



St Mary's Catholic Church

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Newsletter for Sunday 25th August 2019 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Psalter Week 1

Where are you from?

Nobody likes disappointment. Dealing with it can be a difficult lesson that many of us learn in childhood and some still struggle to learn as adults. Yes, we can learn to avoid disappointment in a number of ways like being prepared, having proper expectations, and knowing a given situation. For example, we don't expect a friend who is always chronically late to be punctual. It's a matter of managing expectations. That's why we tell such a friend everything starts at 10 am when really it begins at 10.30, in the hope that they will get there for the start! (Don't try that one too often or they'll get wise to you.)

Our Gospel this week gives us a somewhat troubling story of those who were undoubtedly disappointed. They stand at the door and knock only to be told:

"I don't know where you come from, away from me."

This passage and others in the gospels remind us of an uncomfortable, perhaps disappointing truth. The effective answer to the question to Jesus, **"Sir, will there be only a few saved?"** that many will attempt it but be disappointed, even some who know the Lord, who ate and drank in His company, will be shut out. Such a message is far from the feel good, open wide, broad path to salvation that we all might imagine or hope for, where everyone gets to heaven, especially those of us who come to Mass on Sundays, don't they? But that warning to those who know the Lord should fall squarely on us!

A relationship with Christ is not an insurance policy whereby we pay our premiums (Mass on Sundays, Confession once a year etc.) and expect a settlement when needed, heaven. This relationship with the Son of God is not so transactional that we do x,y, and z and Jesus in return grants us forgiveness and salvation. **No, salvation is a gift, not a reward** that we've earned. It's undeserved no matter how much we might feel we deserve it. The narrow door, Jesus speaks of, is the narrow door of living the faith day by day, in our prayers and adoration, our generosity, our forgiveness, our help, love and service to others, our being the hands, the feet, the eyes, the love of Jesus, in the family, the community, the world. It is the showing **'where we are from'**. We are from Jesus, we are from mercy, love and peace, forgiveness, truth and hope. We are the children of God. The failures, the disappointed, the betrayed, who nevertheless hope, love and strive in faith towards that **narrow gate**, because we know we daily receive mercy, forgiveness, hope and love, we will never deserve but which Jesus freely gives, to those who truly strive to follow Him and share it with others.

Let's show where we are from, aiming for that narrow gate.

Fr David Jones OLV

MASS TIMES AT ST MARY'S

Sat	24 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	25 th	<u>Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass
		12.45pm	Polish Mass
		4.00pm	Italian Mass
Mon	26 th	9.15am	Feria
Tues	27 th	9.15am	Saint Monica
Weds	28 th	9.15am	Saint Augustine, bishop & doctor
Thurs	29 th	9.15am	The Passion of Saint John the Baptist
Fri	30 th	9.15am	Dedication of the Cathedral (Feast)
Sat	31 st	9.15am	Saint Aidan, bishop, & Saints of Lindisfarne
		10.00-11.00am	<i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
		2.30pm	<i>Baptism</i>
		5.30-5.55pm	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		6.00pm	Vigil Mass
Sun	1 st	<u>Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</u>	
		9.00am	Parish Mass
		10.30-10.55am	<i>Confessions + on request</i>
		11.00am	Parish Mass

THIS WEEK AT ST MARY'S

Tues	27 th	6.45-7.15pm	The Rosary – Church
Thurs	29 th	6.00-9.00pm	Grub Club Celebration – Hall

The next Holy Hour for Vocations will be on Thursday 5th September at 7pm.

FROM THE SAINTS: ‘I ground my faith upon Jesus Christ and by Him I steadfastly believe to be saved as is taught by the Catholic Church throughout all Christendom.’ (*St Margaret Clitherow, 1556-1586*)

NB: Due to the new government regulations regarding personal data (GDPR), we are only able to publicise the Mass intentions in the printed edition of the newsletter.

GRUB CLUB: Summer Grub Club at St Mary's has ended after another successful season. We served 500+ hot meals (3 courses) to 57 children and their parents over a six-week period. We managed to distribute 100+ coats. And there was the trip to Twin Lakes on Thursday. There were over 50 volunteers, aged 18 to 70+, from St Mary's and Sacred Heart churches, De Lisle and Amherst schools and elsewhere. We had the services of football coaches and a brilliant dance coach. There were many activities on offer, varied across the weeks. Including: jellyfish suncatchers; paper bracelets; grass heads; weaving; balloon rockets; straw rockets; upcycled egg carton rose; clay modelling and painting; rainsticks; stained glass bookmarks.

