

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY
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Website: www.saintedmunds.net
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20 September 2020
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

ONE OF THE SOBERING THINGS about trying to teach Moral Theology in almost any context, including a parish, is the realisation that a lot of Catholics think that the Church should only be concerned about issues such as sex, the family or some aspects of the sanctity of life. If you say that our moral teaching extends to every aspect of day to day life and the life of the world, the eyes glaze over. The suggestion that the Catholic life is about the whole of our lives is rather daunting and threatening to many.

I suspect that in the current political climate if you claim that the Church has something to say about international law you get the same bewildered or even angry response from some Catholics, let alone others. This makes it even more urgent that we should remind ourselves of this part of our teaching. As Christians we do not see the basic concept of 'law' as something oppressive or constricting: we see the 'moral law' as something liberating, and indeed given to us by God. In the Old Testament, for example, the Ten Commandments and the rest of *Torah* are seen as a sign of God's favour towards his chosen people. The way the people are expected to live according to what God reveals to them is something which sets them apart from others. Of course laws can be oppressive, if they infringe human dignity or are imposed without democratic mandate, but human societies have always needed laws and regulations, to guard against sin.

This applies not simply to individual people, but to whole societies. The moral law is wide-ranging, and it applies both to how societies should be ordered and to relationships between countries: there's no such thing as the 'law of the jungle'; we're not created by God, in his image, to live like that. Someone who understands this very well is Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who came to this country ten years ago this week: here he is depicted greeting hundreds of pupils from Catholic schools on the running track of St Mary's University. A year before he came here he wrote his last full encyclical, *Caritas in Veritate* ('Love in Truth') which addresses the world financial crisis in the years after 2008 and also marked the fortieth anniversary of the first papal letter about world development issues in the 1960s.

When a person signs an agreement, or when a country signs a treaty, you voluntarily create a binding obligation, a restriction on your freedom to do whatever you like. An international treaty therefore has both moral and legal force, in the interests of both parties who sign, their Common Good. In his 2009 letter Pope Benedict not only recognised the importance of this but called for more international



agreements with binding force; here he is writing about the need to have international laws with real 'teeth' to regulate both the financial system and avert environmental damage: **'One also senses the urgent need to find innovative ways of implementing the principle of the responsibility to protect and of giving poorer nations an effective voice in shared decision-making. This seems necessary in order to arrive at a political, juridical and economic order which can increase and give direction to international co-operation for the development of all peoples in solidarity. To manage the global economy; to revive economies hit by the crisis; to avoid any deterioration of the present crisis and the greater imbalances that would result; to bring about integral and timely disarmament, food security and peace; to guarantee the protection of the environment and to regulate migration: for all this, there is urgent need of a true world political authority, as my pre-decessor Blessed John XXIII indicated some years ago. Such an authority would need to be regulated by law, to observe consistently the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity, to seek to establish the common good, and to make a commitment to securing authentic integral human development inspired by the values of charity in truth. Furthermore, such an authority would need to be universally recognized and to be vested with the effective power to ensure security for all, regard for justice, and respect for rights'** (section 67)

It's all about selfishness really: countries which break international treaties are a bit like people who refuse to wear masks or socially distance.

CATECHISM GROUP

St Edmund's Catechism Group regrets that we will not be taking any new registrations this year. We are still only halfway through the 2019-2020 year, with the Sacraments having been postponed until 2021. We hope and pray that we will be back to normal in September 2021 and ask any families to email: stedscatechismgroup@gmail.com to register interest

SUNDAY MASS 9.30

Thank you to those who changed from attending the 9.30 am Mass on Sunday to another Mass. We were able to accommodate all who came in the church and the hall. Remember that the obligation to attend mass on a Sunday has ceased for the time being but we would encourage those who can to attend during the week. There is always plenty of space at the 6.00 pm Mass.

