

## FAITH IN FOCUS: A GOD WHO CARES

One of the most striking aspects of the gods of ancient peoples is that they inspired fear. It's a common feature in these ancient deities that they had to be avenged. They were a moody lot. So it was quite common for some enormous sacrifice to be made in order to appease them and prevent them from venting their spleen on those who were unfortunate enough to be their subjects and followers.

When Moses came back down the mountain it must have come as a relief to the Hebrews to find out what sort of God they had made a deal with. One who would keep them under his thumb or one who would let them grow?

People who don't believe in God often find it necessary to lampoon the God they don't believe in. So they invent a ludicrous image and then proceed to knock it down with either sarcasm or humour.

Christians would probably be content with a God who as creator was responsible for the wonderful world we live in and for the gift of life that we all enjoy. If we could have a God who was also just and not given to flights of angry vengeance then that would be a bonus. To have a God who took time off from holding the universe together and occasionally showed that he knew of our world's existence would be like winning the lottery.

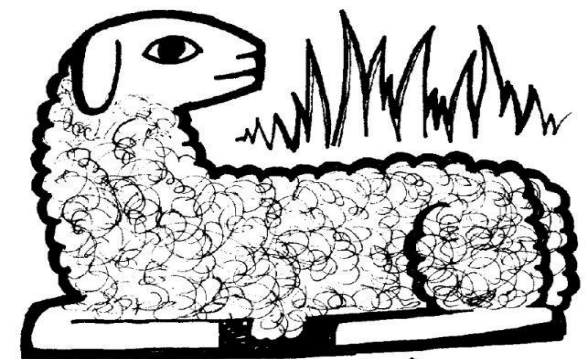
Of course, having a God who was personally interested in each of us would presumably be out of the question? Surely God has got more important things to do than be concerned about me as an individual with all my likes and dislikes, my wants and needs?

So when God speaks in today's scripture about shepherding his flock and taking care of them, and when Jesus feels sorry for his listeners and takes pity on them for they're like sheep without a shepherd, what's going on? Is it a lie? A joke? Or do I need to look again at the type of God we've got?

*St Anne's Catholic Church, Newsletter*

18<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
16<sup>th</sup> Sunday Year B

*(Prayer of the Church Week 4)*



near restful  
waters He leads  
me ps.22:2

### *Sunday Masses*

6:30pm(Vigil) 8:30am & 10:30am

### *Parish Clergy - Salesians of Don Bosco*

Fr Michael Hynes

10 Highfield Road, KT16 8BU

Tel: 01932 562375

Web: [www.stanneschertsey.org.uk](http://www.stanneschertsey.org.uk)

email: [Chertsey@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:Chertsey@abdiocese.org.uk)

Deanery website: [www.veybridgedeanery.org/](http://www.veybridgedeanery.org/)

## Sunday

Vigil Mass Sat 6.30pm

8.30am, 10.30am Mass

## Monday

9.30am Mass

## Tuesday

9.30am Mass

## Wednesday

9.30am Mass

## Thursday

### St. Mary Magdalene

9.30am Mass

## Friday

### St. Bridget of Sweden

9.30am Mass

## Saturday

10.00am Morning Mass

## Next Sunday July 25th

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Year B. **First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**

## First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

You may be aware that Sunday 25 July will see the celebration of the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The theme chosen by the Holy Father for this World Day is "I am with you always" (cf. Mt 28:20) which is a way of

expressing the closeness of the Lord and the Church to every older person, especially in these challenging pandemic times. Please bring this to the attention of grandparents and the elderly. You may consider helping those who are not normally able to come to Mass to be able to attend on that day

## Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July Feast of St. Anne & St. Joachim

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/saint-joachim-and-saint-anne-grandparents-of-jesus/>

## Bishop's Message to catechists

I would like to invite all our catechists to an event at Worth Abbey on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

This will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the ministry of our catechists and enable the Formation Team to share a renewed vision for catechesis in the Diocese that is a part of a "Cradle to Grave" formation in Faith, supported by the new Directory for Catechesis.

I would be very grateful indeed if you could ask your catechists and anyone whom you think might be suited to this important

ministry to e-mail Ruth Gerun at the St. Philip Howard Centre on [ruth.gerun@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ruth.gerun@abdiocese.org.uk)

Ruth will then be able to send out an invitation to what will be an important event for us as we move out of these times of the Pandemic and seek renewed ways to share the gift of Faith.

## The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS)

is beginning again in our Diocese this September. The course is designed for teachers in Catholic schools, for Catechists and for anyone who would like to grow in understanding as they live their Catholic faith. The CCRS offers a very flexible and accessible way of learning, it includes some online content and is made up of eight modules: six core and two specialist modules. Each module involves ten hours of course time and an assignment. For more information or to register your place please contact our Formation Adviser

## NEW Colour and Shape website launch! Mass resources for families.

Colour and Shape developed over the pandemic providing a weekly video liturgy for families to use

at home during lockdown. This video - Connect Sunday - has now changed into a new shorter format, along with a set of accompanying resources on a brand new website. Head over to [www.colourandshapeonline.com](http://www.colourandshapeonline.com) to check out the resources reflecting on the Sunday Gospel each week, plus links to Spotify playlists, ideas on how to pray together as a family, and information on how to join the online community supporting families.

## Streamed Masses

Information about the locations of live-streamed celebrations of Mass is available on the Diocesan Website at: <https://abdiocese.org.uk/livestream>.

## Prayer Corner

The parish website now has a 'Prayer Corner'. Please look at it to see the people that we should keep in our prayers. You may want to add people to the list;- details on the website.