

Our Parish Liturgy

This Week (15 C)

DIVINE OFFICE	WEEK 3
ENTRANCE HYMN	18.00 649 09.00 649 11.00 Musicians
PENITENTIAL ACT	Spoken
GLORIA	18.00 Missal Tone 09.00 Missal Tone 11.00 Musicians
FIRST READING	Deuteronomy 30:10-14 <i>'The word is very near you, so that you can do it.'</i>
PSALM RESPONSE	<i>Seek God, you who are poor, and your hearts will revive.</i>
SECOND READING	Colossians 1:15-20 <i>'All things were created through him and for him.'</i>
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION	<i>Alleluia, alleluia! Your works, O Lord, are spirit and life; you have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!</i>
GOSPEL READING	Luke 10:25-37 <i>'Who is my neighbour?'</i>
PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS	18.00 609 09.00 609 11.00 Musicians
SANCTUS	18.00 Missal Tone 09.00 Missal Tone 11.00 Musicians
MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION	18.00 Missal Tone 09.00 Missal Tone 11.00 Musicians
GREAT AMEN	18.00 Missal Tone 09.00 Missal Tone 11.00 Spoken
OUR FATHER	18.00 Spoken 09.00 Spoken 11.00 Musicians
AGNUS DEI	18.00 Spoken 09.00 Spoken 11.00 Musicians
COMMUNION ANTIPHON	<i>The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.</i>
THANKSGIVING	18.00 980 09.00 980 11.00 Musicians

RECESSION	18.00 963 09.00 963 11.00 Musicians
Next Week (16 C)	
DIVINE OFFICE	WEEK 4
FIRST READING	Genesis 18:1-10a <i>'O Lord, do not pass by your servant</i>
PSALM RESPONSE	<i>O Lord, who may abide in your tent?</i>
SECOND READING	Colossians 1:24-28 <i>'The mystery hidden for ages but now revealed to his saints.'</i>
GOSPEL READING	Luke 10:38-42 <i>'Martha welcomed him. Mary has chosen the good portion.'</i>
Music and text of Antiphons from <i>Psallite</i>, © 2005 Collegeville Composers Group. Published by Liturgical Press, MN56321. Used with Permission. One Licence No.0199	

MARRIAGE MATTERS

In his Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis offers a profound insight into the joy of Christian marriage and reminds us of its place at the very heart of the Church's life. Christian marriage, he observes, 'is a sign of how much Christ loved his Church in the covenant sealed on the cross, yet it also makes that love present in the communion of the spouses. By becoming one flesh, they embody the espousal of our human nature by the Son of God.'

As we know, the Holy Scriptures feed and nourish our faith and help us to grow in our relationship with God and one another. It is for this reason that these scriptural reflections are offered. They should help enable married couples to focus on the richness of God's Word that we hear proclaimed each Sunday of the Year and to experience the deep joy of God's love expressed in the great Sacrament of Marriage.

BANDAGING EACH OTHER'S WOUNDS



The Good Samaritan 'went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring wine and oil on them'. On the journey of life we wound ourselves and each other by our words, actions and omissions: our angry words, the withdrawal of affection, the broken promise. Open, honest dialogue 'oils' intimacy and we bind up each other's wounds by asking and granting forgiveness.

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THIS WEEK:

BIBLE READING PLAN
Mo Is. 7-10; Ps. 22; Matt. 26
Tu Is. 11-13; Ps. 118; Matt. 27
We Is. 14-16; Matt. 28
Th Is. 17-19; Ps. 62; 1 Cor. 1
Fr Is. 20-22; 1 Cor. 2

Financial News . .

Weekend of 06/07/23	
1st Plate	£ 530:93
Standing Orders	£ 755:00
Contactless	£ 160:00
1st Total	£ 1,445:93
2nd	£ 223:50
Parish Buildings Fund	

Thankyou for your continuing generosity to your Parish.

2nd Collection . . .

This Weekend 13/07/25
Stella Maris

Gift Aid Members are able to make this collection tax efficient using the Special Envelope provided.

Next Weekend 20/07/25
None

Bite Size . . .

If you want to make peace,
you don't talk
to your friends.
You talk to
your enemies.

