

Saints Days this Week... 28th July - 3rd August

MONDAY – St Martha Was the sister of Mary and Lazarus. She is honoured for her confession of faith in the Lord in which she beseeched him to restore life to her dead brother. She is remembered to, for her hospitality to Jesus and her concern for the details of service to guests.

WEDNESDAY – St. Ignatius of Loyola Was born in Loyola 1491. A Spanish nobleman trained in diplomacy and the use of arms, he was wounded in battle. The experience of conversion while convalescing led him to write the Spiritual Exercises. He then founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Ignatius is remembered for his loyalty to the Church and its renewal, his ministry to the marginalised, his concern for education and his dedication '*to the greater glory of God.*'

THURSDAY- St Alphonsus Mary Liguori. Was born in Naples 1696. He had been a lawyer before he became a Priest. After founding the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists) he was for 13 years Bishop of Sant Agata dei Goti, but he resigned due to ill health. Alphonsus coped with much internal conflict within the congregation and external opposition. He is remembered as a popular preacher and devotional writer and as an influential master of moral theology.

PARISH PRAYER GROUPS AND PRAYER TIMES

Monday Exposition & Rosary ~ St Wilfrid's, 7.30–8.30pm

St Bede's Prayer Group ~ Meets in church, Tuesday 7.30–9.00pm

Mother's Prayers ~ Coming together in each other's homes to pray for families. Further details from the Parish 01606 42440

Divine Mercy Prayer Group ~ Praying for the sick & dying. Further details from the Parish 01606 42440

Exposition & Reconciliation ~ Saturday at St Wilfrid's 11.00-11.50am

Web Sites ~ Parish: www.stjohnnvianney.co.uk

Catholic Church in England & Wales: www.catholicnews.org.uk

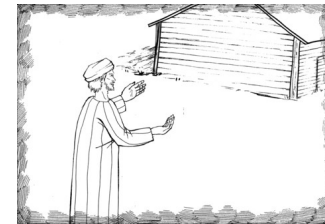
Prayer Site: www.pray-as-you-go.org

Scripture Reflection: www.wednesdayword.org

Preparing to hear God's word...

Next Sunday's Readings: *Eighteenth Sunday Year C* **4th August 2019**

Make Yourselves Rich in the Sight of God



On the road to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches, providing steps enabling us to follow him. In next Sunday's Gospel we are urged to consider the End times and that a happy end of life does not depend on the wealth that we have accumulated around us, but that we have grown rich in the sight of God.

In our **1st Reading (Ecclesiastes)** the Preacher, reflecting on his life, asks: What do we gain from all our toil? Through his reflection, he turns us to God, showing that life belongs to God and is found in God alone.

This theme is picked up in **Psalm 89:**

'O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next'.

In the **2nd Reading** we listen to the final excerpt from **Colossians (3: 1-5, 9-11)**. We began our readings four weeks ago with a hymn praising Christ, Risen from the dead. Paul concludes by saying that faith in Christ's Resurrection and the certainty of our own, must change everything about us. We must seek heavenly things, where Christ reigns.

Ecclesiastes 1:2,:21-23

Vanity of vanities, the Preacher says. Vanity of vanities. All is vanity! For so it is that a man who has laboured wisely, skilfully and successfully must leave what is his own to someone who has not toiled for it at all. This, too, is vanity and great injustice; for what does he gain for all the toil and strain that has undergone under the sun? What of all his laborious days, his cares of office, his restless nights? This, too, is vanity.

As I settle to pray, I ask the Lord to be open to his word today.

“Qoheleth, or the Preacher, sometimes identified as King Solomon himself, is an old man at the end of his life, musing, as older people often do, on the emptiness and futility of things... But the more we meditate upon Qoheleth's words, the clearer his message becomes. He is not trying to convince us that life has no meaning; rather, he is urging us to let go of all the attachments to this world that prevent us from surrendering ourselves utterly to God. Pleasure, knowledge, power, and riches are all good things, but they are not God. When we pretend that they are the ultimate values, they in fact turn into dust... Knowing this allows us to place our hope and trust in God alone.”

Bishop Robert Barron

“Late have I loved you, O Lord...! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you they would have not been at all. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace.”

The Confessions of St. Augustine

Luke 12: 13-21

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, ' Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.' Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, “What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops.” Then he said, “This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come: take things easy, eat drink, have a good time.” But God said to him, “Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul, and this hoard of yours whose will it be then?” So it is when a man stores up treasures for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.

I come to my place of prayer. I gently become aware of God's presence. When I am ready, I slowly read and re-read the Gospel.

A simple request, calling on a respected religious leader to intervene in a brotherly squabble over inheritance, gives Jesus the opportunity to address the whole crowd with an important message about greed; warning that one's life does not consist of possessions. Jesus calls on the crowd to make themselves rich “*in the sight of God*”.

Help me Lord, to use my time, talents, possessions - to make myself rich in your sight. May I recognise all things as 'your gift', to be used for your glory and for the good of my neighbour.

