

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS** Please pray for the eight children and their families from Year 5 who make their First Holy Communion today: Thomas, Alfie, Samuel, Matilda, Olivia, Tom, Leah and Rebecca

**THANK YOU** to the volunteers who cleaned out the Church tower - very much appreciated.

**SYNOD 2020** 420 people took part in the Synod last weekend by zoom, and voted on the 19 recommendations. The following seven received the most votes: Evangelisation, Lay Ministry: a More Inclusive Church; Young People/Young Adults; Catholic Schools; Love of Neighbour; Governance and Synodality. Full results are at [synod2020recommendations.org.uk](https://synod2020recommendations.org.uk) and on the Parish Facebook Page. Recommendations from the OLAS Parish discernment process in during May will be published on the Weekly News section of our website shortly. The Synod Team wish to thank everyone who has been involved and given so much to this process, our Members, Observers and all those in parishes and deaneries who have given so much over the past few years, and also those from beyond the Archdiocese who have contributed to our Synod.

**CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS CLOSE** Following the announcement this month of the closure of the Catholic Universe and Catholic Times, Cardinal Nichols offered his thanks to the owner and staff for their service to the mission and witness of the Catholic Church in this country. The Cardinal said that the role of communication and journalism in reporting and commenting on the life of the Catholic Church, from the perspective of our faith, is a great challenge. "My hope and prayer is that professional and enthusiastic Catholics will continue in this task, exploring and developing new forms of communication and new ways of telling the story of our faith in action here in our lands."

**HOW THE CEDAR OF LEBANON ALL BUT DISAPPEARED** The once vast forests were heavily logged in ancient times. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century, the Roman emperor, Hadrian was so alarmed at the Lebanese forest's depletion he sought to protect what remained by making it Imperial preserve. But in the following centuries, the unsustainable logging continued unabated. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the Ottoman empire used the wood to build railways, and during the First World War, the British and Turks used what was remaining for the war efforts. Sadly, today only 12 small groves of the once vast cedar forests of Lebanon remain in isolated parts of the mountains of Lebanon. These are now popular tourist destinations. Further stands of the trees exist in Turkey. Fortunately both countries have begun to make serious replanting efforts to try to bring back the ancient forests. Lebanon has made reforestation a matter of national pride (the cedar of Lebanon is the national symbol of the country and appears on the national flag.) But these efforts will take many centuries to be successful and serious challenges threaten that success, including the political volatility of the area, war, the general poverty and now, the damaging effects of climate change. It will be a beautiful thing to see these forests flourishing once more. No doubt in the future, we will learn to take better care of them. It's most poignant that the image of the great cedar is used in sacred scripture. It seems to represent something whose usefulness and strength are combined with nobility and beauty. Yet the origins of the great tree are the tiny tender shoots that spring in the topmost branches. That which we pass on to the next generation is the fruit of living Faith in Jesus Christ of all generations which precede us. The day of first Holy Communion is perhaps the very moment when the tender shoot is planted in its own soil. Our task is not finished; we must continue to tend this sapling, watering it by our good example and allowing it to feel the warmth of our love lived out in confident faith. Only strength rooted in faith can withstand the difficulties that life can throw at us.

# PARISH OF OUR LADY AND ALL SAINTS

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Rev. LJR Daley, Priest

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (B)

27th June 2021

### Celebration of Holy Mass

27 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	<b>SUNDAY XIII OF THE YEAR</b>	10:30am Pro populo
28 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	St Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr	7:00pm Joseph Bleasdale
29 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	<b>SS PETER AND PAUL</b>	7:00pm Christine Cooper
30 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	Feria	7:00pm Holy Souls
1 <sup>st</sup>	Thursday	St Oliver Plunkett	11:30am A Sick Person
4 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	<b>SUNDAY XIV OF THE YEAR</b>	10:30am Pro populo

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** Confessions will be held from 6.30pm before Mass on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays.

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR

Pauline Cunningham, Sheila Jennings (sick); all those affected by the Corona virus pandemic, and all in our parish who don't feel able to come to Mass.

**LATELY DEAD** Audrey O'Donohue

**ANNIVERSARIES** Joseph Bleasdale, Michael Rimmer

**LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY** Loose £45.20, Envelopes £100.00, SOs £445.00  
Thank you for your offerings.

**MONTHLY SECOND COLLECTION** Thank you for your very generous donations last week totalling £1,290.20 to Douglas Valley Outreach.