Moshe Dayan
Israeli politician
(1915-1981)



Sacred Heart
Parish Newsletter

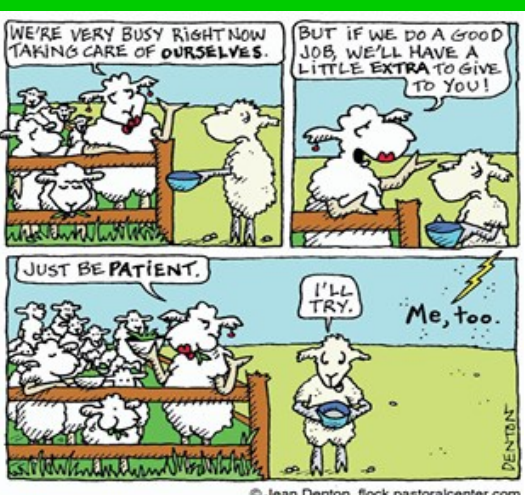
for the Roman Catholic
community
of Cobham, Oxshott,
& Stoke D'Abernon



part of the Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust, a Registered Charity No. 252878

Volume 06 Issue 34 13th July 2025 : 15th Sunday Year C

Where do we stand?



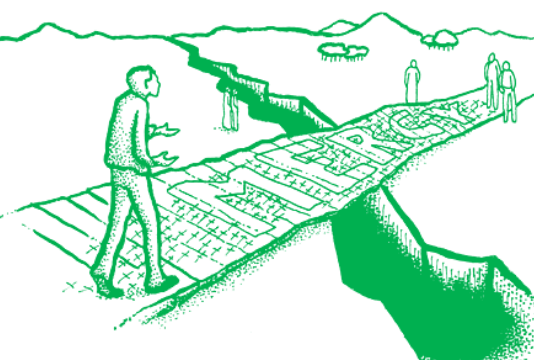
© Jean Denton flock.pastoralcenter.com
"This command that I enjoin on you today... is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts."

Sheepish Question:

How do I define—and carry out—love for my neighbor?

Christianity has a long-standing tradition of teaching "natural law," the belief that all people can understand and agree with objective, universal moral teachings, regardless of their religion or education because they flow from nature. Because we all have a conscience, we can discern what is objectively good and what is objectively evil. Accordingly, anyone who hears Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan should recognize that it is the Samaritan, not the priest or the Levite, who does the right thing when he comes upon the victim who was beaten and robbed. The lawyer who was testing Jesus in the finer points of the law knew it was the Samaritan who acted as a neighbour, but he had trouble swallowing this fact because the Jews despised Samaritans. The irony is that the Good Samaritan wasn't Jewish and didn't live according to the 613 Jewish laws. What is even more ironic is that the priest and the Levite who passed by the victim were following the letter of the law which

said they shouldn't touch a person who is bleeding, lest they become defiled themselves. If they were defiled they would not be allowed to minister in the Temple or function in the community without first going through a detailed process of purification. What this passage comes down to is the question: Where do we fall? Do we fall on the side of the lawyer, the priest, and the Levite who know and keep the letter of the law, or do we fall on the side of the Good Samaritan who responds spontaneously out of compassion because it is the right thing to do?



Questions of the week

- 1 When have you, like the priest and Levite, passed by someone who needed help, maybe with good reason?
- 2 Share an example of a time when you or someone you know acted like the Good Samaritan, even though it was a sacrifice.

Before Mass - Talk to God **During Mass** - Listen to God **After Mass** - Talk to your friends

Parish Office

Normal Office Hours : Monday to Friday 09.30 - 12.30.

Parish Secretary : Sarah Cox (01932) 860244
cobham@abdiocese.org.uk

Newsletter Editorial : Items for possible inclusion in the Parish Newsletter (if there is room) need to be received (in writing please) at the Parish Office by midday on Wednesday.

Gift Aid Organiser : Dan Meehan (01372) 456416
ga.cobham@abdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Rep. : Mark Hillas 07436 571060
sg1.cobham@abdiocese.org.uk

General Parish Information

Parishioner Registration : Every household within the Parish is requested to complete a 'Parishioner Registration/Census' form so that our Parish records may be kept up to date. These forms can be obtained from the Parish Office and should be completed fully before being returned to the Parish Office.

Should you move address within the Parish at any time please complete a new form and write 'AMENDMENT' across the top of the form. Thank you.

Hospital : If you are going into hospital as a 'planned admission' you are strongly encouraged to make contact with Fr Daryl well beforehand so that, if appropriate, the Sacrament of the Sick can be celebrated beforehand.

