

Weekly Message from Fr William for Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time 2021

Dear People of St Mary's,

Paul & Catherine Foster were wed in St Mary's yesterday, Saturday. Congratulations and love to them. We wish them all God's blessings and happiness.

Next Sunday 12th Sept at the 5pm Mass 13 young members of our parish will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Let's pray for them! (note, church will be very full).

200 Club draw for August now spinning on the parish website. Have your numbers to hand and watch to see if the wheel stops on your numbers.

Parish Pastoral Council met on Monday. We were reviewing how things had gone for the parish during the pandemic. I think it's fair to say there was a general concurrence that the parish had done amazingly well to adapt to new ways of celebrating mass, and new ways of maintaining financial support for the parish. The lockdown was sprung upon us all in March 2020 with little time to prepare. The main purpose of the exercise on Monday was so that we can be even better prepared in the event of another lockdown and church closure.

One suggestion from the council was to use the current lull in the pandemic to help people not yet online to get set up with an internet connection and device.

So, dear people who might not yet have internet and would like to talk about the benefits of this, do get in touch with me, and I'll explain how the internet would enable you to keep in touch with family members and friends by video conferencing. This means you can see them live on screen as well as talk to them. And of course you could join us for mass by livestream from the comfort of your home. If you'd like this I'd be delighted to see if I can get you fixed up.

Thanks for the surge in offertory donations using the new Digital Collection Plate in the Atrium. Total jumped from £48 in July to £280 in August. Admittedly it was only introduced half way through July. But still.

As from this Sunday the Digital Collection Plate has now been enabled to take donations for the Building Loan Fund, our monthly second collection. And being the first Sunday of the month, the second collection this Sunday is indeed Building Loan Fund. So here's inviting you to use the Digital Collection Plate to make a contribution to this really important income stream for the parish.

Click the link on the bulletin for a visual reminder of what the Building Loan Fund is all about.

Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, 5th September 2021

