

## The Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Wilfrid, Selsey

The Presbytery, 12 Church Road, Selsey, West Sussex, PO20 0LS  
'Phone: 01243 602312 Parish website: www.stwilfridselsey.co.uk

PARISH PRIEST: Father John Healy

**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**January 2017**

**21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>**

### Mass Times

Saturday	5.30pm	Intentions of the Parish	
Sunday	10.00am	Deceased Members of the O'Keefe Family	
Monday		Weekday of the Year	
	10.00am	Tom and Pat Hobbs RIP	
Tuesday		Weekday of the Year	No Mass
Wednesday		The Conversion of St Paul	No Mass
Thursday		St Timothy and St Titus	No Mass
Friday		Weekday of the Year	
	10.00am	Ella Hughes RIP	
Saturday Mass		St Thomas Aquinas	No Morning

### 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5.30pm

Sunday 10.00am Intentions of the Parish

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 4.45 to 5.15pm

[*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - page 127 in the Parish Mass Book*]

WELCOME BACK TO Fr. Albert who returns to the parish this weekend and next to celebrate Mass with the community.

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME: Five families met for the first time last Saturday to begin the programme of preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. This Sunday, at the 10.00am Mass, parents and children will be formally enrolled into the programme during a little ceremony at the beginning of Mass. In the presence of the community, the parents will promise to help their children prepare for these important Sacrament; the parish in turn will commit to helping and supporting the families by prayer and by being a welcoming community; and the children will be asked if they want to receive Jesus in the Sacraments.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: The annual Week of Prayer for greater unity among Christians ends this Wednesday. Christians of all denominations can continue praying each day during the Week that Christians will grow ever closer through the things that unite us and seek ways to remove the things that divide us.

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING GROUP: The meeting of the Group last Tuesday launched the 2017 programme with "a bang!" The Group's Chair - John - and Secretary - Stella - were both confirmed in post (but either would be pleased to hand over their respective chairs to anyone who would be happy to serve the parish in either role). Below there are separate notices promoting various fundraising events. So, may we again thank all those who came to the meeting and are bracing themselves for the 2017 season?

### THE MESSAGE AND THE MESSENGER

There are many examples throughout history of the messenger being confused with message so that when the latter displeased the king the former was in danger of “losing his head” – a most famous case being that of John the Baptist in today’s Gospel. But it is much more likely that the messenger in some way usurps the message, often for their own purposes, and come to be seen by others as the message itself, rather than its servant. And so cults are formed, or people flock in large number to hear charismatic preachers whenever their name appears in the Church notices.

The second reading today is an example of the dangers of message and messenger becoming confused in people’s mind – a tendency that Paul saw developing in the Church in Corinth and moved to nip in the bud before the community fractured beyond repair. For Paul there is only one message that matters: the Word of God as revealed in the person of Jesus who is himself, in the words of St John in his Prologue, “the Word made flesh.” In our Christian faith the only time when the message and the messenger are one and the same is in the person of Jesus. So we should always take great care not to credit the messenger with more power and authority than is deserving of a faithful servant of the message. And this is an important lesson we can share with the rest of the world where there are numerous examples of powerful, and often unscrupulous, individuals and groups who distort acceptable and valid political, cultural, philosophical, scientific or other beliefs and ideas and use them to lead astray large numbers of people often painting an unrealistic vision for the future and making promises that can never be kept. There is a body of truth and wisdom that all can agree to in every important area of our human life and experience: this is the all-important message that we should never allow dishonest messengers to manipulate for their own selfish or greedy purposes.

**QUIZ AND CHIPS EVENING:** The next social/fundraising event will be an evening of fun and food on Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> February in the Parish Hall. Arrive not later than 6.45pm for a prompt start to the Quiz at 7.00pm. Come as a Team of six or join a Team on the evening. Tickets are on sale from this weekend at £8.00 per person (to include a Fish and Chip Supper with tea and coffee available).

**THE SPONSORED SWIM 2017:** This year’s swim will be on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> March from 12.00noon to 2.30pm. Swimmers: please put your name down on a clip-board in the porch and collect a sponsorship form. Supporters: you can sponsor an individual swimmer or the Team as a whole - there is a form in the Porch for Team sponsorship.

**BAGS2THE FUTURE:** There will be a collection of surplus shoes (in pairs, please, tied together with their laces or with elastic bands) and clothing (men’s, ladies’ and children’s). You can also bag redundant hand- and other bags, hats, scarves and ties, jewellery, lingerie, socks, belts, soft toys, household linen, curtains, towels and bed linen (but NOT bulky pillows or duvets). Special bags available in the Porch to take home and fill - by the weekend 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> February at the latest: proceeds from the purchase of the filled bags by weight go to the Building Maintenance Fund.

**MORE TO FOLLOW:** Other events during the year will include Books and Bakes in March; a Talent Show and a Plants and Preserves Sale, both in May; a Dog Show and Table Top Sale in June; the Summer Fair in July; the Christmas Fair in December - the dates of these to be confirmed shortly.

**NEW POSTERS:** Please see the notice boards for a new display of posters of events from around the diocese and beyond that may be of interest to people of all ages.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Jacqui Brooker, Max Foreshow, Nell Hassett, Grace Ledger, Sean Mangan, Reon McSharry, John O'Shea, Samantha Phillips, Sheilagh Roberts and all in the parish who are sick.

*Please speak to Fr. John if you would like the parish to pray for you, or for someone in your family.*

Collections: 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> January  
£332.52p

Offertory Collection

£79.30p

Pax Christi