

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEARTwww.sacredheartthenley.co.uk

31 Vicarage Road, Henley-on-Thames

Oxon, RG9 1HT

Tel: [01491] 573 258

E-mail: sacredheart@sacredheartthenley.co.uk

Parish Priest – Fr Anthony Wilcox

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLwww.sacredheartprimary.org

Greys Hill, Henley-on-Thames

Oxon, RG9 1SL

Tel: (01491) 572796 Fax: (01491) 413838

E-mail: office.3820@sacred-heart.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Karen Edwards

Newsletter No 2174

THE 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

02 October 2011

*Registered as a Charity – No 234216***PSALTER**
Sundays – Cycle A**WEEK THREE**
Weekdays – Cycle 1

Sat	[for Sun] 6 pm Anita Buckle (ld)
Sun	8.30 am Fawdry Family RIP 10.30 am Elliot Halpern
Mon	No Service
Tue	9.15 am Morning Prayer 9.30 am Eucharistic Service
Wed	9.15 am Morning Prayer 9.30 am Eucharistic Service
Thu	9.15 am Morning Prayer 9.30 am Eucharistic Service
Fri	9.15 am Morning Prayer 9.30 am Eucharistic Service
Sat	[for Sun] 6 pm
Sun	8.30 am & 10.30 am

Confessions

Sat	5 pm - 5.45 pm
Sun 9 th	9.15-10.15 am First Holy Communion class 10.30 am Children's Liturgy
After	10.30 am Mass - Coffee in the Parish Hall

PARISH WALK

The monthly parish walks will begin again on Saturday 22nd October. Meet in the carpark at 1.30pm

My dear Parishioners,

Topsy turvey weather! I thought short sleeve shirts were at an end for the year. Is nature telling us something about change and getting used to it?

Your response to the Archbishop's Pastoral Letter regarding **Father Hudson's Society** was magnificent £761.70 was raised. Well done indeed.

I am returning on Monday for just ten days to the parish I stayed at in California. It's like this. I am a kind of raffle prize. No, I didn't win a raffle. The PP at Nativity Parish, Menlo Park and myself became great friends. We vied with each other in cooking. Shortly before I left we threw a dinner party for ten; he cooked two courses, and I did the same. Late on in the evening it was suggested that our cooking exploits should be recognised and sold at the next parish charity auction of pledges. It was! The consequence is that \$4000 was raised for a dinner to be cooked by the two of us, plus a ticket to go! Well, you cant look that sort of gift horse in the mouth can you. So I be away for a rather long weekend! I am back on the 13th (Thursday week).

Father Paul Fitzpatrick will be looking after next weekend.

The building of the **Columbarium** is going head a pace. It will also mean an extra meeting room (under the main sanctuary). This will be a great asset to the parish. Our parish hall is becoming very popular, and is proving a good source of income to the parish.

The **First Holy Communion Programme** has started for pupils in Sacred Heart School. We hope to start the programme for those not at Sacred Heart School on **Sunday 9th October**. Classes are from 9.15 – 10.15 on at Sunday morning in the Parish Hall. If you would like your child (eight this academic year or above), and have not registered, please do so at once. See the tear off slip elsewhere in this newsletter.

The **Readers' Guide** for the readings at mass on Sunday is available at the back of church. It covers the next three months. Would our Readers please pick up a copy.

See the special notice about the **Parish Autumn Fair**. Bless you all

Father Anthony Wilcox

Parish Priest

PARISH ROTA for weekend 08/09 October

The 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Pg 74 in the Parish Mass Book

Saturday Readers	Sunday Readers
Sat J Allen	Sun A Mears
6 pm S Drew	8.30 E Lefebure
	Sun P Kiely
	10.30 J French
Flowers	Jill Allen & Janet Banks
Coffee	Margaret Evans
Children's Liturgy	TBA
Eucharistic Minister-10.30 am	Mairead Cassell
Church Cleaners	S Gilbert, I Cousins
	D Halpern, A Townend

**Autumn Fair Sunday 16th October
Church Hall, 11.30 am to 3 pm**

A fun packed afternoon for all the family!
Pork Roast, teas, coffees. Activities for the children.
Craft, home produce and plant stalls and much, much more.
Admission free

Any donations of home made produce, tombola prizes and gifts (new) for the craft stall will be greatfully received. Please leave in the narthex following masses over the next two weekend. Many thanks.