Infant Baptism : Infant Baptisms are intended for the children of practising parishioners only and are celebrated on five occasions during the year after parents and godparents have completed a course of preparation. There can be no celebration without this important course. The dates of the courses for the current year can be found in the application form available from the Parish Office. Baptisms do not take place during the seasons of Advent or Lent.

Sacramental Preparation : Notice of the availability of Application Forms for preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist will be made via the Parish Newsletter between the school Summer Half Term and 31st August each year. Possible candidates for Confirmation should respond to the announcements made via the Parish Newsletter at the beginning of the Autumn school term.

Parishioners are advised that it is very difficult to imagine that any family or individual who is not regularly practising the Faith as members of our community could possibly be ready to celebrate a Sacrament of the Church.

Marriage Preparation : Marriages are celebrated by appointment with the Parish Priest. It should be remembered that in the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton twelve months minimum notice is required before a marriage may take place; this is a requirement of the Church for all marriages that involve a Roman Catholic (even if they are not taking place in the Catholic Church). It is also necessary that one of the parties must have a meaningful connection with the Parish. Marriages do not take place during the seasons of Advent or Lent.

Parish Car Park : All Parishioners attending Mass and using our Car Park need to make sure that they have fully completed our 'Parishioner Registration/Census Form' (available from the Parish Office) before using the Car Park; this ensures that your current vehicle registration is lodged in the system. Registering only needs to be done once (unless you change your car or if you use another car in the family that is not registered on the system).

Important : if you are not registered on the system and you use the car park you will receive a parking notice. Registered Parishioners and pre-registered visitors are able to park whilst they attend our Masses/liturgies without fear of a charge notice. (Car Park queries - parking@shpcobham.com)

NOTE : the Car Park does not use QR codes any found are **scams!**



Church Mouse (cub reporter). . .

The musings of one of God's smallest creatures on events in and around the Parish over the past seven days . . .

Just when Fr D thought that things were beginning to die down as the holiday period a whole lot of things suddenly arrived in his lap during this week . . .

Fr D was delighted that last Sunday Fr Tony was able to celebrate our two morning Masses whilst he was in Ewell celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of Fr Graham Bamford's ordination as a priest in 1975 (Fr D would only have been fourteen years old at the time). The celebratory Mass was followed by a reception in the parish hall where lots of people who knew Fr D when he was an assistant priest in Epsom were re-introducing themselves. When he arrived home in the afternoon he thought that he would get some reading done for one of his marriage cases, but having climbed into his armchair he woke up at 19.50!

On Monday the quotation came in for the fencing that will replace the conifer hedging that needs to be removed due to the increased risk of fire; it was considerably less than Fr D was expecting so he was delighted. In the afternoon he had to attend an eye clinic at Epsom hospital - one of two checks he has to undergo each year - everything was fine. Then in the evening Fr D joined a presentation (via Teams) on his computer about the proposed changes in our local councils (the government want to merge the county and borough councils so that there is only one local authority to be dealt with).

On Tuesday Fr D was up early to get the reading done that he had tried on Sunday afternoon. Having celebrated Morning Prayer, Mass, and Exposition he was off in the car down to the diocesan offices in Crawley where he managed to get quite a bit of work done on the case he was working on. When he got home in the late afternoon he got ready for his meeting with the Parish Finance Committee in the evening.

After Morning Prayer and Mass on Wednesday Fr D was able to get some correspondence that has built up on his desk out of the way and get most of his bits for the newsletter done (he knew that he'd have no time on Friday as he was celebrating Mass with Bishop Richard and opening a new section of one of the Bosco Catholic Education Trust schools).

Once again, after Morning Prayer and Mass on Thursday Fr D was off down to the Tribunal at Crawley. Whilst there he got a text message from a parishioner to tell him that someone had managed to hit the boundary wall of the car park when they were trying to enter - it never rains when it can pour

Churchmouse

CHILDREN'S WORD SEARCH 15TH SUNDAY YEAR C

L A W T N I B Y M E R C Y S A	JESUS	HEART	JERUSALEM
E T E R N A L U B D A E K T L	EXPERT	SOUL	STRIPPED
H N E I G H B O R U M X H R J	LEVITE	LOVE	ROBBERS
N J E R U S A L E M L P E E R	LAW	BEAT	SAMARITAN
M L K P R I E S T P S E A N H	MERCY	PITY	STRENGTH
S R I R B E A T E R O R R G F	LIFE	MIND	DEAD
T S I F Q D V R E I B T T T I	INHERIT	CLOTHES	NEIGHBOR
R A W J E E R B I O I L D H H	JERICO		
I M T E S T B J E R I C H O S	PRIEST		
P A W S B O V U E Q V I C E E	ETERNAL		
P R M U R V G H I T G F H T C	TEST		
E I I S S M N D G B S T I Y C			
D T N Z N I O E C Q O V T V B			
Q A D A R Y B A P L E I P G Y			
Y N B S O U L D C L P L O V E			



