

Father Hugh writes:

Marriage registration.

You may have heard that a new system has been devised which won't affect us at this time as there are no weddings booked at the church, however, marriage registers were officially closed on Tuesday last and will in due course be returned to our Register office. A schedule will now be issued, which replaces the 'blue authorities' (as they were known) which we needed in order to register a marriage. These were always returned at the end of each quarter along with a copy of any entries that had been made. All that paperwork now ceases in our churches and couples receive their certificates once the new schedule is completed and returned to the register office. Sounds complicated? It was, but we got used to it. The new system will be preferable.

I've explained this, so that you know what is happening should you be involved with a wedding.

This Thursday is Ascension day and is one of the Holy days restored to the place to which we were accustomed. Mass is at 6.30pm and booking please is advised with Deacon Paul.

Thursday is also the celebration of Eid a-Fitr for those of Muslim faith and concludes the Ramadan fast; celebrations will only begin once the new moon is seen.

Pentecost is in two weeks time.

Friday's 10am Mass will be celebrated with Terry Kelly's family after which we shall inter his ashes in the garden alongside those of his wife Pamela, who died in 2014. The family will form seven bubbles in the church so those of us who usually come to Friday Mass may need to sit in different places.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Jenny Williams who died on Tuesday last. As you will know, Jenny has been very much housebound in her later years of life, but always was a joy to visit. May she rest in peace.

I see that we are supposed to have a retiring collection for the missionary endeavour of the diocese this weekend. If you are making an offering, please use a purple envelope from your boxes as this offering may be 'gift aided'.

There is also a similar collection next week, not gift-aided, for the Catholic Communications network, in that case a plain envelope please will suffice marked for the collection.

Wednesday is an optional memoria of the Carthusian Martyrs. Keeping in mind that our only Charterhouse is up the road towards Cowfold, I think we could pray with our Brothers there for those who are martyrs.

Friday is the feast of St Matthias.

Don't forget we are collecting names for Confirmation 2021, with a plan to combine with St Wilfrid's, Burgess Hill and St Paul's parish, as well as our Catholic College. So far we have two names.

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Fr Hugh writes cont/d...

Well we eventually had some rain but the frosts continue intermittently. I think there's sufficient moisture back in the grounds surface to sow some vegetable seeds, that will begin to grow. I think more rain is forecast for Saturday, good for most of us, but some of course need sunshine!

I've now pruned the Forsythias as flowering is really over. Don't be frightened to put the saw into the old wood and cut it out and reinvigorate shrubs from the bottom. If you do that it's worth adding a little blood fish and bone fertiliser to stimulate good growth.

Notices:

Gift Aid Returns.

If you have not yet done so, please collect your annual statements for Gift Aid returns which are in the narthex.

A reminder that our Social parish gathering is on Saturday 26th June. *(more details nearer the time)*

A Message from Bishop Richard. The Pontifical Council for the New Evangelisation has called for the month of May to be a time of prayer for “the end of the pandemic, together with the recitation of the Rosary together with shrines from all over the world.”

I do ask you, on occasions in May to include prayers for all affected by the pandemic, remembering especially at present the situation in India.

With Prayers and Good Wishes, *Richard.*

Justice and Peace Group.

Jill Daniels, Celia Emmott and Joe O'Dwyer invite suggestions for what we might do as a parish under the umbrella of a Justice and Peace Group and are looking for others to become involved in the Group.

We would welcome all parishioners, especially families and young people; it is your world and tackling issues like climate change, poverty and injustice now will have future dividends.

If you would like to be involved in any way please contact Jill at jill@handjdaniels.plus.net or Joe at jodwyer@doctors.org.uk putting J&P Group in the subject line. We will be hosting an initial Zoom meeting this Wednesday 12th May at 7.30pm.
