

Weekly Message from Fr William for the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Dear People of St Mary's

Congratulations to us all ! We've pulled the national R value down below 1, by a concerted combination of limiting our contact both voluntary and mandated, and the rollout of the vaccines...and maybe a lot of prayer too. We've been making an early end to the pandemic a regular bidding prayer in recent Sundays.

My message to you last Sunday included contact details for North Yorkshire County Council and the help they are offering to those in need of extra support during the pandemic, and also volunteering opportunities. Last Sunday's message is still on the website, as too are all my weekly messages back to March 2020 and the beginning of the pandemic.

The Season of Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday. There are extra opportunities on offer during the Season of Lent this year, as you'll see on the bulletin. I would particularly recommend the scripture course on Mondays with Fr Timothy Swinglehurst and the series of seminars on Global Healing on Thursdays. These are all online, so you can join from the safety and comfort of your home. If you're stuck for something to take up for Lent, why not take up one or two of these opportunities.

As per my message last week, all you need to do is click (or Ctrl + click) on the blue link and the internet will connect you with the talk / meeting / seminar / discussion. If you're reading this message via the parish website then you have an internet connection. There's also the *Mark 10 Mission* 15 minute videos I've been putting on each Sunday since the beginning of Advent for younger (or older) parishioners which I would also recommend, like this one for last Sunday. Try clicking on it (or Ctrl + click) :

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BUh3qd_3Tr4&feature=emb_logo

Sunday Mass at St Mary's continues to be livestream only, with 130 individuals or families celebrating mass with the parish last Sunday (across the three Sunday masses). Thank you for your fidelity to this. It's just one of the ways we are sticking together as a parish at this time of heightened risk. I still keep this under ongoing review.

Wishing you a happy Sunday and a holy Lent



Sixth Sunday Ordinary Time 14th February 2021