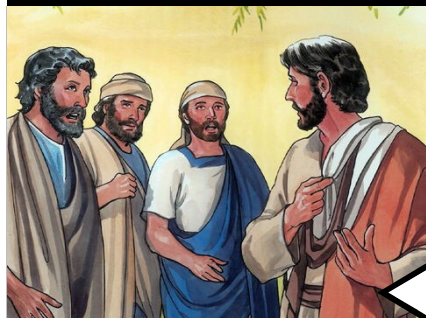


**22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021: Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**



**THE MESSAGE OF ETERNAL LIFE**

Jesus Christ lives in his Church, and in loving the Church we love him. However challenging the world may find Christ's teaching, we know that he has the message of eternal life, and there is no one else to whom we want to go. We show our love for Christ in our service of his Church.

Whom shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life.

**Mass Times, Intentions & Feast Days**

Sat 21	<i>First Mass of Sunday</i>
18:30	<b>Tim Prior RIP</b>
Sun 22	<b>✠ Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)</b>
09.30	<b>Intention of Mary O'Driscoll</b>
11.00	<b>Muriel Rhomes RIP</b>
Mon 23	
09.30	<b>All Souls in Purgatory</b>
	<b>Rosary</b>
<b>12.00</b>	<b>† Funeral Mass of Mr Levi Ernest- Morrison</b>
Tue 24	<i>Saint † Bartholomew</i>
09.30	<b>Intention of Euphrasie</b>
	<b>Rosary</b>
Wed 25	
09.30	<b>Vernon Pedlow RIP</b>
	<b>Rosary</b>
Thu 26	
09:30	<b>Wellbeing for Christopher Pedlow</b>
	<b>Rosary</b>
Fri 27	<i>Saint Monica</i>
09.30	<b>Dermot McDarby RIP</b>
	<b>Exposition</b>
<b>11.00</b>	<b>† Funeral Mass of Mr Tashawn Tyreese Anthony Watt</b>
Sat 28	
09.30	<b>People of the Parish</b>
18:30	<i>First Mass of Sunday</i>
	<b>Bob Gray RIP</b>
Sun 29	<b>✠ Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)</b>
09.30	<b>Bridget Kelly RIP</b>
11.00	<b>Intention of Roberto De Vivo</b>

**Scripture Insights**

In today's gospel the disciples are grappling with a difficult teaching from Jesus that they do not entirely understand, mainly because they cannot see beyond the literal interpretation of his words.

Paul's letter to the Ephesians contains text that is troubling for many today. The command for wives to be submissive to their husbands has been taken out of context and misused for centuries. In this section of Ephesians, Paul has been exhorting his listeners to give up all manner of vices, becoming people of love and forgiveness. He also envisions a different way for people to relate in marriage. He understands marriage as a metaphor for Christ's relationship with the Church and develops an image to express that relationship: the Church as a body with Christ as its head. Paul uses this image to frame his understanding of the marriage covenant. Paul adds the element of mutual reverence and love, using the image of the head and body to include interdependence in the hierarchical marriage relationship of that time. The body and the head work together in life. This is the obedience that Paul advocates for wife and husband – one that allows them to live as a united whole. The head must love the body, countering the notion of wives as property that was common in Paul's time. The husband must love his wife as Christ loves the Church. If such love is the foundation of the husband's part in the marriage, he cannot abuse or neglect, cannot be faithless, cruel or cold. Just as disciples become new people, husbands and wives become a new unity in the marriage covenant, practising kindness and forgiveness. In the same way, Christ and his Church become a single entity in the new covenant. How can mutual respect and self-sacrificing love be expressed in the marriage covenant today?

**Please Pray for my mother**

My mother was called to the Lord on Thursday 12th August. She had suffered from cancer of the liver for a long time. The last few months she was experiencing excruciating pain. Now she is at peace. I leave on Wednesday evening to travel to Zimbabwe to do my mother's funeral. We will lay her to rest on Saturday 28th August. When I come back from Zimbabwe is when we will begin the programme to prepare our children for First Holy Communion.

**Fr Regis - Compassionate Leave**

Sadly, Fr Regis needs to return home next week to attend to the funeral of his mother. We offer our condolences to him & his family, and our thoughts & prayers are with them all during this difficult time. Whilst away we will be welcoming Fr John Mudereri, & Bishop Pat Lynch on certain weekends.

**Toddler Group Toy Sale**

The Toddler Group will be having a toy sale outside church on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> August after the 9.30am Masses until 1pm.

**LAST WEEK**

**Offertory** Gift Aided **£191** • Not Gift Aided **£336**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection** Pew Kneelers **£188**  
**Mass Count** Sat 18:30 (45) • Sun 09.30 (86), 11.00 (90)

**THIS WEEK** 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: **Pew Kneelers**

**NEXT WEEK** 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: **Pew Kneelers**

**DONATING**

**Gift Aid** Tax payers, please sign up. We receive an extra 25p for every £1 you donate. Visit [www.olspn.church](http://www.olspn.church) for details.

**Tap to Donate** Payment Machine in Church Foyer or [www.olspn.church](http://www.olspn.church)

**Standing Order** Please contact the parish house for details.

**Cheques** Payable to **RCAS St. Philip Neri Sydenham**

**CONTACTS**

**Treasurer** David Simpson • [sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sydenhamtreasurer@rcaos.org.uk)

**Secretary** Steve Pearce • (9 am-12 noon, Mon to Fri)

0208 778 9460 • [sydenham@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sydenham@rcaos.org.uk)

**Catholic Club** Margaret Doherty • 07930 889632

**Hall Enquiries** Praetorium (Rita / Conor) • 01372 457651

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;  
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.  
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

## GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## FIRST READING – Joshua 24: 1-2, 15-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people, 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? What is more, the Lord drove all those peoples out before us, as well as the Amorites who used to live in this country. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM – Psalm 33

R. **Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

## SECOND READING – Ephesians 5: 21-32

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life;  
you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL – John 6: 60-69

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer.

The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord

***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.