



ST CLEMENT'S CHURCH, EWELL

Parish Priest: Fr. Graham Bamford

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton

Charity No. 252878



All Masses are now live streamed. Access via the Parish Website

23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 10th September 2023 Psalter Week 3 Cycle A

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Peter Farrell RIP (1 st Ann)
Sunday 10 Sept	8.30 am	All Parishioners
	10.30 am	Frank McHale RIP
Wednesday	10.00 am	Wellbeing – Bea O'Reilly
Friday	10.00 am	Tim Frawley RIP

FEAST DAYS: 10TH – 16TH SEPTEMBER

Wednesday: St John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor

Thursday: Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Friday: Our Lady of Sorrows

Saturday: Ss Cornelius and Cyprian, Martyrs

ANNIVERSARIES: 10TH – 16TH SEPTEMBER

Dorothy King, Patricia Woodley, Alfred White, Tim Frawley, John Sheridan, John Speidel.

COFFEE AFTER 10.30AM MASS

PARISH B-B-Q.

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Sunday 17th September 2023 Psalter Week 4 Cycle A

Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Roy Mutter RIP
Sunday 17 Sept	8.30 am	All Parishioners
	10.30 am	Mary Calf RIP
Wednesday	10.00 am	Wellbeing – Dr Simina Jacinto
Friday	10.00 am	Dec'd – Noone & Byrne Fmlys
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Caroline Boore RIP
Sunday 24 Sept	8.30 am	All Parishioners
	10.30 am	Finula & Roy Fisher 60 th Wedding Anniversary

FEAST DAYS: 17TH - 23RD SEPTEMBER

Wednesday: S Andrew Kim Taegon, Priest, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions, Martyrs of Korea

Thursday: St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Saturday: St Pius of Pietrelcina, 'Padre Pio'

ANNIVERSARIES: 17TH – 23RD SEPTEMBER

Louise Young, Mary Richards, Helen Hefferman, James Fitzpatrick, Nora Denyer.

COFFEE AFTER 10.30AM MASS:

Parish Funds

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday, 10.30 am – 11.00 am or by appointment

RECOVERY AND WELL-BEING: Please pray for: Steve Kamm, Chris Williamson, Jocelyn Bowen, Joseph Ewing, Martina Savage, Mel Alvarez, John Stratford, Shona Dane, Sheila Hall.

AUGUST 200 CLUB WINNERS: Jane Goss-Vera No.148 £30 Mark Green No.203 £20 Congratulations!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

14th October – Next Parish Quiz Night

26th November – Winter Fair

PARISH BARBECUE, 10TH SEPTEMBER: Looking forward to a happy get-together. Please feel free to bring your own alcohol and glasses. Serving will start after 10.30 Mass at approximately 12 noon – 12.30 pm.

BAPTISMS: We welcome into our church community Emilia Murphy and Lucia Mc Manus who were recently baptised. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

CONFIRMATION 2024: If you will be aged at least 15 by 31 August 2024 and attend mass regularly at St Clement's and would like to make your confirmation next year, please collect "an expression of interest" form from Father Graham. This is so we can gauge numbers before arranging the course. Forms should be returned to Father Graham no later than **22nd October 2023.**"

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY is on 22 October this year. With that in mind, could all red box holders please return them to Church for counting. Any amount, however small is welcome. There will be a large red box left by the Sacristy for this purpose. The boxes will then be returned to the narthex of the Church for collection. Thank you, Fiona Perks (Local Secretary, Missio)

CAFOD UPDATE on the *Seeds for All* Campaign and Salina's letter: we were one of over 500 parishes that have taken part in this campaign with over 38,000 signatures collected. In our Diocese, 60 churches took part. The letters will be handed to the World Bank in October.

ST CLEMENT'S SCHOOL: We wish the school and Mrs Chappell, Acting Head, a good and happy new academic year. We thank Mrs Lisa Kelly for her four year as head teacher and wish her every happiness and success in her new Headship at St Peter's, Leatherhead.

THE PARISH HOLY BOOKSTALL will be open at all Masses next weekend 16th/17th September. Come and browse and discover more about your faith

JUST A THOUGHT: "A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love" *Saint Basil*

Another way to think about people all bringing their different voices together is to imagine a choir. In a choir you can hear low and high voices, all singing in harmony. Singing



in harmony does not mean they are all singing the same note. The choir is made up of differences. But each voice has the chance to sound out and to be heard. And, together, those voices create harmony. When you sing in a choir, you also have to listen very carefully to everyone else; otherwise, you might be out of time or tune with others.

This diversity, or difference, can also be seen amongst the vast variety of living creatures on earth. As the bishops of England and Wales note in their 2022 document, *The Call of Creation*, "St Thomas Aquinas argued that the diversity of the extraordinary array of creatures roaming the earth revealed the richness of the nature of God" (16).

So, we don't need to be all the same as each other – how boring that would be! But we can respect our differences, try hard to listen to each other and come to shared solutions to the environmental crisis we all face.

Linda Jones enjoys music, creative writing and walking in the countryside with her dog, Roque. She loves the Camino de Santiago and all its different routes and is interested in how contemplation brings about change.

Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
 treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.**

FIRST READING Ezekiel 33:7-9

PSALM Psalm 94

**RESPONSE O that today you would listen to his voice!
 Harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
 hail the rock who saves us.
 Let us come before him, giving thanks,
 with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
 let us kneel before the God who made us
 for he is our God and we
 the people who belong to his pasture,
 the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
 "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
 as on that day at Massah in the desert
 when your fathers put me to the test;
 when they tried me, though they saw my
 work." **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 13:8-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
 Your word is truth, O Lord,
 consecrate us in the truth.
 Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Matthew 18:15-20

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
 so my soul is yearning for you, my God;
 my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.**

Next Sunday's Readings:
 Ecclesiasticus 27:30 – 28:7
 Romans 14:7-9
 Matthew 18:21-35



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THE IMPORTANCE OF DIALOGUE

In his encyclical letter *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis invites us all into a meaningful conversation:

I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. (14)

We are now celebrating the ecumenical Season of Creation, a time when we reflect on our relationship with God, our neighbour and the beautiful planet we live on. We give thanks and praise to God, the creator of all living creatures and of our wonderful world. Yet, we know that the climate crisis and the extinction of so many different species threaten our existence. Everything is interconnected. Without fresh water, clean air and nutritious food, we cannot live. This we know. But we have many different opinions about how to tackle the problem of climate breakdown. Can we have a meaningful and productive dialogue that respects these opinions and seeks solutions?

Unfortunately, we live in a time when dialogue seems very difficult. Views have become polarised, and it seems challenging to respect the views of people who think differently from us. You only have to glance at social media to see how people shout each other down, broadcasting but never listening. Social media threads are full of humiliating put-downs and contempt for others. How can we move away from these monologues towards respectful and inclusive dialogue?

We have a common task to protect creation and safeguard the planet for generations to come. We need to be creative and share ideas. Everyone has something important to say and each of us needs to learn how to listen to others with love. This is hard! But it's not impossible.

Pope Francis writes in his encyclical letter *Fratelli Tutti*:

Let us dream then, as a single human family, as fellow travellers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth, which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all. (8)

Anyone with siblings or children will know that being part of a family involves conflict. People in the same family will often disagree with each other. But hopefully – though not in every family, of course – there will be an underlying love and respect for each other that leads us to try to resolve our differences.

The Season of Creation



This week Linda Jones continues her reflections on the Season of Creation.



10 SEPTEMBER 2023

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK III



The cost of change is another question that regularly comes up and makes us hesitate. But the longer we delay, the more expensive it will become to make changes because the consequences of inaction will be far more entrenched. Our world would look completely different today if we had started to invest in renewable energy as soon as we knew there was a problem. Unfortunately, we tend to think only about the cost of action, rather than the cost of inaction. For example, how much will it cost to clear up after massive floods like those we saw in Pakistan in 2022?

So yes, we need change on a very large scale. We need to make it easy for all of us to live simple and sustainable lives. But rather than wait for that to happen, we can start now – just you and me, our families, our friends... then our neighbours and our local community.

Perhaps you don't realise that when someone else sees you doing something – even as simple as walking as often as you can instead of driving – they see that it is possible. And if it's possible, perhaps they could do it too. Your tiny day-to-day action can, in this way, make a massive difference.

Linda Jones enjoys music, creative writing and walking in the countryside with her dog, Roque. She loves the Camino de Santiago and all its different routes and is interested in how contemplation brings about change.

The Season of Creation



Linda Jones continues her series of reflections on the Season of Creation.

ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION

"It is tempting", the bishops of England and Wales write in *The Call of Creation*, "to think that environmental problems are so enormous in nature that we cannot make any difference ourselves and that we should leave it to governments to solve" (21).

But they go on to remind us what the Australian bishops said:

we must examine our lives and acknowledge the ways in which we have harmed God's creation through our actions and our failure to act. We need to experience a conversion, or change of heart. (21)

We normally think about making changes to our lifestyles during Lent or at the start of a new year. But during the Season of Creation, we are asked to think about our relationship with God, our neighbour and our common home, the earth. How does the way we live have an impact on our neighbour – both locally and globally? And how does it affect the earth and other living creatures?

Pope Benedict XVI was very concerned about the way our human family takes care of the environment. In *Caritas in Veritate* ("Charity in Truth") he wrote, "The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole" (48).

We know that change is not easy. We build up habits over time, both our own habits – like what we have for breakfast most days – and society's habits, like using cars to go on really short journeys. Society's habits affect us, as it's human to want to go along with the crowd. We might think, "Well, if I walk the children to school instead of taking them in the car, what difference will it make? I might as well be quick and comfortable, especially if it's raining."

"What difference will it make?" is a question that delays and discourages action and change. It is true that in the face of environmental degradation and climate catastrophe, one person making a small change will not, on its own, make much difference. But what is the alternative? Are we going to give up? Perhaps we have forgotten that, multiplied by the number of people of faith and people of goodwill in the world, every tiny action can become an unstoppable wave of change.

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us, "We must not think that these [individual] efforts are not going to change the world. They benefit society, often unbeknown to us, for they call forth a goodness which, albeit unseen, inevitably tends to spread" (212).



Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

FIRST READING **Ecclesiasticus 27:30 – 28:7**

PSALM **Psalms 102**

RESPONSE **The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **R.**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**
3. His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

4. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. **R.**

SECOND READING **Romans 14:7-9**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL **Matthew 18:21-35**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 55:1-9
Philippians 1:20-24, 27
Matthew 20:1-16



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