

Services This Week

Sacred Heart

Monday 17th February

The Seven Holy
Founders of the Servite
Order
Eucharistic Service
12.00 Noon

Tuesday 18th February

No Service

Wednesday 19th February

Eucharistic Service

Thursday 20th February

No Service

Friday 21st February

St Peter Damian
(Exposition 11.30 a.m.)
Eucharistic Service
12.00 Noon

Saturday 22nd February

The Chair of St Peter
11.00 a.m.
6.15 p.m.(Vigil)

Sunday 23rd February

10.30 a.m.

St Anne's

Sunday 23rd February

12.30 p.m.

Sacred Heart & St. Anne's Parish Newsletter

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, 16th February 2025



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MESSAGE FROM FR. JIM: As human beings, we are gifted with a range of emotions—from the heights of happiness to the depths of despair. This emotional landscape is what makes us human. It is in our most challenging moments that we often find our true strength, and it is in our moments of gratitude that we recognise the presence of something greater than ourselves

Trusting in God doesn't mean that life will always be easy or that we will never experience pain. Rather, it means surrendering our fears, doubts, and the illusion of control, and recognising that there is a divine plan at work. When we trust in God, we are reminded that even in our darkest moments, we are never truly alone.

Today's reading from Jeremiah 17:5-8 invites us to reflect on two contrasting ways of living: one based on misplaced trust and the other on a deep, abiding reliance on God.

Jeremiah warns us, "Cursed is the man who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh, whose heart turns away from the Lord." This vivid imagery calls us to examine the foundations of our trust. In a world that often values human wisdom, self-reliance, and the fleeting assurances of worldly success, we can easily be tempted to anchor our hope in people, institutions, or even our own strength. Yet, as Jeremiah points out, when we place our trust solely in the transient, we risk becoming like a shrub in the desert—fragile, isolated, and ill-prepared to face life's inevitable hardships.

In stark contrast, Jeremiah proclaims, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord."

FEASTS OF THE WEEK:

The Seven Founders of the Servite Order (Monday) : Born in Italy in Florence, they were members of the Confraternity of Our Lady. They withdrew to the mountains in 1233 to live the life of hermits and founded the Servites' Order which received papal approval in 1304. The Servites' austere lifestyle was based on prayer and mortification, as they meditated on Christ's Passion and venerated Our Lady of Sorrows.

St Peter Damian (Friday) : He was born in 1007 at Ravenna and joined the monastic community founded by St Romuald. After serving as Abbot, he was appointed Cardinal Bishop of Ostia in 1057 and played a leading part in Church reform. An important theologian and poet, Peter Damian was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1828.

The Chair of St Peter (Saturday) : This feast recalls the special ministry conferred by Christ on Peter, the Prince of the Apostles, which has continued in unbroken succession to the present Pope. It is an opportunity for the faithful to renew their communion with the leader of the Church in Rome and to follow closely his teachings.

ANNIVERSARIES: Fiona Walsh, Edith Whipp, Mario Brian Jimenez, Helen Davis, Grant Garswood, Veronica Sargent, Patricia Ann Burke, Mary Swarbrick, Susan Parry, Elizabeth Alice Fletcher, Roy Rosney, Michael Mazala, Mary Dorothy Deren, Margaret Rutter, Edward Parkinson, Mary Walton, Hugh Oliver Albin, Dorothy Hobkirk, Kathleen Waywell, Honora Dullenty. May they rest in peace.

TODAY in 'old money' was known as **Septuagesima** Sunday, beginning the countdown to Easter approximately **seventy** days before the great feast. Next Sunday will be Sexagesima Sunday (60 days) and then the last Sunday before the start of Lent is Quinquagesima (50 days). The numbers are not an exact calculation but were chosen as the nearest round numbers. The short season of Septuagesima, lasting 17 days, is a Pre-Lent sequence and was designed to ease us into the penitential 40-days' season itself. These terms were discontinued after the Second Vatican Council reforms but remain as a useful reminder of the approach of Lent and, more importantly, Easter.

COLLECTIONS: Offertory £305.45 (Sacred Heart £195.95; St Anne's £109.50). Parish Pound (SH) £104.10. Many thanks.

KNIT 'N' NATTER group will meet in the Parish Room tomorrow (Monday) afternoon from 2.00 p.m.

BINGO in the Parish Room on Thursday afternoon this week from 2.00 p.m.

BOOK CLUB: A reminder that the first meeting of the newly-formed Book Club will take place in the Parish Room a week on Tuesday, 25th February at 2.00 p.m. Copies of the first book to be read will be distributed at this meeting. If you have not already signed up to join the club but are interested in finding out more about it, please feel free to attend.