

Parish Priest: Fr. John Byrne

Fr. Voytek Przyjalkowski

ST. MARY & ST. JOSEPH

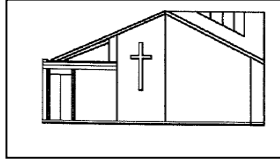
ST. MARK'S

GROVEHILL AND HIGHFIELD

These Parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Westminster. Registered charity No: 233699



St John's Road, Boxmoor



Hollybush Lane

(Back of JFK School)



Church of the Resurrection

(Henry Wells Square)

186 St John's Road, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP1 1NR

Tel. & Fax: (01442) 391759 : Mobile: 07879058732

e-mail: Fr. John: pp@boxmoorcatholic.org

Deacon Simon Wright: Mobile: 07711 846554: email: simon@symtech.ltd.uk

Fr. Gregory: (on sabbatical) Mobile 07930 263432

Youth Worker: Venus Garcia-George: Mobile: 07890590585

299 St Agnell's Lane, Grovehill HP2 6EQ

Tel (01442) 259141

e-mail: (for newsletter items) pp@boxmoorcatholic.org

Hospital Chaplain: Mrs. Lynn Bassett: Tel: 01727 897254

26th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

27TH SEPTEMBER 2009

MASS TIMES

St Mary & St Joseph

Boxmoor

Sun 9am
11.30am
6pm

Mon 9.30am

Wed 9.30am

Thurs 12.30pm

Fri 9.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

(confession):

Sat 11am – 11.30am

St Mark's

Hollybush Lane

Sat 5.30pm (Vigil)

Sun 10.30am

Tue 7pm

Wed 1.30pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

(confession) –

before evening Mass

Church of the

Resurrection

Highfield & Grovehill

Sat 5pm (Vigil)

Sun 9.30am

Mon 7.30pm

Tue 9.30am

Fri 9.30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

(Confession) –

after morning Mass

Tough on sin and tough on the causes of sin.

In our gospel reading today Jesus is NOT suggesting amateur self surgery! But he is saying that we should not only be “tough on sin” and also “tough on the causes of sin”.

Take for example alcohol. Jesus was well known for his social gatherings and wine was an integral part of these occasions; Jesus drank wine. But alcohol lowers our inhibitions, which may lead us to do something wrong. If this is the case then the pleasure we derived from drinking is nothing compared to the damage done by our sin, therefore it would have been better for us not to have had a drink. Jesus is saying that if alcohol is going to lead us down the wrong path then we should stop drinking.

Another example is driving. Road speed limits are there not just for our safety but also for the safety of others. Exceeding the speed limit does not mean that you will have a road accident but if an accident does occur, whilst exceeding the speed limit, then the damage done will be far greater. Jesus is saying that if we cannot stick to the speed limit it would be better if we did not drive.

We should shun sin and shun the causes of sin. In classical Catholic teaching these examples are referred to as “occasions of sin”. For the vast majority of people, drinking or driving are not sinful activities and are referred to as “remote” occasions for sin. We are all aware of the dangers of excessive drink and excessive speed but if we exercise self-control we can be sure not to cross the boundary.

Unfortunately modern life is not always that simple and there are, what is referred to as, “near” occasions of sin. Certain parts of the media, some advertising and some prevailing social norms may encourage us to go down the wrong path, as can peer pressure. Have we ever succumbed to the temptation to “have one for the road” or to “hurry up or we will be late”?

As Catholics we are called to act in a counter-cultural way, to be the voice of restraint and moderation, to live simply, to act justly and to walk humbly; and by our words and actions we will encourage others to do the same.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS

DEADLINE IS

WEDNESDAY

Deacon Simon