



**St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Stephen Harding Catholic Church**

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Deacon: David Hill Tel: 01952 813004

Date	Time	Service	Intention
<b>Sunday 23 August</b>	<b>Mass 11:00</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Sheila Bloxham
<b>Monday 24 August</b>		<b>St Bartholomew</b> Apostle	
<b>Tuesday 25 August</b>		Tuesday of week 21 St Louis St Joseph Cal	
<b>Wednesday 26 August</b>	<b>Mass 10:00</b>	Wednesday of Week 21Bl Dominic Barberi	Priest's Intention
<b>Thursday 27 August</b>		St Monica	
<b>Friday 28 August</b>		St Augustine of Hippo	
<b>Saturday 29 August</b>		<b>Beheading of John the Baptist</b>	
<b>Sunday 30 August</b>	<b>Mass 11:00</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	Richard Byrne

**Readings for the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time year A** *Psalter week 1*

*Ent antiphon* Listen, Lord, and answer me. Save your servant who trusts in you. I call to you all day long, have mercy on me, O Lord.

*1st reading* Isaiah 22: 19-23.

*Response* **Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.**

*2nd reading* Romans 11: 33-36.

*Acclamation* **Alleluia, alleluia! God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. Alleluia!**

*Gospel* Matthew 16: 13-20.

*Comm ant* **Lord, the earth is filled with your gift from heaven; man grows bread from the earth, and wine to cheer his heart.**



**Gospel**

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.



*Commentary* At last Peter recognizes that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ. At last he realizes that in Jesus they can see the action of God. The disciples followed Jesus as soon as he called, but for a long time they were puzzled what to make of him. Now comes a shaft of light and understanding. We too often take some time to appreciate the true worth of someone we know well: a little gesture can sometimes reveal just how generous and thoughtful they are. Peter suddenly grasps that there is God, acting among them. Jesus replies to Peter's recognition with his own generosity, giving him a new name, 'Rock', for this is what 'Peter' means. If you name something, you make it your own, take it to yourself. This is just what Jesus does with Simon who becomes his own

*Peter. That is the importance of the naming of a child at Baptism: Jesus takes us to himself and we become his.* Henry Wansborough OSB

**Please remember in your prayers** Richard Byrne, Christine Pritchard, Sheila Bloxham, John McGrath, Doreen Dodd, Faye Hargreaves, Mary Goodwin, Beryl Dutton, Julian and Dawn Huxley, Sheila Minnery, Emmie Justice, Shane McGroggan, Doreen Warrilow, Sylvia Mary Stanworth, and all the sick and housebound of the parish.

**SAINT OF THE WEEK St Monica** 331-387 Born in modern day Algeria, Monica was married to a husband who is thought to have led a violent and dissolute life. They had three surviving children, of whom the eldest was **Augustine**, but she was widowed when he was about 18. His early life, and liaison with a woman caused her great distress, but for 17 years she prayed fervently for him, a bishop having told her that 'it is not possible that the son of so many tears should be lost'. She 'rejoiced triumphantly' when he decided on baptism. And of course, her prayers were answered; he became a Bishop and a Saint. She is the patron of victims of unfaithfulness and abuse.



**PRAYER CORNER** Prayer of St Monica for her son

**St. Monica, I need your prayers.**

**You know exactly how I'm feeling because you once felt it yourself.**

**I'm hurting, hopeless, and in despair.**

**I desperately want my child to return to Christ in his Church**

**but I can't do it alone. I need God's help.**

**Please join me in begging the Lord's powerful grace**

**to flow into my child's life.**

**Ask the Lord Jesus to soften his heart, prepare a path for his conversion,**

**and activate the Holy Spirit in his life. Amen.**



**Foodbank** A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who is supporting the Foodbank; we have had an overwhelming response from the local community. Please keep on supporting us through these difficult times. The Foodbank has an ongoing need of donations, especially as people are losing jobs and the schoolchildren are at home. For further information <https://marketdrayton.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/>

**Mass will be celebrated on Sundays at 11:00 and on Wednesdays at 10:00**

**If you are coming to mass, please come in good time and please note the church should not be entered outside mass times. A maximum of 40 people will be allowed in Church – please do not be offended if you are turned away when we have reached this number.**

- **Face masks are mandatory**
- **On arrival use hand sanitiser in the Church Porch**
- **Please give your name and contact details to the Steward**
- **A Steward will escort you to your place**
- **Please observe 2 metres social distancing**
- **Please avoid talking in Church**
- **Please do not kneel**
- **Mass will be short, Holy Communion will be brought to your seat**
- **At the end of Mass please follow the directions of the Steward**
- **The collection will be taken at the back of church following Mass**
- **No toilets will be available**
- **The illustrated Weekly Newsletter is available online –give a copy to anyone you know not online?**

**Please tell anyone who does not yet know that Mass has restarted**