

Weekly Message from Fr William for Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear People of St Mary's and online visitors to our parish

Please consider supporting the SVP sponsored walk this Sunday with your prayers and sponsorship. More details about this on the bulletin.

You'll see in the bulletin that next Sunday all three celebrations of Mass will be livestreamed. I'll explain why at Mass this Sunday.

About this time last year my 87 year old mum was taken ill with an obturator hernia, which meant she could no longer process food. She was very weak, confined to bed in hospital, and was given only a few more weeks or days to live. She was barely conscious. I shared this with the parish at the time and asked you to pray for her, and you did. Within a few days she made a completely unexpected recovery that astonished everybody including the consultant. She was discharged from hospital, and was given a place in Apley Grange care home. It wasn't long before she was back on her feet, eating, singing, playing the piano. Apart from to sleep and shower, she was constantly on the go, walking around the whole complex, and chatting to everyone. I often tried phoning her in her room but she was never in. Before visiting restrictions came in I visited her regularly and if I wanted to sit and chat she would say, no let's walk and chat, and I would sometimes have to put on a spurt to keep up. She clearly brought a lot of joy to other residents and staff, though I know she could be a bit of a handful sometimes with those wanting a quieter and slower pace of life.

Then quite suddenly about 10 days ago she became unwell, again no longer able to really process food, and last Sunday after our 10am mass I got a phone call from one of the nurses and I realised she might be dying. I got there around 11.45am and sure enough she was in bed, weak, and on her way out. I held her hand and stroked her hair, sang to her, recited some of the most beautiful bits of scripture about God's love for us, and thanked her for everything. As I held her hand her breathing got slower, and finally and peacefully she breathed her last breath. I can't imagine a more peaceful death.

I'm well and at peace, so grateful for this extra 12 months of happy life, for the wonderful love and care she had from everyone in Apley Grange, and grateful to have been with her so close for that final hour or so of her life. Thank you that you prayed for her.

I'm leaving up on the website my message from last Sunday in case you missed it.

Keep well, keep safe, keep each other safe



Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2020