

Father Hugh writes:

You may have heard that the decision has been made to close the Seminary at Wonersh. Archbishop John Wilson and our own Bishop announced that news last week. There are no new students this year and only 17 remain, which is insufficient to form a community as you will understand. The running costs of course remain the same however many people are resident. Students in 2021 will transfer to Allen Hall in Chelsea.

We are, of course invited to continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood.

This weekend there's a pastoral letter from the Bishop. It's the 50th anniversary of the canonisation of the 40 Martyrs of England and Wales. As I said last week, St Philip Howard, our own diocesan patron, is amongst that group, but so are several others such as Margaret Clitherow from York and Anne Line from Essex. Also Robert Southwell who we keep on 21st February is another example. The Bishops have suggested that we celebrate a votive Mass for the 40 Martyrs on Sunday but it gets a bit complicated, so we'll keep to this Sunday's readings for the 30th Sunday.

I'm away on Thursday to celebrate a funeral near Flitwick at 11.30am, thus our third Mass of the week can be on Tuesday.

This Monday there's an optional Memoria of St's Chad and Cedd, Bishops and on Wednesday, St's Simon and Jude, Apostles.

Next Sunday is November 1st and we will celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints. Thus All Souls day is on Monday 2nd.

This is half term week and I hope that schooling has been successful in these different times and that all will have a happy restful week.

Clocks should be, or have been, put back an hour on Saturday night as British Summer time comes to an end. Some of us feel that winter begins, but not necessarily so, we have had some lovely October days and there's plenty of Autumn colour to see on a sunny day. Equally we needed the rains, so far 5" this month, after such a dry spring and summer in the South East. Other parts of the country have been exceptionally wet.

Two of the last things, *Helianthus Salicifolius* and *Salvia Elegans*, have just come into flower to provide late interest in the garden. They will continue until the frosts and provide lovely October interest when summer has passed. No need yet for a dull garden! Leaves are falling and in this half term break, and if it's dry, collect them together for the compost heap, they will rot down for much needed compost in the garden in the months to come.

I've noticed that there's supposed to be a collection for our retired priests this weekend; so if you'd like to make an offering, please put it in an envelope clearly marked.

The number of clergy that live in retirement remains about the same – as some die others retire from active ministry. Recently Fr Alan Sharpe, who had been at Billingshurst for two or three years, is now living in Steyning.

As we move into the last part of the church year, we are presented with simple straight forward ways of leading our lives. In a nutshell, we must love God totally, and our neighbours as ourselves. Something that we know will refresh us each day as we see each other and reach out, if not physically, then by phone perhaps?

Bishop Richard will be offering a live streamed Deanery Mass at the Church of St John the Evangelist in Horsham on 4th November at 7pm, for all who have died during this difficult year. Please provide the name/s of those you would like remembered to Father Hugh who will pass them on to Bishop Richard.