LOVE IN ACTION

Luke 10:25-37
²⁵A teacher of the Law came up and tried to trap Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to receive eternal life?"
²⁶Jesus answered him, "What do the Scriptures say? How do you interpret them?"
²⁷The man answered, " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind'; and 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' "
²⁸"You are right," Jesus replied; "do this and you will live."
²⁹But the teacher of the Law wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbour?"
³⁰Jesus answered, "There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, stripped him, and beat him up, leaving him half dead. ³¹It so happened that a priest was going down that road; but when he saw the man, he walked on by, on the other side. ³²In the same way a Levite also came along, went over and looked at the man, and then walked on by, on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan who was travelling that way came upon the man, and when he saw him, his heart was filled with pity. ³⁴He went over to him, poured oil and wine on his wounds and bandaged them; then he put the man on his own animal and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Take care of him,' he told the innkeeper, 'and when I come back this way, I will pay you whatever else you spend on him.' "
³⁶And Jesus concluded, "In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbour towards the man attacked by the robbers?"
³⁷The teacher of the Law answered, "The one who was kind to him." Jesus replied, "You go, then, and do the same."

Other Readings: Deuteronomy 30:10-14; Psalm 69:13, 16, 29-30, 32-33, 35-36; Colossians 1:15-20

LECTIO:
A teacher wants to trap Jesus with a question. Jesus sees straight through him and asks him to answer his own question. The teacher gives the correct answer that sums up the Jewish teaching: loving God and loving our neighbour.
But the teacher hasn't achieved his objective of making himself look cleverer than Jesus so he asks another question, "Who is my neighbour?" Jesus responds with a powerful parable – the Good Samaritan, as we know it today.
Jesus contrasts the responses of three people when they encounter a man at the side of the road who has been robbed and beaten up. The first two, a priest and a Levite were in positions of religious authority. They would have sought to obey the law in every detail but here they fail to obey one of the most important commandments.
It is the third person, a Samaritan, who acts like a good neighbour and helps this man. To appreciate the full impact of this parable we need to understand the longstanding animosity that existed here. The Jews looked down on the Samaritans and considered them 'unclean', no better than Gentiles. Jesus uses a non-Jew, a despised foreigner, to show this religious teacher how to live out Jewish teaching!
With this parable Jesus makes it clear that we should always be neighbours to any fellow human being who needs help. We may never have met them before, they may be from a different racial and religious background, but nonetheless we are still their neighbours.



MEDITATIO:

- Consider the reasons the priest and the Levite might have had for not helping the man. Do you see any of these attitudes in yourself? What needs to motivate our actions towards others?
- What do we learn from this passage about why we should help others in need?
- Is it significant that Jesus says 'do this' (verses 28 and 37)? What light does James 2:14-17 shed on this?
- Think about what it means for you to love God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind.

ORATIO:
Let Psalm 69 guide your prayers for those you love and for those you see in need.

CONTEMPLATIO:
Read Colossians 1:15-20 slowly several times. Then take a couple of lines at a time and contemplate the meaning of the magnificence of Christ revealed here.

Day	Date	Time	Service / Intention	Donor
Sat.	12 th July	Ferial Weekday		
			Sacrament of Reconciliation	
			<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Stream / Recorded 18.00	Ardian, Rozita & Family] M. Berisha
Sun.	13 th July	15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Stream / Recorded 09.00	Karl & Dora Lavrencic † A. Heyer
			<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Stream / Recorded 11.00	For the Parishioners
Mon.	14 th July	Ferial Weekday		
			No Service Today Mass 09.30 at Walton	
Tue.	15 th July	St Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor of the Church		
		09.00	Morning Prayer of the Church [p.p. 191 & 493]	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Streamed 09.30	Douglas & Olive Butler † J. & E. Yates	
		10.00 - 11.00	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament for Private Prayer	
Wed.	16 th July	Ferial Weekday		
		09.15	Morning Prayer of the Church [p.p. 200 & 493]	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Streamed 09.30	Iilir, Marjane , Jonathan & Eric M. Berisha	
Thu.	17 th July	Ferial Weekday		
		09.15	Morning Prayer of the Church [p.p. 210 & 493]	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Streamed 09.30	Margaret Wingfield † J. & E. Yates	
Fri.	18 th July	Ferial Weekday (Day of Abstinence)		
		09.15	Morning Prayer of the Church [p.p. 220 & 493]	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Streamed 09.30	Ned Dougherty R. Dougherty	
Sat.	19 th July	Ferial Weekday		
		17.00 - 17.30	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Stream / Recorded 18.00	Margaret Lynes D. Lynes	
Sun.	20 th July	16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Stream / Recorded 09.00	Kolber Family L. Kolber	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Live-Stream / Recorded 11.00	For the Parishioners	

