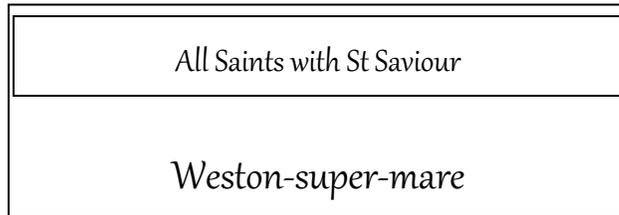




Arms of St Saviour



Arms of All Saints

Dear friends,

I am grateful to my retired colleagues for covering the Masses in both of our Affinity Parishes this coming Sunday. At St John's Thomas Hingston Kevern is to be baptized during the main service, so we welcome him and his parents, Natasha and Andrew, and his godparents to the Solemn Mass. I know it will be an occasion of great joy and thanksgiving.

The reason for my absence is that my friend Revd. Prebendary David Houlding, Vicar of All Hallows' Gospel Oak, celebrates his retirement Mass on Sunday, two days before his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. We have been friends since 1982 and I remember the day he was Instituted as Vicar of All Hallows' 38 years ago! David has been a national figure in the Catholic movement across those years, a member of the general Synod, Chair of the Catholic group, member of the Archbishop's Council, Chair of the Church of England Appointments Committee, Master General of the Society of the Holy Cross. An icon, written in memory of my wife, Diane, hangs in his church where she was his parishioner. I'm sure you will understand my need to be there to celebrate with him.

Looking ahead... on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August we celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady with a visit by our Bishop, Paul. He will preside at the 10.30am Solemn Mass at St John's. That Mass is followed by the parish Barbeque. There will be a Mass with hymns at All Saints, as all are encouraged to attend the Mass at St John's. Bishop Paul has said that if there are any candidates for Confirmation, he is happy to celebrate that Sacrament in the course of the Mass.

Maybe you are at that point in your life where you would like to do this? If you are please talk to me as soon as possible. Confirmation is about being commissioned for apostolic witness, no longer is it about being admitted to Holy Communion. If you are baptized you are welcome to receive Holy Communion which is why children receive Holy Communion at St John's.

The 'outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace' at Confirmation is the Bishop laying on hands on the candidate's head (the Bishop standing in succession to the Apostles) and anointing with the oil of Chrism.

I shall miss you all on Sunday.

With my love and prayers,

Fr Brendan