**CAFOD Harvest Fast Day
Friday 7th October 2011**

For the world's poorest children, childhood can be a time of pain, despair and survival. Pan from Cambodia was 11 when he tested positive for HIV. Months later, his parents died because of AIDS. Pan felt life wasn't worth living. CAFOD was there. Today, with CAFOD's help, Pan is healthy, happy and excelling at school.

To help Pan, and many more children in need, please give what you can at Fast Day. Envelopes are available in church this week. Thank you for your generosity.

PARISH STATISTICS for weekend 24/ 25 September

Mass Attendance	<u>2011</u>	<u>(2010)</u>
6.00 pm (Sat)	58	73
8.30 am	64	55
10.30 am	<u>136</u>	<u>106</u>
	<u>258</u>	<u>234</u>
Offertory	£ 186.53	[Envelopes]
Collection	£ <u>393.63</u>	[Loose]
	£ <u>580.16</u>	

Your prayers are asked for the following sick or housebound:

Arthur Evans (brother-in-law of Margaret), **Teresa Nash** (relative of Margaret Keane), **Cynthia Stewart**, **Margaret Keane**, **Pauline Siveter** (nee Harper), **Rita Good**, **Madeleine Molenkamp**, **Judy Skinner**, **Mary McKenna**

(sister of Eleanor Bradford), **Gillian Engbers**, **Liz Gale** (friend of Millie Deverell), **David Harrison** (husband of Ann), **Katie Curtis** (friend of Anne Sandars), **John Grantham**, **Abigail Stynes** (niece of Ann Harrison), **Dagmar Grenfell** (sister-in-law of Caroline Mieczkowska) and **Eileen Frewin**, **Elizabeth Sheppard** and **Kieran O'Sullivan** (cousin of John O'Sullivan).

Lord, we pray for our brothers and sisters who are sick. Let them know the great power of your healing Spirit. Let them experience the support of your people.

Confirmation 2012

Bishop Mark Jabalé will be celebrating the **Sacrament of Confirmation** during the 6 pm Saturday evening mass on **June 16th 2012.**

Registration for Classes for those *not* at Sacred Heart School will take place in December.

Classes will commence in the New Year.

First Holy Communion 2012

First Holy Communion will take place at 12 noon Mass on **Sunday 20th May 2012.**

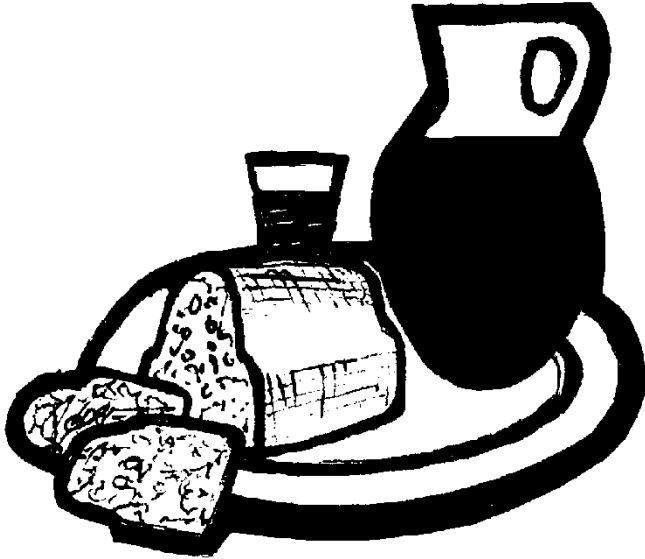
REGISTRATION for children *not* at Sacred Heart School takes place during September. Classes will begin in October (Sundays 9.15 – 10.15). Father Anthony wishes to see each of the families concerned during the month. If you want your child to receive the sacrament, please fill in and return the slip below.

✂-----

Dear Father Anthony,
I would like to register my child.....
for the First Holy Communion Classes. Please call me to arrange a meeting.
Name.....
Address.....
.....
Tel.....
Email.....

