



St. Michael's Bulletin



Saint Michael's is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. Registered Charity N. 234216

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16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, July 19th, 2009
Vigil of Sunday 5.30 pm James & Audrey Belletty

9.00 am Our Parish family	1030 am Judith Harris
Monday 9.00am Eucharistic Service	Tuesday 9.00 am Eucharistic service
Wednesday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass	Thursday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass
Friday 9.00 am Morning prayer & Mass	Saturday Vigil 5.30 pm Holy Souls

FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS.

Lord, send Your Healing Spirit on all who are in any way sick or distressed: we pray for Claudina Rodrigues, Eugenie Micotti, Joseph Bradley, Mike Coulehan, Harry Littlefair, Nancy Keogh, Donald Garland, Gerald Scullane, Jason Thatcher, David Roberts, Marie Evans, Rita Conlon, Margaret Keane, Siobhain Moran, Maureen Vinall, Frank O'Donnell, Gwen Payne and Judith Harris
Bring them Your healing and peace.

FOR THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY.

We pray for Fr Frank Grady and all who died recently, for all killed in wars, disasters and accidents: victims of terrorism and oppression; and for those who die of starvation or neglect. We pray for George Gallagher, Michael McDonnell, Patrick Deeney, Bill Riordan and Margaret Lonsdale, whose anniversaries fall at this time.

Grant them the joy of Your Presence.

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"DAY FOR LIFE"

This is a day dedicated to celebrating the dignity of life, from conception to natural death. At the back of church there is a leaflet which will explain it more fully, but I offer a summary here. There will NOT be a second collection today, but you may wish to take away one of the envelopes provided and return it to us in the near future.

There is a great debate about the right to end one's own life, or help with the death of another, in order to die with dignity and without the burden of huge pain and mental and psychological suffering. Some people fear that they will experience great suffering in dying. What is needed is a response in love and care by family, friends and the wider community and the assistance of good palliative, relieving care, so that those in great pain may have it managed properly.

This is a very emotive debate in which sometimes generates more heat than light. But because it is such a topical issue our Catholic Bishops wish us to affirm that life is a precious gift which should be cherished. But for some it is the case that they see life as hopeless and not worth living. However the Church teaches that while suicide should never be romanticised, promoted or encouraged, it is also the case that there are those people who feel so desperate about a life which seems to have so tragically wrong that all they can wish for is to be out of it. People who are terminally ill or severely disabled may feel that their life is so painful or worthless, that it is not worth living, is a burden on others and do not wish to continue. But the Church stands out against assisted suicide believing that a change in the law would put pressure on vulnerable people – including those who are elderly, disabled, depressed, terminally or chronically ill – to request assisted death.

Many years ago there was a similar debate and a Catholic writer came up with the following guidance:-

"Thou mayest not kill, but shouldst not strive, officiously, to keep alive." In other words, let Mother Nature take her course.

Where medical help is at hand, it should be taken, but we should not take inordinate steps to keep alive someone ready to die.

SUICIDE. In the light of these remarks the Church is taking a much more compassionate stance with regard to suicide.

Many of you will recall a much harsher regime within Church discipline, when anyone who took their own life was not allowed to be buried in consecrated ground, and would not be allowed a Catholic funeral. It was also the case that any infant who had not been baptised was not allowed a proper funeral and had to be buried in unconsecrated ground. This was a very cruel and unfeeling way to behave and it went totally against the notion of the Church as a compassionate and loving mother.

So much sadness, grief, and anger has been caused over the years to people who most needed understanding, support and compassion at such a desperate time in their family lives. No wonder people walked away from such an unfeeling institution.

At last the Church has awoken to the need to support everyone involved in such awful situations and is anxious to offer as much support as possible to any individual or family who is carrying such burdens. We should never despair of the eternal salvation of those who have taken their own lives, and because God's mercy is without end or limit, then we commend these people to His loving and merciful forgiveness.

In the Cathedral in Vezelay in France there is a carving of Jesus carrying the dead Judas in His arms.

That is the standard of mercy and compassion which we must try to emulate

DIAMOND WEDDING.

Our warmest congratulations to Bob and Mary Fry on their 60th wedding anniversary. May they have many more years together

SILLY NOTICES.

A letter appeared in the Daily Telegraph last week, which ran –

"Dear Sir. On Tuesday I very reluctantly complied with an idiotic legal requirement to put up a No Smoking sign in our beautiful old church. To balance things up I put another sign underneath: "WARNING! If you smoke on these premises, God, who knows all, will forgive you. But the Government, who know nothing, will prosecute you" Signed, Dr Bryan Mac Donald.

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May we all have a sunny and rain-free week. Fr Chris