



**The New Lectionary** is coming, & will be with us on the First Sunday of Advent, which falls on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024. Because we will be moving to a new translation of the readings (from the Jerusalem Bible to the English Standard Version) every lectionary & people's missal will become obsolete after that date. Of course, if you have a missal to which you are greatly attached, you can keep on using it, but while the prayers remain unchanged, the readings will be slightly different. But if you wish to change, & most will want to do so, what should one do? There are three possible solutions. First, subscribe to **universalis.com**, & receive the readings & prayers of the Mass on your phone. This cost is a one off fee of £10. This has many advantages, including being able to check the readings wherever you are; however, we know that not all people like looking at screens. If you prefer a book, the second option is to buy a new missal, a Sunday Missal, a Weekday Missal, or perhaps both. These will be coming onto the market in October, & at that time we shall have a good idea about costs, & other matters such as formats. The third solution, which does not preclude the first two, is for the parish to buy the new edition of the Parish Mass Book. This contains, in six volumes, the material that is present in every Sunday Missal; they are appreciated by many, but they have some disadvantages, namely storing the 5 volumes that are not in use, & they are relatively expensive, a single volume Missal being cheaper. Instead of buying the six volume Parish Mass Book, we could have a supply of single volume Missals for visitors. It is to be stressed that this is a purely practical matter, & of finding a way forward so that the maximum number of people may get the maximum understanding & appreciation from the readings at Mass.

### Baptism

The parish is looking at a new, longer, course designed for parents to prepare them for their children's baptism. This course, which is face to face for some sessions & on Zoom for others (which makes it easier for parents with young children) requires a team to deliver it. In addition, the material asks us whether all of us, as a parish, are welcoming to families with young children. It asks several questions, which can be summarised: How do we greet families? Do we make eye contact & smile? Do we make sure parents know where everything is, & how Children's Liturgy works? Do we encourage families to join us for coffee afterwards? And beyond the times of Mass, do we support families with invitations to social events? Do we create opportunities to celebrate family life? Do we have a parents & child group? Do we offer any courses about parenting in faith?

All of these are very good questions! Here are a few observations:

- When we baptise babies, we are baptising them into a community, & that means we all have our part to play in making that community, the local Church, real & hospitable. This is not purely an 'after sales service', it is theological. We are called to be the Body of Christ, for everyone, young and old.
- Some parents with young children may feel a church, any church, is a hostile environment: they do not know what to do, where to sit, how to dress, how to 'behave', what is expected of them, & they fear their children's behaviour may be criticised. We need to lay these fears at rest.
- Activities for young children are an excellent idea. We have Children's Liturgy; we have our children's play area for after Mass; we can also make people feel included at Christmas with crib-making & a Posada (feel free to look that up).
- 'Children's Masses' are rather twee, but every Mass has to be child-friendly if at all possible. The key ingredient, I submit, is music.

### Parish Walk Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August

Come & join us for a short walk around Horton Country Park. The walk is all flat & easy going so suitable for most. Meet in Horton Country Park car park at 11am, bring your own picnic for afterwards. If it's raining, we will cancel but we'll notify you either way via our Facebook site. Any questions, please speak to Robin or Ann Hannan.

### Baptismal Certificates

Certificates for baptisms up to the end of June 2024 can be collected from Father Alexander.

**CAFOD:** Thank you for your generous response to the raffle & to the kind person who donated the Hamper Prize, £190 was raised to support CAFOD's work with the poor & vulnerable overseas.

The Hamper winner was Nikki Butcher.

### Mass Intentions for August 2024

Sat 3	10:30am	Our Lady of Saturday	<b>Adoration: Blessed Sacrament</b>
Sat 3	6pm	Vigil Mass	<b>GE: Suzanne Clarke &amp; Family</b>
Sat 4	8:30am	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>For all the Parish</b>
Sun 4	10:30am	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>Nelson D'Souza RIP</b>
Mon 5	10am	Ded: Basilica Saint Mary Major	<b>David Owens RIP</b>
Wed 7	10am	St Sixtus II, Pope	<b>GE: Timothy Lucie-Smith &amp; Family</b>
Fri 9	10am	St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross	<b>Ints: Alpera Family</b>
Sat 10	10.30am	St Lawrence	<b>Adoration: Blessed Sacrament</b>
Sat 10	6pm	Vigil Mass	<b>People of the Parish</b>
Sun 11	8:30am	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>Ints: Consuelo Bermudez &amp; Family</b>
Sun 11	10:30am	19th Sunday in Ordinary Time	<b>John Stratford RIP</b>

### Dates For Your Diary

#### 10<sup>th</sup> Aug

Parish Walk bring your own picnic. Horton Country Park weather permitting

#### 15<sup>th</sup> Aug

Feast of Our Lady's Assumption, Mass at 7pm

#### 15<sup>th</sup> Sept

Thank you B-B-Q for Fr Graham