



**ST CLEMENT'S CHURCH, EWELL**  
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 Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton  
 Charity No. 252878



**All Masses are now live-streamed.**  
**Access to the live streaming can be acquired through the Parish Website.**  
**Mass on Friday is behind closed doors**

<b>18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>		
<b>Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2021</b>	<b>Psalter Week 2</b>	<b>Cycle B</b>
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	John Flannegan RIP
<b>Sunday 01 Aug</b>	8.30 am	Intention of Kay Bryne & Fmly.
	10.30 am	David Anderson RIP
Wednesday	10.00 am	S/O Nelson Dsouza
Friday behind closed doors	10.00 pm	All Parishioners

<b>19<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time</b>		
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2021</b>	<b>Psalter Week 3</b>	<b>Cycle B</b>
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Betty Hay RIP
<b>Sunday 08 Aug</b>	8.30 am	Holy Souls
	10.30 am	Henry Hicks RIP
Wednesday	10.00 am	Fr Andrew Smith, O.Praem RIP
Friday behind closed doors	10.00 am	All Parishioners
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Well-being of the Kennedy Fmly
<b>Sunday 15 Aug</b>	8.30 am	Bernard Bamford RIP
	10.30 am	Tony Bellino RIP

**FEAST DAYS: 1<sup>ST</sup> – 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

Wednesday: St John Mary Vianney. Priest  
 Friday: Transfiguration of the Lord

**FEAST DAYS: 8<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

Monday: St Theresa Benedicta of the Cross, Martyr, Patron of Europe  
 Tuesday: St Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr  
 Wednesday: St Clare, Virgin  
 Saturday: St Maximillian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr

**ANNIVERSARIES: 1<sup>ST</sup> – 7<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

Mary Church, Patricia Woodley, Eric Brown, Ernesto Grannelli

**ANNIVERSARIES: 8<sup>TH</sup> – 14<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**

William Cullen, Don Marshall, Pia Furdyn, Ethel Gee, Clifford Andrews

**RECOVERY AND WELL-BEING:** Please pray for: Steve Kamm, Chris Williamson, Mary Frost, Maureen O'Sullivan, Margaret Harris, Jocelyn Bowen, Joseph Ewing and Martina Savage, Rose Leonard.

**POOR BOX IN CHURCH:** Thankyou sincerely to all who have put money in the Poor Box which is situated in the narthex. Donations have been made to:

St Anthony's Charitable Projects	£150
Aid to the church in Need	£100
Mary's Meals	£100

Once again, many thanks.

**A Prayer for Community Spirit**

O God, teach us to live together in love and joy and peace, to check all bitterness, disown discouragement, to practise thanksgiving and leap with joy to any task for others. Strengthen the good things thus begun, that with gallant and high-heartedness we may look for your kingdom in the wills of men. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *The prayer of Toc H*

**JULY 200 CLUB WINNERS:** Ahu Guray No. 109 £30 Neola Dsouza No.5 £20 Congratulations!

**REFLECTIONS**

**18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time – “He who believes in me will never thirst” (John 6 : 35)**

These readings speak to our lives today. Jesus continues to invite us to recognise the treasures that God in his love is offering, but which we so often overlook or fail to appreciate. When we look at the situation of our own lives, or of our Church and world, perhaps our initial reaction is to do what the Israelites did: we moan and grumble about our lot. The Lord's response is always to send us his blessings and his love, just as he showered down bread in answer to the Israelites' hunger. The challenge for us is to listen to the voice of those who – like Moses - call us to recognise the goodness of God, the freedom God brings us, the promised land to which God is leading us.

**19<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time – “Everybody who believes has eternal life” (John 6 : 4)**

The Journey of our own life can often be difficult. Problems and persecutions come in many shapes and guises. War and the threat of death affect many people. Tragedies strike down the lives of others. We are no strangers to sickness and sorrow. The will to live, the strength to carry on, can be drained out of the best of us. It is then that we need spiritual strength to revive us and to help us on life's journey. We need reminding that life is good, and that the Lord is drawing us to him.

That is why Jesus says today, in no uncertain terms, “I am the bread of life”. He is the living bread come down from heaven, so that we may eat and not die. His word gives life to the world. His self-sacrifice on the cross will set us free. Risen from the dead, he will raise us up on the last day. The victory of Jesus over death is the guarantee of victory for all who live and die in faithfulness. As Jesus says, “They will live for ever.

for a cause. I'm living for my community... and I will die to defend their rights."