Mass may be offered for both the living and the dead and also for most other intentions. We do our best to try and accommodate specific dates but this can be especially difficult on weekends and at less than three months notice.
'Mass Intentions' are published in the Parish Newsletter on the weekend before they are celebrated although sometimes a Requiem Mass will 'bump' an intention to a later date.

St Bonaventure

St. Bonaventure, known as 'the seraphic doctor,' was born at Bagnoregio, Italy, in 1221; receiving the name as a consequence of an exclamation of St. Francis of Assisi, when, in response to the pleading of the child's mother, the saint prayed for John's recovery from a dangerous illness, and, foreseeing the future greatness of the little John, cried out "O Buona ventura"- O good fortune! At the age of twenty-two he entered the Franciscan Order. Having made his vows, he was sent to Paris to complete his studies under Alexander of Hales, an Englishman and a Franciscan.

After the latter's death he continued his course under his successor, John of Rochelle. In Paris he became the intimate friend of St. Thomas Aquinas. He received the Doctoral degree together with Thomas, ceding to his friend against the latter's inclination, the honour of having it first conferred upon him. Like Thomas, he enjoyed the friendship of the holy King, St. Louis. At the age of thirty-five he was chosen General of his Order and restored a perfect calm where peace had been disturbed by internal dissensions. He did much for his Order and composed the 'The Life of St

Francis.' He also assisted at the translation of the relics of St. Anthony of Padua. He was nominated Archbishop of York by Pope Clement IV, but he begged not to be forced to accept that dignity. Gregory X obliged him to take upon himself a greater one as Cardinal and Bishop of Albano, one of the six suffragan Sees of Rome. Before his death he abdicated his office of General of the Franciscan Order. He died while he was assisting at the 2nd Council of Lyons, on July 15, 1274.


DATE / MASS	WELCOME MINISTERS	READERS	EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	REPOSITORY AFTER MASS
SATURDAY 16 C 19/07/25 18.00	Still Required; please offer	N. Gaskell	N/A at present	P. Hunt A. Essien
SUNDAY 16 C 20/07/25 09.00	Still Required; please offer	Sr. Maria	D. Meehan G. Fisher	B. Harris M. Jethwa
SUNDAY 16 C 20/07/25 11.00	Still Required; please offer	H. Philips	D. Yearley TBC	M. Smith C. Kendall
PLEASE REMEMBER : If you are unable to complete your particular ministry then it is your responsibility to arrange cover with another minister. In this way our Sunday Liturgies will run in a smooth and prayerful way.				

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION PROGRAMMES


SACRED HEART PARISH 2025/6

Applications are now available for our Infant Baptism, First Reconciliation, and First Eucharist Preparation programmes for the coming academic year (Confirmation Applications will be made available once Bishop Richard provides a date for the celebration).


PLEASE NOTE that these programmes are only for candidates from families who are Registered Parishioners who are actually regular members of our worshipping community (i.e. Mass attenders) - if this is not the case at present please get in contact with Fr Daryl for an appointment to come and discuss what can be done to rectify the situation at some point in the future.



Reconciliation and Eucharist Applications can be obtained from the sacristy after the regular Mass which the family attends on a weekend. Only Parents (not grandparents or friends) can collect these. Return by 31st August.




Infant Baptism Applications are available from the Parish Office (Mon. - Fri. 09.30-12.30). They are only for the children of Registered Parishioners who are regular members of our worshipping community. These need to be returned at least two weeks before the course commences.



First Eucharist

Prayers Please



FOR THOSE UNWELL AT THIS TIME:
Jay Adams, Sr Anne Bayley, Jim Begley, Maggie Dongray, Tom Delbridge, Fiona Frank, Maureen Garner, Fr John Horn, Michael Nutter, Marie Pinto, Pascal Smyth and Anne Sproul.

