

## ***Father Hugh writes:***

Father Albert Van der Most died last weekend and we give thanks for his long ministry in our diocese, and pray for the repose of his soul.

On Friday, we keep St John Henry Newman. Our Bishops have asked Rome to change the celebration from a Memoria to a Feast! I'm not sure that it's a life changing moment, but maybe it is for our Bishops!

Wednesday is a Memoria of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Envelopes are still available for CAFOD this weekend, please return your offerings directly in the pre-paid envelopes.

**Confirmation:** We are planning to celebrate the sacrament on Saturday 17th October for our five young people whose preparation began in the winter last and was curtailed by Covid. I'm sure that this is a good thing to do and am sorry that we have to restrict numbers and thus only have family members with us in church.

We will also celebrate First Communion for Angelo and Andrew.

As there is so much uncertainty surrounding us with Covid, I think it is better not to think about other sacrament preparation until we see how this phase of the pandemic manifests itself.

These are early days in the autumn and I'm sure it's better at this time not to make any long term plans.

It is good that we have such strong Sunday congregations and also at our Masses through the week. It's great to see so many familiar faces through the week here and in the village.

Several weeks ago I resumed my chaplaincy visits to 'my' police teams and it is good to see that everyone is well. I never cease to be amazed at some of the work that they do on our behalf. It's important that we keep our key workers in prayer.

Bishop Richard is celebrating Deanery Masses in November and all are invited to attend on line and I think some in person, to remember and pray for those who have died during the pandemic. Ours, Crawley Deanery, is on Wednesday 4th November at St John the Evangelist in Horsham at 7pm. I'm told there will be further details in due course.

Similarly, the Solemnity of St Philip Howard will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Sunday 25th October by the Bishop, which is the 50th anniversary of the canonisation of the 40 Martyrs of England and Wales, one of whom is St Philip Howard.

Just like last year, so this; summer came to a shuddering halt. We all noticed the chill last weekend, but it was only in the wind. It rained hard on the last day of the month, giving us a total in the end of about one and a half inches of rain. Much needed and digging a hole in the week it was good to see some moisture in the soil. Now I've even rolled up the hose for the winter.

As we have had no cold nights, there's no sign of the tree leaves changing colour before they fall as yet. Particularly splendid in the garden at this time are the Salvias. *Salvia Elegans* (pineapple sage) is just coming into bud, so should be in flower before too long, it's lovely to touch, as well as enjoy some late colour before the frosts.

Blight has finally hit the tomatoes, so the green ones are picked and the plants now in the bin for council composting and the heat treatment.

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**Thank you** for the amazing response to the foodbank request. I was so proud of our Parish when I handed it over. *Celia*