During his three years as a minister, he did make significant progress in banning hate speech against minorities, establishing the study of comparative religion on the schools' curriculum, establishing a quota for minorities in the legislature, and persuading leaders of all faiths in Pakistan to issue a joint declaration against terrorism. It was his efforts to reform blasphemy laws, incomplete at the time of his death, that caused most controversy.

### OUTPOURING OF LOVE

His older brother, Paul, working as a doctor in Italy, returned for the funeral. He subsequently agreed to become the next Minister for Minority Affairs, moved by witnessing so many Pakistanis, Muslims among them, who turned out that day in an outpouring of love for his dead brother. Paul revealed publicly that he had forgiven the assassins. It is through such forgiveness that martyrdom can transform social and political life. In 2016, the cause for Bhatti's beatification began. "He was an angel for Pakistan," said his cousin, Father Emmanuel Parvez, at a Mass in 2020 to mark the anniversary of his death, "a gift of God to the nation".

Peter Stanford is a Catholic writer and broadcaster ([peterstanford.org](http://peterstanford.org)). His latest book, *Pilgrimage*, is published by Thames & Hudson.

### Mass text

#### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**O God, come to my assistance;  
O Lord, make haste to help me!  
You are my rescuer, my help;  
O Lord, do not delay.**

FIRST READING Exodus 16:2-4. 12-15

PSALM Psalm 77

RESPONSE **The Lord gave them bread from heaven.**

1. The things we have heard and understood, the things our fathers have told us, we will tell to the next generation: the glories of the Lord and his might. **R.**
2. He commanded the clouds above and opened the gates of heaven. He rained down manna for their food, and gave them bread from heaven. **R.**
3. Mere men ate the bread of angels. He sent them abundance of food. He brought them to his holy land, to the mountain which his right hand had won. **R.**

SECOND READING Ephesians 4:17. 20-24

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
Man does not live on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth  
of God.  
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL John 6:24-35

#### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**I am the bread of life, says the Lord;  
whoever comes to me will not hunger  
and whoever believes in me will not thirst.**

#### Next Sunday's Readings:

1 Kings 19:4-8  
Ephesians 4:30 - 5:2  
John 6:41-51



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# SUNDAY BULLETIN

THINKING FAITH  
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## SHAHBAZ BHATTI

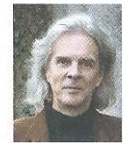
Shahbaz Bhatti was leaving his mother's house in Islamabad, the Pakistani capital, on the morning of 2 March 2011. He had called in to see her on his way to work in the official government car that went with his job as Minister for Minority Affairs. As his driver pulled off, the car was sprayed with bullets. The driver survived, but forty-one-year-old Bhatti died on his way to the local hospital.

Just under two per cent of Pakistan's population is Christian in a country that is ninety-five per cent Muslim. As a minority, they have long faced persecution, marginalisation and even violence, despite the country's revered independence leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah's public commitment to build a tolerant secular society where religious freedom was respected. It was in an effort to return to this founding vision that Bhatti had finally agreed, three years earlier (he had turned down two previous offers), to become his country's first-ever Cabinet-level minister for "National Harmony".

Born into a middle-class family in Lahore and raised as a Catholic, he had been, since his student days, a vocal and indefatigable campaigner against the harsh blasphemy laws in the country, which he believed had been used to marginalise and oppress non-Muslims. In office, he received a constant flow of death threats, which only increased in number after he supported the legal appeal by a Christian woman, Asia Bibi, against the death sentence she had been handed by a court for blasphemy (an appeal that was finally upheld in 2018). He refused to be intimidated, intervening in 2009 in a headline-making outbreak of inter-community violence in Gojra in Punjab, where eight Christians had been killed and houses burnt to the ground. He went to the town's police station with relatives of the dead and refused to leave until officers had taken their statements about the crimes that had been committed. He saw his work in government as a mission to convey "a message of hope to the people living a life of disappointment, disillusionment and despair".

Muslim extremists of the Tehrik-i-Taliban group claimed responsibility for his murder in 2011. Bhatti had long since anticipated such a violent end to his life as the potential cost for doing what he felt called to do. He had chosen not to marry, he said, because he did not want to leave behind a family of fatherless children. He bequeathed a video message to be played in the event of his murder. "The forces of violence want to impose their radical philosophy," he told the camera, "[but] I believe in Jesus Christ, who has given his own life for us. I know what is the meaning of the cross and I am following it. And I am ready to die

## Martyrs of our times



Peter Stanford looks at the life and martyrdom of a man described as an "angel for Pakistan".