UNDERSTANDING THE MASS 12

The Liturgy of the Eucharist



The gifts of bread and wine together with the offering for the poor and the community are received by the Priest and presented by him by use of a 'blessing prayer' over the bread and then over the wine. These two prayers are modelled on the Jewish table prayers. However, when we speak of 'blessing' today we are usually speaking of the blessing of a person or an object (like a rosary or a crucifix), but for a Hebrew the blessing was a blessing of God for the gifts he had given. So when the priest raises the paten or ciborium and then the chalice and says: 'Blessed are you God of all creation...' he is blessing God for the gift of this bread and this wine. Even though it is the work of our hands – we acknowledge that ultimately it is God who provides the food. The rite concludes with the Prayer over the gifts, similar to the Collect (Opening Prayer) of the Mass

Working With God



John Kenrick O.P.

Email

Readings:

- [Isaiah 5:1-7](#)
- [Philippians 4:6-9](#)
- [Matthew 21:33-43](#)

In first century Galilee, vineyards looked very like the vineyard in today's parable. The hedge was for keeping out predators and the watch tower for dissuading intruders. In Nazareth, archaeologists have uncovered a winepress cut into the limestone with a vat below for collecting the grape juice. It once had no less than five watchtowers. So the description of the vineyard in the parable is historically accurate.

It was not unusual for a rich man to plant such a vineyard and then leave it in the care of tenants while he pursued his business affairs. One can imagine how, with the passage of time, the landowner's rights might be disputed. The tenants might well come to see the vineyard as theirs and the landowner would be forced to reassert his rights. It is not difficult to see too why the tenants would be furious at the prospect of losing what they had come to consider as their own.

But what does this parable mean? It is often called the parable of the wicked tenants and it is also found in Mark chapter 12 and in Luke chapter 20. Jesus is using this parable and the one we heard last week to respond to the chief priests and elders who have questioned his authority and he is bluntly predicting that they will reject his teaching and that he will die at their hands.

Today's reading from Isaiah would have been very familiar to Jesus's audience. It reminds us that in the Old Testament (as also in rabbinic literature) the vine or vineyard is a symbol of Israel. Isaiah is lamenting the failure of Israel to live up to its covenant with God. In the gospel parable too, the vineyard stands for God's people but the criticism is directed at the tenants rather than the vineyard itself. It is not difficult to see that the owner of the vineyard is God. One of the words that refers to him is *kurios* or 'lord', a reference to God who is the Lord of Israel. The tenants are of course those who exercise moral authority – the chief priests and the Pharisees; and according to Matthew 21:45 they fully understand that the parable is

attacking them. The maltreated servants are the prophets whom God kept sending to his people to remind them of his covenant. It was common knowledge that some of the prophets in Israel's history had been killed.

Matthew's readers would have grasped that Jesus, cast out of Jerusalem and crucified, is the murdered heir to the vineyard. The parable is a stark reminder that the religious authorities in Jesus's day did fail to recognize him as the Messiah and did reject his teaching; but it is too a statement of God's abiding concern for his people and a declaration that God's plan cannot be thwarted by men. In that sense it is very encouraging.

There is surely here an implicit warning too for the new leaders of God's people. St Paul was at pains to remind the early Christians of the great responsibility of those who are in charge. Leadership must be about service and about nurturing God's people. Christian history has seen its share of failures in moral leadership but it also has no shortage of courageous saints. When Jesus asks his listeners what the master will do to the wicked tenants they naturally assume that he will punish them and find new, more worthy tenants.

This assumption perhaps reveals their own rather fearful relationship with God. Jesus responds in a more positive vein. New tenants alone would not be a solution – the point is that the rejected crucified son has been vindicated and has become the corner stone of a new people, a new kingdom. The vineyard is now quite definitely a joint venture with the Son of God. God is not concerned with punishment but with establishing a people who will bear spiritual fruit. What qualifies us to be part of God's people is fully within our grasp – cooperation with Christ in witnessing to God's mercy. It is good to be reassured that God's plan for his people cannot fail. All that is really at issue is whether we as individuals want to be a part of its success.