



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

A LIVESIMPLY and FAIRTRADE PARISH

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## SUNDAY, 18 JULY 2021

**16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**PSALTER WEEK 4, Lectionary Cycle B**

### THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM?

Last Sunday. That match. Unforgettable. Painful. Utterly gripping. The most watched event since the funeral of Princess Diana 24 years ago, apparently; and maybe that backward-looking comparison is significant. After all, we've spent 55 years talking about a game played in 1966, just as we spent 77 years harking back to Fred Perry's victories at Wimbledon until the Scot, Andy Murray, triumphed. Is nostalgia hard-wired into the English (and British) character?

Why (apart from national pride and the heat of the chase) the success of the England team at the delayed Euros seemed so important to so many is itself worth pondering. Was it that morale-boost that so many of us felt in need of after the horrors of the pandemic? Was it about showing that Global Britain can stand on its own 2 (or 22) feet outside the EU? Or was it even a strange evocation of a lost imperial past, when 'Rule Britannia' meant something on the map?

The squad's behaviour under Gareth Southgate certainly did us proud, both in their playing on the park and their behaviour off it – not just disciplined and diverse (a large majority of the squad the descendants of immigrants) but committed to creating what a previous conservative Prime Minister once termed 'a nation at peace with itself'; one in which no child would go hungry in the holidays and no one be disadvantaged by accent, colour or creed. England is certainly not yet the Kingdom of Heaven – the racist abuse hurled at our penalty-takers (and the inequalities campaigned against by Rashford and others) demonstrate that – but perhaps we are a nation slightly less fractious and fractured than we had feared.

Yet here's a heretical thought: suppose that the not winning was the point, or at least that coming second was the best outcome for the tribe – ruling out empty boasting and pointing out the tasks that lie ahead for both team and nation? Theologians talk about 'eschatology' – the end-time hoped-for final consummation of the cosmic story, when all things will be brought together under Christ, fulfilling the promise St. Paul makes in this Sunday's second reading (Eph 2.13-18), of "peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near at hand." True hope looks not simply to the next goal (or cup) but to (and over) every horizon; to what could, should and must be. How wide is our vision? How large are our hopes? That's for us to decide. So "Come on England!" – be that lion-hearted mongrel nation in which all can truly belong!  
- **Fr. Rob**

### MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

**Streamed Masses can be viewed at:** <https://bit.ly/2Lu1sN4>

Sat	6pm	Helmut Wagner RIP
Sun	9am	Pauline Corris RIP
	10.45am	People of the Parish

Mon	9.30am	Liz Lawrence (unwell)
Tue	9.30am	Derek Ronksley RIP

**Wed 10am St. Paul's School Mass**

**Thu 9.30-10am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary**

Fri	9.30am	Holy Souls
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Sat	6pm	Kissane-Wood Family Int.
Sun	9am	People of the Parish
	10.45am	Private Intention

**We commend to the Lord** all who have died recently, especially William Wells; together with Fr. John Gillespie and Derek Ronksley, whose anniversaries of death fall this week.

**Parish Prayer Intentions For July:** for God's blessing on the end of the school year and on teachers, pupils and parents; for sea-farers and the work of the Apostleship of the Sea in serving them; for Pope Francis' prayer intention for June: "*For Social Friendship: that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.*"

**Prayers needed?** A book of prayer intentions is placed on the altar at all masses. If you'd like a name or intention added to the book, phone/e-mail Fr. Rob.

**Pressing Restart:** Thanks to everyone who has already answered the short survey published in the newsletter last week and for the ideas you've shared. We'd love to hear from more of you as we consider how to make best use of our energies and gifts to 'reboot' the life of the parish and its mission after all the dislocations of the last 7 months, as we enter (we hope) more normal times this autumn. What do we value in the parish? What do we want to change? What do we want to prioritise? How to reach out to those who have lost contact with the community (and to those who don't know us yet!)? How can we be more faithful to our parish purpose: "*To be a parish in joyful mission: welcoming all, empowering Christian lives, supporting others*"? You can still find the survey at <https://bit.ly/3hIVydZ> (or via link on our parish website). And if you have skills in building-management, community development, catechesis ... or any relevant area of parish life, we'd like to hear from you. Thank you!

**BBC Songs of Praise:** Songs of Praise this Sunday comes from Arundel Cathedral at 1.15pm on BBC1 and available on the iPlayer afterwards.

**Take Time Meditation:** Find stillness and peace amidst the hassles of life. **Each Monday** at 8pm via zoom. Please email [meditations@olchurch.org.uk](mailto:meditations@olchurch.org.uk) for the link.