1 AUGUST 2021

18TH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK II



my Church and my family to remember that my life was GIVEN [his capitals] to God and to this country." He firmly rebutted any suggestion that the monks had been naive or idealistic to stay put, and forgave "with all my heart the one who would strike me down". He prayed that in the next life God would "immerse my gaze in that of the Father to contemplate with him his children of Islam just as he sees them, all shining with the glory of Christ, the fruit of his Passion, filled with the Gift of the Spirit whose secret joy will always be to establish communion and restore the likeness, playing with the differences".

### WITNESS OF LOVE

At the time of the monks' deaths, St John Paul II publicly praised their "witness of love". In December 2018, the seven, along with twelve other Algerians who had died for their faith, were beatified in a ceremony at the Catholic cathedral in Oran, the first to take place in a Muslim nation. And today Notre Dame de L'Atlas, now run by a small resident community from the French Catholic Chemin Neuf movement, stands as a living memorial to the monks' commitment to interfaith bridge-building. In 2019, ninety-five-year-old Father Jean-Pierre Schumacher, who had survived the attack, met Pope Francis. "It's God who drove that history," he told the pontiff. "What happened to that monastery became an image for the entire world. An image of reconciliation. It's a call to all today."

Peter Stanford is a Catholic writer and broadcaster ([peterstanford.org](http://peterstanford.org)). His latest book, *Pilgrimage*, is published by Thames & Hudson.

### Mass text

#### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Look to your covenant, O Lord,  
and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever.  
Arise, O God, and defend your cause,  
and forget not the cries of those who seek you.**

#### FIRST READING 1 Kings 19:4-8

#### PSALM Psalm 33

#### RESPONSE **Taste and see that the Lord is good.**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad. **R.**
2. Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free. **R.**
3. Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
This poor man called; the Lord heard him  
and rescued him from all his distress. **R.**

4. The angel of the Lord is encamped  
around those who revere him, to rescue  
them.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
He is happy who seeks refuge in him. **R.**

#### SECOND READING Ephesians 4:30 – 5:2

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the living bread which has come down  
from heaven,  
says the Lord.  
Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.  
Alleluia!**

#### GOSPEL John 6:41-51

#### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The bread that I will give, says the Lord,  
is my flesh for the life of the world.**

#### Next Sunday's Readings:

Apocalypse 11:19; 12:1-6, 10  
1 Corinthians 15:20-26  
Luke 1:39-56



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# SUNDAY BULLETIN

THINKING FAITH

## THE MONKS OF OUR LADY OF THE ATLAS

At one o'clock in the morning on 27 March 1996, militants from the Armed Islamic Group, fundamentalist Muslims caught up in a civil war with the secular Algerian government over a disputed general election in 1991, forced their way into the monastery of Notre Dame de L'Atlas, at Tibhirine in the remote mountainous region of Medea. They kidnapped seven of the Cistercian Trappist monks who followed the *Rule of St Benedict* there, missing two others in a different part of the building. Their plan was initially to exchange the seven, aged between forty-five and eighty-two, for one of their jailed leaders, but on 21 May they announced they had murdered all seven by beheading (though a subsequent inquiry suggested the monks may have died during a botched attempt to rescue them).

Their bodies were never found, but the skulls of the Prior, Christian de Chergé, Brother Luc, Father Christophe, Brother Michel, Father Bruno, Father Célestin and Brother Paul were laid to rest in the grounds of the monastery that had been their home. Brother Luc, the eldest of the group and a doctor, had single-handedly run the clinic there for fifty years, treating an estimated 800,000 local people. Founded in 1938, Notre Dame de L'Atlas was somewhere the monks shared the lives of the local Muslim population, tending commonly held land dotted with chestnut trees, and in a practical, everyday fashion breaking down misunderstandings between their two faiths. Many Catholics of French origin had left Algeria in 1962 after its war of independence, but it was the monks' sense of themselves not only as a religious community, but as part of the wider community at Tibhirine, that made them stay in 1996 after threats had been issued against them by the militants.

Their steadfastness, and the esteem in which they were held by those who lived and worked alongside them, were explored in an award-winning 2010 film, *Of Gods and Men*, but it is the last testament of the prior, Dom Christian – who is said to have spent as much time studying the Quran as the Bible – that has subsequently proved inspirational, not just to those who risk their lives for their faith, but also in the field of Catholic-Muslim relations.

"If it should happen one day – and it could be today – that I become a victim of the terrorism which now seems ready to engulf all the foreigners living in Algeria," he began, "I would like my community,

## Martyrs of our times



Peter Stanford reflects on how members of a religious community gave up their lives for their faith and for the people among whom they lived.



8 AUGUST 2021

19TH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK III