

Father Hugh writes:

We reach again the penultimate Sunday in Ordinary Time and our Gospel extract from St Matthew is that of the parable of the talents. It is a familiar passage, taking the theme of watchfulness and describes a judgement scene.

I'm sure we could all feel that the poorest response is thus a harsh one, yet we are all given opportunities. We must use them each according to circumstance and ability for the building of the kingdom. During this second lockdown opportunities do present themselves, to build the kingdom of love and care, however insignificant they may seem.

Happily, we have had a warm week, which may have helped us to take a walk; always good for us as we might stop for a chat even with a stranger.

You will have seen that the report on abuse has been published and it seemingly doesn't inspire confidence in the way abuse of people has been handled. I'm sure there will be many reviews, but I will await 'The Tablet' to read more.

This week, we shall celebrate, St Edmund of Abingdon on Monday and there are 2 other choices of optional memoria. Tuesday, there's a toss up between St Hilda of Whitby, St Hugh of Lincoln or St Elizabeth of Hungary – I think you'll know which one wins!

Saturday is the Presentation of The Blessed Virgin Mary. Next Sunday is The Solemnity of Christ the King.

This Friday Her Majesty and Prince Philip celebrate their 73rd wedding anniversary. It is also a special birthday for our Deacon Seamus. At this magic age we are required to submit our resignations to the Bishop and the Bishop has accepted that resignation. However, that doesn't mean we won't still be seeing Seamus, happily for us and it does give him and Teresa an opportunity to do some other things. Happy Birthday, Seamus!

Our Bishop reminds us of the Holy hour live streamed from the Cathedral on Saturday next, 21st, from 6.30pm, as he leads Eucharistic Adoration, observing the Vigil of Christ the King as a day of prayer for the ending of the present pandemic. Unite with the Church across the world as we journey towards the next International Eucharistic Congress.

Also that Next Sunday is National Youth Sunday.

The diocesan trustees have made the decision to discontinue the A&B news; which we last saw in March!

It will soon be time to think about Christmas and our Masses. Three Masses will be celebrated. At the moment we are thinking of one on Christmas Eve and two on Christmas morning, following our Sunday pattern. We shall need to restrict numbers to what we were doing pre this lockdown, which can possibly be for about 35 people per Mass. If we can find a means to stream to the hall, that could double the numbers, but it may not allow for those who customarily attend Mass on this day only. Maybe we will need a booking system to cover all our needs?

All WELCOMERS and STEWARDS are warmly invited to join a Digital Forum on Thursday 19th November at 7pm. We will explore the successes and challenges you have experienced in your roles during the pandemic, as well as celebrating all that you do! Please email the Inclusion Adviser at margaret.fraher@abdiocese.org.uk if you wish to be involved, so a link to join the Forum can be sent to you.

For a live streamed Sunday Mass go to <https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online> from the Redemptorists.

St Anne's Day Centre are asking for socks, shampoo, toothpaste and shower gel for the homeless. Any contributions can be left in the marked box in the porch or taken direct to Henfield Place. Monetary contributions in lieu are also welcomed. Many thanks. *Jo*