Here are extracts from some of the (written) comments from families:

'The volunteers are amazing very friendly, supportive and always smiling'.

'We haven't been able to do much over the holidays but this is one place we can guarantee to see friendly people each week'

'The club has really helped my girls grow in self esteem and confidence and for that we are truly grateful'

'We wouldn't have had a fun summer if it wasn't for the group as we don't go on holidays'

'We have really enjoyed our time at Grub club. It has been really nice for our children to go somewhere different and get to interact with other people'.

We've got to know many of the families, including a 3-generation family, with an additional member, little Harper Jane, born last week. A huge thanks to parishioners who helped to make this happen. Getting involved is a great way to make friends. There is such a great community spirit during the sessions. Tell us if you are interested.

Thanks to our priests, also Priscilla Jordan and Ben from St Mary's School, for their support. And to LCC for their permissions.

If you have helped in any way please come along to the parish hall, Thursday 29th August, 7-9pm, for a get-together. If you lent us a coat rail please collect from the parish hall.

Grub Club is an initiative from the St Mary's Catholic Social Action group.

FR PAUL is away until Friday 30th August.

FR CHARLES' 90th BIRTHDAY: We will be presenting a large card or small booklet to Fr Charles on his birthday, 5th September. If you would like to write a message for him, please pick up a piece of paper from the repository, and return it to Jane Monaghan, Bernie McEnery, Emily Vu or the parish office by **Wednesday 28th August**. Thank you.

Please pray for those who have died: May they rest in peace.

and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Johanne Main, Franciszek Malik, Lesley Owens, Irene Elsner, Kyle Rooney, David Wells, Rev Sr Mary Anthony Popple, Edwardina Pannell, Roderick MacMillan, Mary Durning, Richard Newton, Des Scrivens and Taylor Moreland

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

LEADER: Please kneel for our prayer for vocations. Let us ask God to give worthy Priests to His Holy Church and Brothers and Sisters to Religious Orders.

ALL: O God, we earnestly beseech You to bless this diocese with many priests, brothers and sisters, who will gladly spend their entire lives serving Your Church and making You known and loved.

LEADER: Bless our families. Bless our children.

ALL: Choose from our homes those who are needed for Your work.

LEADER: Mary, Queen of the Clergy!

ALL: Pray for us. Pray for our priests and religious. Obtain for us many more. Amen.

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL: Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God thrust down to hell Satan and all the wicked spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

HARVEST LUNCH: Sunday 22nd September in the parish hall after 11am Mass (12.30pm). Tickets - £10 adults, £5 children, £20 family - on sale after all Masses from next weekend.

CARMELITE DAY: Heather Ward will be coming to St Mary's on **Saturday 31st August** to talk about Carmelite Spirituality. The title of the day is 'In the Company of Our Lady of Mount Carmel - the Carmelite Way of Prayer'. Time and place: 11.15am-3.45pm in the Parish hall. All are welcome to attend. **Please bring a packed lunch. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.**

Fr Paul

THE RCIA GROUP (for those who are thinking of becoming Catholic) will have its first meeting on **Thursday 12th September at 7pm** in the library. If you are interested in joining the group, please speak to Fr Paul before this meeting so that he can give you an application form to complete.

ART EXHIBITION – 'ABOVE THE FINIAL' - SHEILA RISTE CLEMERSON (aka Leafe): Weekends of **24th/25th August and 31st August/1st September**, 11am - 3 pm, at Old Rectory Museum, Loughborough, LE11 1UW. Donations invited for **Kwediboma** and 20% of any sales to be donated to **Kwediboma**.

THE XAVERIAN MISSIONARIES IN THE WORLD: St Guido Maria Conforti, Founder of the Xaverian Missionaries (1895) wanted his first missionaries to continue the work of St Francis Xavier, the patron saint of the Missionary Family, in China at whose doors Xavier had died. Therefore, China was chosen as the first mission of the Xaverians, but all the missionaries were expelled from the country in 1954. The Xaverians then accepted the invitation of the Popes to announce the Gospel in many other nations. Today the Xaverians (who are roughly 692 in number) work in 22 countries. **Next weekend Fr Archie Casey SX will be making the Annual Mission Appeal.** He has worked in Bangladesh and the Philippines.

LAST WEEK'S FINANCE	
First Collection: £ 900	
Standing Orders: £ 665 @ 31/07	<i>Thank you</i>