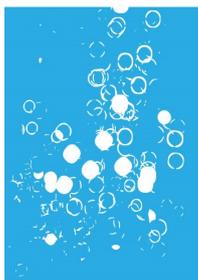
FOLK CHOIR'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The Folk Choir, which until recent events intervened, sang regularly at 5.30 Mass, should be celebrating our fiftieth anniversary on Sunday 27th September. Sadly, the government rules will prevent us from doing so. We will try to celebrate this achievement when circumstances allow.

In the meantime we continue to provide one song per week for the 5.30 Mass, from a mix of old and new recordings. (The rules do not permit more than one song to be played, so as not to prolong the service).

POP UP CHURCH SHOP

We are grateful to Mary Samuel who once again will have a table on the forecourt after 9.30 Mass this Sunday so parishioners can purchase items from the church shop and place orders for Christmas. Please bring cash to pay.



Living Well
Bromley

Living Well - at Holy Trinity Church on Lennard Road in Penge

Make 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.



Stress in Your Marriage? – This has been a very difficult year for many couples.

Retrouvaille is a program for married couples who feel bored, dis-illusioned, 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 than for secondary schools so please wait before beginning a similar process so that secondary applications can be dealt with first.

Patricia Weal, who celebrated a rather special birthday in August would like to thank friends for the cards and gifts and flowers that she received. One particularly beautiful bouquet arrived without a gift card so she cannot thank the giver personally.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

7 Village Way

25 September

No 7 Village Way will donate 30% of its tea & coffee takings to Macmillan Cancer Care.

If anyone would like to donate some cakes please see Angélique at the café or call her on 020 8658 7757 or 0795 619 1873

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 20 September 9.30 am 5.30 pm	Twenty-fifth Sunday The Davies Family Ann Zacaroli Paul Stephens RIP (anniv)
Monday 21 September 10.00 am 6.00 pm	St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist Tina Loughney RIP Albert Currie RIP
Tuesday 22 September 10.00 am 6.00 pm	Feria Fr Emmanuel Jesuthasam RIP Dorothy Kufeji (b'day ints)
Wednesday 23 Sept 10.00 am 6.00 pm	St Pius of Pietrelcina—Padre Pio Thanksgiving Ekong & Edet families Lily Beavis & Tony Colonnese RIP
Thursday 24 September 10.00 am 6.00 pm	Our Lady of Walsingham Tom Knell RIP Peter May RIP
Friday 25 September 10.00 am 6.00 pm	Feria Augustine Matthew RIP David Faulkner RIP
Saturday 26 September 10.00 am 5 - 5.45 pm <i>Lady Chapel</i> 6.00 pm	Saints Cosmas & Damian Canon Jack & Michael Madden RIP Confession Jeanne & Pierre Champetier RIP & Nancy & Stephen Dennis RIP
Sunday 27 September 9.30 am 5.30 pm	Twenty-sixth Sunday Anna & Tom Knell RIP Henry & Eileen Ghent RIP For the people

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-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Ezek 18:25-28

Ps 24

Phil 2:1-11

Matt 21:28-32

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

COLLECTION

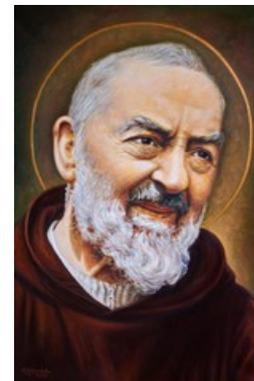
Last week's online collection came to £2474.10

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



An image of Padre Pio whose feast day is on Wednesday

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

We pray for those whose anniversaries are this week: Maria Okafor, John Stoneman, Marion Martin, Patricia English, Paul Stephens, Esther Smith, Ann Wood, Terence Harte, Thomas Harrigan, Patricia Deeley, Marian Hughes

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, Emma-Jane, Antonio Ferrara, Felicity, 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, Pat McAvoy, Rose McDonnell, Mary McGrath, Paul McIndoe, Eddie Mitchell, Salvador Moreno, Barbara Moyce, Marco Oliveri, Eva Perjesi, John Quaife, 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, Sue Wingfield and Charlie Wynn.