

Father Hugh Writes:

This Sunday our second reading is from the letter to Philemon, He probably was a Christian and was the owner of the Slave Onesimus. Onesimus ran away to Rome; met Paul and was converted to Christianity, Paul does not flaunt his authority, and though he would like to keep Onesimus notes the owners right to him, but the conversion to Christianity opens up new possibilities in that in Christ we are free.

This Monday we have the next Quinquennial survey of the fabric of our parish, which is likely to highlight repairs not yet completed. The survey will cost approx. £1750 and will probably take most of the day. After which I'm taking a break.

Highlighted at the team meeting on Monday, was the need to have a rota for CHURCH CLEANING. I'm fairly confident that there are enough of us perhaps to take on what is a fairly simple task weekly. It needs 2 people to work at the same time please, since the insurance company does not recommend lone workers. Of course it is not exclusively a female job!

As you know the church is open through the day, most days and there is a key safe should the church not be open.

Next Sunday we have the annual mission appeal by a visiting priest from the SMA order (Society of African Missions). I've no doubt all will be revealed when Fr Henry arrives. There will be a retiring collection for their work.

Mgr Bryan Chestle has died in retirement. I doubt if anyone knew him but his funeral is at the Cathedral on 26th September at noon. Meanwhile, Deacon Gerard Irwin's funeral is at Haywards Heath on 17th September at 3pm.

This is the second call for Sacrament preparation, ie for Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation. Custom in our diocese is approx. 8 years old and above for the first two and Year 10 for Confirmation.

This is also a reminder that we were to have some adult formation evenings in the hall this autumn. Probably beginning with simple things such a church practices in C21st. Did you know that our Bishops are seeking a years notice for a wedding in our churches? Should that and similar items be our first area of discussion??

cont/d

Father Hugh Writes cont/d...

Any questions that you may have will probably be in others minds. Please let us know what we should discuss, so that we can plan some evenings.

Parish and Diocesan Notices

There will be a special collection after Mass today, 8th September, for the Catholic Education Service.

Founded in 1847 The Catholic Education Service is an agency of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, whose object is the advancement of the Catholic religion, primarily through education.

The Interment of Mary Middleton's ashes will take place here this coming Wednesday 11th September with a short service at 11am. Everyone welcome.

Another £25 from last weeks sale has been received. Thank you.

First Holy Communion: Please note that there will be a meeting after Mass on Sunday 22nd September, for parents and children who wish to make their First Holy Communion next year. Regular sessions will commence on the following Sunday (29th).

A date for your diary: Ann Bowers invites you to a Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 27th September at 29 Parsonage Road BN5 9JG. From 10.30am to 12noon and then 2pm to 4pm. Please come along and help raise money for cures for cancer. More details from Ann on 01273 495934.

Advance Notice: Mother's Prayers will next meet on Wednesday 16th October at Stephanie's house, 17 Benson Road, Henfield at 10.15am. There will not be a meeting in September.

Housegroups: The two fortnightly housegroups (involving in total around 10 parishioners) have now been up and running for a couple of months and are going well. They provide opportunity for a more personal sharing of faith and friendship than is generally possible on a Sunday. It would be good to see an expansion of the idea (e.g. mums'/dads' groups?). If you are interested in joining an existing group (or forming a new group) Deacon Paul would be happy to talk to you about the possibilities.

Please note changes to service days/times during this coming week.