

WEDNESDAY WORD

A Reflection on the Scriptures for Sunday Mass Sunday 31 October/1 November 2020 The Solemnity of All Saints

My dear Parishioners, dear friends,

This Sunday, being the 1 November, we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints. The Collect of the Mass sets the scene: Almighty ever-living God, by whose gift we venerate in one celebration the merits of all the Saints, bestow on us, we pray, through the prayers of so many intercessors, an abundance of the reconciliation with you for which we earnestly long.

The readings of the Mass are familiar and begin with a heavenly scene painted in the book of the Apocalypse. John, the visionary, speaks to a Church in persecution as he glimpses 'that huge number, impossible to count....dressed in white robes'. We picture the saints because we know the look of them in life. The modern ones have been photographed, the old ones painted. Our most familiar saints, of course, are the *uncanonised* whose memory we hold as dear as the confidence that they are in Heaven. St John gives us another picture of this heavenly multitude who worship God and live in a state of perfect happiness.

St John also provides our second reading in his first letter. The key theme of the letter is that we are to live in communion with God and through Christ we are God's children. This is beautifully summed up in the excerpt we have for today's Mass.

St Matthew's Beatitudes, the sermon of Our Lord on blessedness, is the gospel for the feast. Happy are the poor in

sprit, the gentle, those who mourn, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers and even those who are persecuted. The gospel for the feast looks forward to the 'blessedness' of heaven whilst underlining the qualities of those who are serious about holiness.

We have the joy of marking the 60th anniversary of the opening of the church of All Saints this Sunday. Our muted celebration is enhanced by the confirmation of our young confirmandi. There is cake (wrapped up and to take home) and a commemorative card for our missals and prayer books.

Our condolences to Carolyn Mills and her father, Tom at the death of her mother, Sue (Funeral 11 November) and to Judith Duggan and her family at the death of Patrick (Funeral 6 November).

Monday 2 November is the Commemoration of All Souls with Masses at 9.30am & 7pm at Molesey and 12noon at Hersham.

Both our churches have live stream.

Go to www.stbarnabasmolesey.org and you'll see two pictures with a play button. If you can't see the pictures then your computer will just need to refresh. All our Masses and liturgies are now live streamed and I know this will be a huge benefit to many.

Sunday Mass times this week:

Hersham at 5.30pm Saturday & 9am Sunday.

Molesey on Sunday at 11am, 12.15pm (Latin) & 6pm.

Weekdays for this week:

Hersham Monday 12noon, Wednesday & Friday at 9.30am

Molesey Monday 9.30am & 7pm, Tuesday & Thursday at 9.30am, Friday at 12.30pm & Saturday at 10am Latin Mass.

*All the Masses at Molesey & Hersham will be Livestreamed
Go to www.stbarnabasmolesey.org*

As always, I hope your week is going well. Please make contact if we can be of any help in any way.

Be assured of my prayers and affectionate good wishes
Fr Richard

Fr Richard Biggerstaff Parish Priest of All Saints Hersham with
St Barnabas Molesey