THE RECENTLY DECEASED:
Michael Marsden †

ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:
Dora Lavrencic †
Mario Morra †
Fr Francis Von Weyrother †
Fr John Gillespie †

HOLY FATHER'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION:
". . . . Let us pray for the elderly, that they may become teachers of tenderness so that their experience and wisdom may help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility."

For those who are unwell.....

those who have died recently....

those whose anniversaries occur.....

the Holy Father's Prayer Intention....

RETIRING COLLECTION - This weekend our Retiring Collection will be for Stella Maris . Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Sea Sunday is the day people come together to pray for seafarers and fishers, thanking them for the vital role they play in all of our lives. When seafarers and fishers arrive in a port, they are strangers in a foreign land. They do not know the locals and often don't know who to turn to when they need help. Port chaplains and volunteer ship visitors from Stella Maris (the Catholic Church's maritime agency formerly known as The Apostleship of the Sea) are there for them. Our support make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. Thank you.



NEW BOUNDARY FENCE FOR PARISH CAR PARK
Parishioners will be aware that three weeks ago at around 23.50 on Sunday 22nd June there was a fire in the boundary hedge in our Car Park. It is unclear how this started but, most probably, with the recent weather making needle droppings from the fir trees tinder dry a stray cigarette end carelessly cast away could well have been the cause. The fir trees are an extremely resinous species and actually end up fuelling any fire dramatically. This latest incident, of course, follows another, two years ago (when re-lining the car park) - so two fires in just over two years! It was very fortunate that, the incident being late on a Sunday night, there were no vehicles present except for the school minibus. Any other evening of the week would have seen at least five or six vehicles parked up next to the hedge and then we would have been in the position of possibly having cars exploding! Having had these experiences and given the apparent changes in weather patterns, and with climate scientists telling us that more extreme heat patterns are in our future, leaving planted areas tinder-dry during large parts of the summer, we simply cannot ignore a quite perilous health and safety issue (it would be a dereliction of our duty as responsible land owners). Having thought about possible approaches to the problem Fr Daryl has decided, with the advice of the Parish Finance Committee, to have the present coniferous hedging removed and replaced with a barrier that is fire retardant, withstands 130mph winds (with the Leg 'o' Mutton field adjacent to the car park the wind is frequently very strong), maintenance free, and guaranteed for twenty-five years. The fence has an anti-corrosion technology, which means that scratches will not rust! When scratched, the fence forms a waterproof layer made up of a combination of zinc and aluminium oxides; so even when chipped or damaged during its life there will be no rust! With no footholds and a smooth finish the barrier will deter intruders and maintain the current level of privacy of the car park from the common land. The colour of the barrier will be green to go some way to match the loss of the conifers. This has not been an easy decision to make but it is a necessary one given the circumstances we now find ourselves in.

When the time comes for the works to commence it will obviously be necessary to restrict sections of the car park as the works progress but the works will be completed as quickly as is feasible to limit disruption of the regular use of the car park.

NEW DOCUMENT ON TAXATION FROM THE BISHOPS' CONFERENCE - The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBCEW) published a new document on taxation on Tuesday. "Render unto Caesar," written by the Bishops' Department for Social Justice, explores the principles that should underpin taxation from a Catholic perspective, taxation and the family, and the moral implications of tax avoidance and tax evasion - with contributions from economists, academics, and experts including Anna Rowlands, who has advised the General Secretariat of the Synod of the Catholic Church and the Dicastery for Integral Human Development; and Ruth Kelly, a former Treasury minister and current member of the Vatican Council for the Economy.

"Render unto Caesar" aims to help inform government policy by blending moral principles with economic analysis. As well as examining the principles on which a tax system should be based, it examines how they can be applied, given the many challenges Western countries face of ageing populations, changing patterns of family life, increased conflicts, environmental challenges, and the consequent huge fiscal pressures. Speaking as the document was published, Bishop Richard, Chair of the Department for Social Justice, said:

"Sometimes, people ask why the Church should comment on political and economic matters. However, it is important that public policy in all areas of social life is informed by moral principles. The Church teaches that the light of faith, can, and should, help us understand better how to address the challenges facing our society. It is for this reason that we have commissioned a number of experts to offer their analysis of this complex question. We offer this document as a contribution to the process of deliberation that needs to take place amongst all people of goodwill."

