SUNDAY MASS 9.30

Last Sunday we were in the unenviable position of having to turn people away as both the church and parish hall reached their safe capacity well before the start of Mass. To avoid possible disappointment you may like to consider one of the other Masses (Saturday 6.00pm or Sunday 5.30pm) or as there is currently no Sunday obligation please consider the possibility of attending a weekday Mass instead.

Since we were able to re-open the church for Mass, we have shut the doors 5 minutes before Mass begins (or when the capacity of the church has been reached). This is to make sure we have everyone sanitized and seated in the appropriate spaces and to allow our dedicated team of stewards time to have a few minutes to prepare themselves for Mass.

PLEASE do not knock on the church doors or ring the office bell to ask to be let in to the church if you arrive after the doors are closed. We are unable to let you in.



MASSES THIS WEEK
All Masses are live streamed

Sunday 13 September 9.30 am 5.30 pm	Twenty-fourth Sunday Patrick Chambers RIP Ints of the Denne family Siobhan Donnelly RIP
Monday 14 September 10.00 am 6.00 pm	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Monica Grima RIP Anthony Leonard RIP
Tuesday 15 September 10.00 am 6.00 pm	Our Lady of Sorrows Mr & Mrs De Souza Thomas Spillane RIP (anniv)
Wednesday 16 September 10.00 am 6.00 pm	Saints Cornelius and Cyprian Benefactors & Promoters of the Claver Sisters Anastatia Costelloe RIP (4th anniv)
Thursday 17 September 10.00 am 6.00 pm	Feria Frank Taylor RIP Marianne Martin RIP
Friday 18 September 10.00 am 6.00 pm	Feria (St Edith of Kemsing) Lee & Rodolfo Cabilin RIP Dec'd members of the Misquitta & Pereira families
Saturday 19 September 10.00 am 5 - 5.45 pm <i>Lady Chapel</i> 6.00 pm	Feria (St Theodore of Canterbury) Dec'd Benefactors & Promoters of the Claver Sisters Confession Kathleen Cowling RIP
Sunday 20 September 9.30 am 5.30 pm	Twenty-fifth Sunday The Davies Family Ann Zacaroli Paul Stephens RIP (anniv)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is on the webcam each day from 11.00 am until 5.00 pm.

Some Mass intentions have had to be moved from their booked date as we are celebrating fewer Masses at the moment. The intention will be given to another Mass as close as possible to the date originally given.

PARISH OFFICE

The office is **CLOSED** to personal callers. Please email on beckenham@rcaos.org.uk or telephone 020 8650 0970. You can also drop a note through our door and we will get in touch with you.

Readings for Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

- First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9
- Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18
- Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24, 27
- Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

GIFT AID BOXES

Boxes are in the church porch in alphabetical order plus special sets for those who give by standing order. Please collect your box as you go into the church. If you are not currently attending Mass and wish to have your envelopes sent to you please send an email to the office.

beckenham@rcaos.org.uk

There are many boxes and envelopes of parishioners who are attending Mass which have not been picked up. Please do collect them the next time you are at church.

COLLECTION

*Last week's online collection came to £3845.52
Thank you*

To make your regular donations electronically please click here <http://saintedmunds.net/index.php/donations/> or to set up a standing order our bank details are:
St Edmund's Church Sort Code: 60-02-12
Acc no: 14282887

We pray for those who have died recently: Andrew Callaghan, Harry Dalton, Emma Panas, Keith Rupert Jones, Fr Charles Briggs James Byrne, Anne Byrne, Peter May, Eugene Murphy, Jane Green, Mary Smith, Trevor Scott and David Faulkner.

We pray for those whose anniversaries are this week: Rosie Reed, Kieran Corrigan, Rob Young, John MacNamara, Martin Norris, Thomas Spillane, Olga Roberts, Margaret Leeks, Bill Devlin, Ann Zacaroli, Marisia Nawara, Maria Okafor.

We pray for the sick: Angela, Rob Burns, Carmel Cardiff, Chant, Christine, Jorge Corrigan-Zorilla, John Crouch, Kevin Curtis, Sorcha Davis, Niamh Dawson, Giacomo Dillon, Bridget D'Souza, Joshua Dunford, Nicholas Dunford, Alex Dufort, Cecil Dutton, Suzanne Eilbeck, Antonio Ferrara, Felicity, Rosleen Flemming, Mary Flood, Flora, Sarah Gallagher, Erika Geddes, Gaetan Goa, Tony Hallett, Hans Halpin, Margaret Halpin, Michael Harper, John Harrow, Eileen Hayes, Kathleen Hayes, Mary Hisee, Lesley Hill, Glen Jack, Rosemary Jackson, Mim Jennings, Bob Jones, Catherine Kelly, Eileen Kelly, Antony & Richard Kirin, Kevin Kurtis, Andrew Kuzan, Pierre Lane, Chris Lawley, Margaret Lilley, Rosy Lobo, Peter May, Pat McAvoy, Rose McDonnell, Mary McGrath, Paul McIndoe, Eddie Mitchell, Salvador Moreno, Barbara Moyce, Marco Oliveri, Gretta O'Reilly, Eva Perjesi, John Quaipe, Brian Russell, Brigitte Savreux-O'Driscoll, Margaret Pietrzyk, Mary Shipsey, Coleen Shroeder, David Silk, Vincent Silveira, Siobhan, John Stokoe, Angela Stolle, Pauline Ullisak, Deborah Walcott-Grappie, Joan, Alfred, Susan & Wendy Waller, Jimmy Walters, Patricia Weal, Stephen Westgarth, Sue Wingfield and Charlie Wynn.