

Thought for the week
Sunday, 8th November, 2020
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lord Jesus Christ,
our Divine Physician,

we ask you to guard and protect us
and all people from the
coronavirus and all serious illness.

For all who have died from it ,
have mercy;

For all who are ill now,
bring healing;

For all searching for a remedy,
enlighten them;

For medical caregivers, helping the sick,
strengthen and shield them;

For all working to contain the spread,
grant them success;

For those afraid,
grant peace of mind.

By your grace,
may you turn the evil of disease
into moments of consolation and hope.

We abandon ourselves into your
infinite mercy.

Amen.

Until the appointment letter came through the door, I didn't know that men of a certain age were invited by the NHS to be screened for an abdominal aortic aneurysm. The scan checks if the aorta, the main artery taking blood from the heart to the rest of the body, has become weakened so that corrective action can be taken if necessary. I've lived with my aorta all my life and never gave it a thought. Now however, until my appointment, I can't help thinking about it occasionally. Should I stop strenuous exercise and confine myself to my armchair until I am checked!

There are times in the year when God, through the ministry and liturgy of the Church, sends us a metaphorical screening letter. We can either act on it or bin it. The month of November is one such season, as are Advent and Lent. During this month, as the Church's year draws to a close, our thoughts turn to those who have died, and the Gospel readings remind us that we need to be ready for the 'end times,' the time when Jesus will come again in his glory. We are invited to take a look at our spiritual health and to make adjustments that will prepare us for that day. Do I take my faith and the practice of my faith for granted? Have I slipped into spiritually unhealthy habits? Am having the equivalent of my spiritual '5 a day?'

Having a healthy, fit body, is a tremendous gift that none of us should take for granted and it is right that we do all we can to look after our bodies. Think of the amount we are prepared to spend on the NHS or private medicine. Yet we know we have our bodies for a limited time. Shouldn't we invest even more time and effort on our spiritual health so that we will be fit and ready for eternal life? During this month let us respond to God's invitation to have a spiritual health check and identify any necessary adjustments needed so that we can enjoy eternal life with him.

Deacon Brian



Prayers Please

Maddy Sharman has asked for our prayers.

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry

Please pray for Cecilia Fung, the mother of Fr Jojo. She has had a stroke.

Please pray for Timothy Kehoe, who is very ill.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has been readmitted to hospital due to the coronavirus.

Please pray for Caroline Mikhail (daughter – in - law of Jane and Ramsay Mikhail) who suffered a stroke.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for Jean's great grandson Rogan who is 8 and has leukaemia. Rogan continues to need our prayers.

Please pray for Ted Cotter (brother of Philomena) who has cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

Please pray for children under stress.

Please pray for the residents and staff at the two nursing homes in our parish, Abbeycrest and St Luke's.

Please pray for all victims of the Coronavirus.



Please also remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;

Ester and Charlie, Alfreda Hubbard, Mary Hunt, William (Bill) Walton, Nora Smyth, Winifred Ferns, James and Lena Dnova, Peter, Brian and James Bird, Bill Buffery, Geza Tolth, Sylvia Warder, Eunice Dover.