The end of the world is at hand! says the plaid carried by the devourer on the side of the saints. Each age has had its share of true believers who maintained that the world was doomed, ready to be destroyed by God who was waiting only for a few moments before bringing down his fiery wrath on the heathens. In Jesus’ own day, and of the decades that followed, apocalyptic fever was high. Messianic expectation combined with a desire for God’s judgement of the wicked were saturating the environment. And yet, the world continued, and Rome dominated for hundreds of years hence. At the turn of the first millennium, monasteries and convents were filling up with those who understood that the thousand year reign of the saints (understood as the church) was quite literally being fulfilled, after which the dragon who has been locked up for a thousand years could be released (Apocalypse 20:2-6)! What other more definite sign would one need than the authority of Scripture to know that the end was near? Yet, the year 1,000 came and went, followed by 1,001, 1,002, and so on. The monasteries and convents gradually lost some of their devoted converts from only a few years earlier. In our own day there are many prophecies and predictions about the end of the world, a ‘black pope’ (the Jesuit pope, as Jesuits wear black?), and more oddball fanciful extrapolations of various sorts. Preaching about the end of the world and the fabulous predictions of the end of the world have now been decrying doom can certainly attract attention and might even bring the parishes and churchgoers, but is it accurate? In today’s gospel perhaps the most significant line is at the end, when Jesus says, ‘But as for that day or hour, no one knows it, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, no one but the Father.’ Despite that rather stark, plain sentence, we have all undoubtedly heard some say, ‘Jesus says nobody knows the day or hour, but he doesn’t say anything about the month or the year!’ And then the wild predictions start again. Such interpretations miss the mark entirely. Rather than worry about when the world will end, it might be more productive to ask about our own personal end. That is, when will I die? How have I prepared myself for that eventual end? How have I lived my days knowing that nothing I accumulate on earth will be taken with me when I pass from this life? We know that we are definitely going to experience our own personal end, our own death. We are less likely to be here for the end of the world.

**Hedging our bets**

How does not knowing when the end will come change the way that I live my life? **MARRIAGE MATTERS**

We DO NOT KNOW THE HOUR OR THE DAY

The world will not last for ever, and marriage too will end when one spouse dies. This week, we married people are reminded to reflect on the treasures of love in our life: romance, warmth, tenderness, joyful celebrations, intimate moments and the fruitfulness of our love. Let’s celebrate each other, reconcile past hurts and continually praise God for His blessings.

**Before Mass**

Talk to God During Mass - Listen to God After Mass - Talk to your friends

In the event of an emergency when a priest is urgently required and there is no answer at our Parish Envelope. Gift Aid members are able to make this collection tax efficient by using our Parish Envelope.

**Parish Newsletter**

the Roman Catholic communities of Holy Family, Lancing & St Charles, Worthing part of the Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust, a Registered Charity No. 252878

**Volume 11 Issue 47** 18th November 2018 : 33rd Ordinary Year B

**East Worthing Parish Newsletter**

**All is Vanity, 1991**

Northern Exposure, 2004

All is Vanity Avon Books

By virtue of one single offering, he has

satisfied the penalty of sin and obtained...
Parish Office

Parish Deacons: Rev. John Body 762038
Rev. Patrick Moloney (Retired) 752292
Rev. Phil Richardson

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 09.30 - 11.30.

Fr Daryl’s Surgery this week: Tuesday, 17.30 - 18.30.

Newsletter Editorial: Items for possible inclusion in the Parish Newsletter (if there is room) need to be received (in writing please) at the Parish Office by midday on Wednesday.

General Parish Information

Parishioner Registration: Every household within the Parish is requested to complete a ‘Parishioner Registration/Census’ form so that our Parish records may be kept up to date. These forms can be found in the church narthex and should be completed fully before being returned to the Parish Office.

Should you move address within the Parish at any time please complete a new form and write ‘AMENDMENT’ across the top of the form. Thank you.

Hospital: Parishioners are advised that our local General Hospital (Worthing) in Lyndhurst Road does not give the names of inpatients to the Chaplaincy Department. This means that you should find yourself admitted as an emergency case to the hospital you will need to inform the staff that you wish to have the Parish Chaplain to be informed, either yourself or through a relative.

If you are going into hospital as a ‘planned admission’ you are strongly encouraged to contact the Parish Priest well beforehand so that, if appropriate, the Sacrament of the Sick can be celebrated beforehand.

Infant Baptism: Infant Baptisms are intended for the children of practising parishioners only and are celebrated on five occasions during the year after parents and godparents have completed a course of preparation. There can be no celebration without this important course.

Marriage Preparation: There can be no marriage without this important course. There can be no celebration without this important course.

Marriage Preparation: Marriages are celebrated by appointment with the Parish Priest. It should be remembered that in the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton there is a two-month minimum notice required before a marriage may take place; this is a requirement of the Church for all marriages that involve a Roman Catholic (even if they are not taking place in the Catholic Church). It is also necessary that one of the parties must have a meaningful connection with the Parish. Marriages do not take place during the seasons of Advent or Lent.

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R E A A E E N I R O
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Church Mouse (cub reporter)...

The musings of one of God’s smallest creatures on events in and around the Parish over the past seven days...

Sunday afternoon Fr D and Deacon John were present at the annual Remembrance Service at St Michael’s Church, South Street, Lancing. After the traditional laying of wreaths at the war memorial there was a service in the church in which many different groups from the area took part as well as those who had previously been in military service. Fr D came back home afterwards very tired and had a snooze in his armchair.

On Monday Fr D was rushing about in the Presbytery getting things organised for the arrival of his Ministry to Priest’s Support Group who were due to arrive at midday. From midday they were in the church at St Charles’ praying together before the Blessed Sacrament for an hour, following their normal routine. When they came in from the church at 13.00 they celebrated one of the minor offices of the Prayer of the Church and settled down to their ploughman’s lunch.

Once lunch was over the group settled down to their monthly ‘review of life’ - a chance to share with one another some of the highs and lows of their ministry over the past month, receiving thoughts and suggestions from the others.

Tuesday this week was especially busy, one requiem Mass followed by a cremation, one ordination service, the celebration of the annual Worthing Deanery Deceased Clergy Mass followed by discussion of the Deceased Clergy List prior to this week’s Deacon Clergy Meeting. This was ‘topped-off’ by a meal with all the deanery clergy present. By the time he came home Fr D went straight off to bed!

On Wednesday after celebrating Mass at the Holy Family, followed by coffee with parishioners, Fr D was off, as usual, to Bishop’s House wearing his ‘tribunal hat’. When he arrived at his office he was dismayed to see that all the furniture (desks, chairs, filing cabinets, computers etc.) had been moved to one side of the room and it looked like the wreck of the Hesperus! Water had (once more) infiltrated the roof space above his office where the tree had fallen through the roof back in September whilst he was on holiday. The interview room where Fr D meets clients has now had to be declared unsafe as well. Thoroughly frustrated Fr D insisted that things (i.e. the insurance company) had to move at a faster pace than hitherto and get things sorted. Later in the afternoon Fr D was informed that works should begin in about two weeks time and ought to be finished just before Christmas. Ceilings are to be replaced and painted, walls made-good and painted, the floor carpet replaced, Fr D’s desk replaced and new LED lighting (like that in the Holy Family Parish Centre) fitted. Whilst still concerned about the time that things are taking Fr D was pleased that things are now really moving along...
Our life on earth is a part of the Paschal Mystery, the dying and rising of Christ. All of creation is wrapped up in this paschal mystery. The food that I consume each day was once living, but is transformed into energy that nourishes me. There is a natural cycle of life and death. And I know that my life is but a small part of the grand story of the cosmos, the earth, evolution, and life itself. Creatures have been on this earth for hundreds of millions of years, and they will continue to live on this earth far beyond the time of my passing. My time here is a grace. It is a free gift. Nothing I did or will do earned my own existence, and nothing I do can guarantee my number of days. My time on this earth is limited. My life will come to an end; of that I can be sure. But the paschal mystery continues. The cycle of life, death, and new life will continue. Since our time here is limited, it seems best to make the most of it, to enjoy the life-giving relationships we share, to acknowledge and love we care about, and to grow in deeper communion with our God, the source of all goodness and life.

With the recent celebration of All Saints and All Souls, and now the final days of this liturgical year, the Church is fully focussed on the ‘end time,’ also called the eschaton, the days of fulfilment of all that God has promised. Despite the doom and gloom message some may see in today’s gospel, our Christian focus on the end time is one of joy and is a constant throughout the year because it is at the very heart of what we do at every Eucharist. At every Mass, we remember what the Father has done for us through Christ, his Son. This remembering of Christ’s death and resurrection never keeps us looking backwards into the past. Rather, our anamnesis, our memorial, always propels us to the future promise, the eschaton, in which Christ even now is gathering all creation to his dwelling place. With every change in direction and new milestone, we

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Parish Christmas Bazaar 2018

The annual Parish Christmas Bazaar will take place on Saturday 1st December from 10.00 - 14.00 at the Holy Family Parish Centre, North Road, Lancing.

Please now gather together all sold ticket counterfoils, monies and unsold tickets for the Grand Draw and hand them in when you come to Mass next weekend (certainly by Wednesday 28th Nov.).

The Grand Draw is always the biggest 'money-spinner' of the event so trying to sell as many tickets as possible is very important. In fact, if we were to sell all of the tickets then we would have £2,000 in the bank before the doors open at 10.00.

There are now posters on the narthex notice boards suggesting ways in which you might be able to help make the event a success:

- donate one of the many prizes that will be required for the various draws/raffles
- donate stock for any of the many stalls (do make sure that any donations are fit for purpose)
- volunteer to help the 'site-team' to set-up and take-down the tables etc
- man a stall on the day

With eyes and spirits of faith: to appreciate the precious gift of our limited time on earth; to give hope to the persevering, who pick up the stumbling, who heal those broken in body or spirit; to understand that the Father’s love. But the angels will scour the earth and resurrection never keeps us looking backwards into the past. Rather, our anamnesis, our memorial, always propels us to the future promise, the eschaton in which Christ even now is gathering all creation to himself to present it as a final gift of sacrifice and praise to the Father.

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There are signs all around us, like the late autumn winds of November, that reminds us we live in the shadow of eternity. In everyone’s life, the ‘fig tree’ grows and flowers, reaps its precious harvest, and then withers. Jesus urges us to recognise such signs with eyes and spirits of faith: to appreciate the precious gift of our limited time on earth; to realise that pain and triumph are opportunities for understanding God’s transforming presence in one another; to understand that the ‘passing away’ of our own ‘heaven and earth’ is part of our journey to God’s dwelling place. With every change in direction and new milestone, we journey closer to the promise of the Easter Christ.

On today’s gospel, Jesus prophesies that he will send out the angels to gather the

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On today’s gospel, Jesus prophesies that he will send out the angels to gather the ‘elect.’ No effort will be spared; the angels will scour ‘earth’ and ‘sky’ so no one is left behind; all will be embraced in the Father’s love. But the angels’ work to lift up the unacknowledged ‘saints’ in our midst begins here and now. We can be the ‘angels’ who exalt the humble servant, who give hope to the persevering, who pick up the stumbling, who heal those broken in body or spirit. In our own baptisms, Jesus empowers us to begin the work of building the Father’s kingdom by ‘gathering’ his elect into the immeasurable love of God through our own acts of compassion, reconciliation, and justice.

Life is a journey of change - sometimes frightening, often traumatic, always difficult. But when our ‘heavens and earths’ pass away, the promise of God’s life and the gospel values remain constant. The unsettling images Jesus articulates in today’s gospel confront us with the reality that the things we give our lives to - our careers, our portfolios, our bodies, our celebrity - will one day be no more and their loss will leave us bitter and disillusioned. Christ calls us to embrace not the things of the world but the things of God: the eternal treasures of love and mercy, the joy that comes from selfless giving, the satisfaction that comes from lifting up the hopes and dreams of others.
Deacons’ Thoughts . . . .

This is an unusual week in that we hear from the book of Daniel for the only time on a Sunday in the three year cycle. There’s plenty in the book that is familiar: Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and Daniel’s interpretation of it, the boys escaping unburned from the furnace, Belshazzar’s Feast, Daniel in the lion’s den - all good stories. But then the book takes a turn towards something more symbolic and apocalyptic. It is in this book that we get the phrase ‘Son of Man’ which Jesus takes up in our Gospel passage. The later chapters have much in common with the book of Revelation hinting at the end times. Because this, of course, is where the Church directs our liturgical thoughts as the year comes to an end. With November bring the month of the dead, as the nights draw in and the leaves fall this season has a particular purpose. It contains the first mention of resurrection in the Jewish scriptures: ‘Of those who lie sleeping in the dust of the earth many will awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting disgrace.’ This idea was controversial for several decades before Jesus’ time and the Sadducee party denied it was true. The disciples of the Lord knew about the idea but didn’t fully understand what it meant until they were confronted by the reality of their Risen friend. Whenever we come across the often disturbing passages to do with judgement and the end times, it will be brought up in the offertory procession and will be placed upon the sanctuary - a sign that the names contained in the book are not forgotten by us.

Also during this month parishioners are invited to make Mass Offerings for their deceased family and friends. These can be made using our Parish Mass Envelopes (a reminder that the Bishop has said that the stipend for a Holy Souls Mass should be £10).

Catholic Women’s League - This month’s meeting will take place on Wednesday 28th November at 14.30 in the Holy Family Parish Centre. Please remember that the balance for this year’s ‘Festive Meal’ on 2nd January will need to be collected from everyone at the meeting.

GraveTalk - It’s not easy to think about your own funeral. Talking about death, dying and funerals raises big questions that we need to face at some point, but it’s hard to talk to family and friends. ‘GraveTalk’ is a café space where people can talk about these big questions. The conversation is helped along by ‘GraveTalk’ conversation cards – 52 questions covering 5 key areas.

St Michael and All Angels will be hosting our first ‘GraveTalk’ session on Sunday 17th December at 17.00 in St Michael’s Church Hall, Lancing. Please do make a point to join the Group on the notice in the church narthex.

New Priest To Be Ordained - The Diocese is looking forward to the ordination to the priesthood of Deacon Jack Lusted on Wednesday 19th December 19.00 at Arundel Cathedral. Please do make a point of praying for him and his future ministry in the Diocese.