**Mass on Wednesday** will be attended only by children of St. Paul's school plus Year 6 parents (parishioners can watch online) as we celebrate the end of term and ask God's blessing on those leaving for secondary school. We wish all the children and young people of our parish, their families and the fabulous staff who teach and care for them in school a very happy, restful and richly deserved summer vacation after this strange pandemic year.

**After July 19** it seems that the government is passing a great deal of the responsibility for tackling the pandemic to individuals, asking us to act responsibly but removing most of the legal restraints on our behaviour. We hope that singing may be allowed once more (not yet confirmed by our Bishops) but we suggest that we retain our existing measures – sanitising on entry, the wearing of face-masks and the use of alternate rows of seating – in order to minimize the risk of infection and to maximise people's confidence in the safety of coming to church.

**Quieting Down In August:** Given the fact that so many parishioners are away during August, we intend to have just one Sunday morning mass at 10am on August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – as well as 6pm Saturday evening mass.

**Grandparents Group:** in recent years the *Grandparents Association* have had a group meeting once a month after mass and it's something we very much hope to get up and running again in the autumn. If you'd be interested in meeting to pray for your families, share experience and friendship and discuss issues of interest contact Anita Wilkins via [grandparents@olchurch.org.uk](mailto:grandparents@olchurch.org.uk)

**Walking To Glasgow:** The Young Christian Climate Network is walking a relay from Cornwall's G7 meeting to Glasgow's COP26 over coming months (see <https://www.yccn.uk/>) and the group of 18-30s is staying in Twickenham on August 3 (sharing a meal organised by TearFund at St. Stephen's church there). Would anyone be interested in walking from OLOL through Bushy Park to meet them that afternoon (about a 2 hour walk)? Contact [siobhandoyle620@gmail.com](mailto:siobhandoyle620@gmail.com) by **July 23** if you're up for it and we can work out timings.

**Catholic Papers: The Tablet,** which provides not only up-to-date news of the Catholic community at home and abroad but also high quality reflection on world news, ethics and the arts is available in the narthex. (You can take one of the previous week's issues to have a look for free to have a look!) It is an important part of our faith that we should nourish it with reading and reflection.

**Baptism Preparation:** It is now possible to celebrate baptisms again. So if you have a child awaiting baptism please contact Fr. Rob or the parish office.

**Don't Screen Us Out!** Abortion up to term is allowed for babies with suspected Downs' Syndrome. Read this moving account of the action at the High Court last week: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/42584>

**East Elbridge Foodbank:** There is a great deal of hidden hardship in our area which the Foodbank responds to (providing 29,916 meals in 2020). If you need help e: [hello@eastelbridge.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:hello@eastelbridge.foodbank.org.uk) t. 07908 777475. If you wish to donate food, there is a helpful list at <https://eastelbridge.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>. Food can be left in the church narthex or at the presbytery (in the shade, please, if the weather is hot). You can also give money on their website.

**The House of Prayer Open Day:** The House of Prayer is opening their doors and garden to anyone who would like to call in and find out what they do and offer. Tours will be available. Come and learn more about the Sisters of the Christian Retreat and their founder, Father Anthony Receveur. Tea, coffee, home-made savouries and cakes will be provided. **Saturday, 24 July** from 12pm-4pm. To book or for more information, please e-mail [admin@christian-retreat.org](mailto:admin@christian-retreat.org).

**Diocesan Youth Service 40th Anniversary Celebration: 4 September** at Arundel Cathedral. We are delighted to celebrate our Youth Service, which has impacted many people in the last four decades. Anyone who has ever attended an event hosted by the service is invited to join the festivities. Whether it was a Maryvale Retreat, a World Youth Day Pilgrimage, Youthgather, Lourdes Redshirts, or you are a member of our new online community BeCome, or one of our other virtual networks, everyone will be welcome to give thanks for all that has been done and to pray for the success of the Youth Service in the future. Reminisce with old friends, and meet new friends in person (not just on a screen!). A thanksgiving Mass will be said by Bishop Richard, followed by a chance to chat over refreshments. For info or to register: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/10x4omvx>

**CCRS - The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS)** is beginning again in our Diocese this September. The course is designed for teachers in Catholic schools, for Catechists and for anyone who would like to grow in understanding as they live their Catholic faith. The CCRS offers a very flexible and accessible way of learning, it includes some online content and is made up of eight modules: six core and two specialist modules. Each module involves ten hours of course time and an assignment. For more information or to register your place please contact our Formation Adviser [jon.harman@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:jon.harman@abdiocese.org.uk)

**Urgent Rental Property Appeal: Elbridge CAN** are searching for one 3-bed and one 4-bed property available for rent in Elbridge to re-home two Syrian families urgently. Rent will be guaranteed and the property must be as close to Local Authority Housing levels as possible. Contact [jeannie.tweedie@elbridgecan.org.uk](mailto:jeannie.tweedie@elbridgecan.org.uk).