

THE PARISH OF ST CHARLES AND ST THOMAS MORE

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
13th September 2020



Contact us...

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Please remember in your prayers all those who are sick, those who have died, including Robert John Kearney whose Funeral Mass will take place on Wednesday and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time and all those who mourn.

Temporary Mass Times

Day	Feast	Times	Mass Intention
Saturday	<i>Vigil Mass</i>	4.30 pm	<i>Tom Hughes</i>
	<i>Vigil Mass</i>	6.00 pm	<i>Albert Brough</i>
Sunday	<i>Sunday Mass</i>	8.30 am	<i>Sarah & Tony Patterson</i>
	<i>Sunday Mass</i>	10.00 am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	<i>Sunday Mass</i>	11.30 am	<i>Sadie Porter</i>
Monday	<i>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i>	7.00 pm	<i>Tom Woolfrey</i>
Tuesday	<i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	7.00 pm	<i>Charles Jones</i>
Wednesday	<i>St. Cornelius & St. Cyprian</i>	7.00 pm	<i>Cannole Family Ancestors</i>
Thursday		7.00 pm	<i>Richard Sweeney</i>
Friday		7.00 pm	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Saturday	<i>Vigil Mass</i>	4.30 pm	<i>Pauline Furlong</i>
	<i>Vigil Mass</i>	6.00 pm	<i>Joseph Francis Gradwell</i>
Sunday	<i>Sunday Mass</i>	8.30 am	<i>Michael Boothe</i>
	<i>Sunday Mass</i>	10.00 am	<i>Michael Brodie</i>
	<i>Sunday Mass</i>	11.30 am	<i>People of the Parish</i>

Candle Intentions this Week:

Sanctuary Candle:
Bishop Malone

Marian Candle:
Fr Paul Fegan

Sacred Heart Candle:
Vocations to the Priesthood

Mass Attendance...

Monday - Friday
7 pm holds steadily between 15 - 30

Saturday

4.30 pm 59

6.00 pm 53

Sunday

8.30 am 21

10.00 am 36

11.30 am 56

Last weekend we had a total of 225 at our weekend Masses...

Arrivederci e Buona Fortuna Martin

I know you join me in wishing Martin well as he leaves us this weekend. We have all enjoyed getting to know him a little better, listening to his reflections at Masses over the past few weeks. We assure him of our prayerful support as he takes a little break before returning to Rome at the end of the month. (There was a time I would have said, "God willing" but perhaps its more accurate to say CoVid restrictions permitting!)

Parish Income...

Envelopes	£ 385.00
Loose plate	£ 224.09
Standing Orders	£ 383.52
Total	£ 992.61

Thank you for your support.

Offertory Envelopes...

If you would like to collect your box of Offertory Envelopes for the financial year 2020/21 please speak to Fr Ron either before or after Masses and he'll get them for you.



***Season of Creation:
1st September - 4th October
2020***

In last week's newsletter, I explained that I have been using some of the time I have had on my hands while completing a parish placement during a pandemic, to consider the activities that were going on at St Charles and St Thomas More before COVID-19 became an all-too-familiar term. In particular, I looked at the *livesimply* award that CAFOD gives to parishes that live simply, sustainably, and in solidarity with the poor.

CAFOD emphasises that, while becoming a *livesimply* parish entails taking on some fresh commitments, it also means celebrating those activities that a community is already engaged in to promote the *livesimply* lifestyle. There is certainly much to celebrate here in Aigburth, where the Justice and Peace group decided to embark on the journey towards gaining official recognition for the St Charles and St Thomas More back in the autumn of 2017.

Since then, much progress has been made regarding the three main actions in the *livesimply* action plan. A series of "Walk to Church" Sundays from May to July last year were designed to reduce reliance on cars and thus promote more simple living. A campaign to ensure that the parish recycles more effectively saw parishioners attend the Recycling Discovery Centre in Gillmoss in October 2018, and a clothes swap in July last year also went some way to meeting the *livesimply* objective of living sustainably with creation. The third campaign target of living in solidarity with the poor, meanwhile, led the parish to lend its full support to the MICAH food bank, which aims to alleviate severe poverty in Liverpool.

These, of course, are merely the principal activities undertaken so far, touching only on the main actions of the *livesimply* plan. As you will know better than I do, there was plenty more going on in the parish before lockdown, and – pandemic permitting – there will be much more to come, as the community continues on this journey. More of this in next week's newsletter!

Martin Fyles



Lucky Numbers Draw

From October we will enter a new phase in the *Lucky Numbers Draw*. As we establish this new Parish Charity Fund a number members are due to pay their annual subscription at this time of year.

If you are attending Masses you can hand it to Fr Ron or put it in the collection plate as you leave Mass. Please mark it clearly as Lucky Numbers and put your name and number on it. Or if you prefer you can call Jacinta on 07757143851 who will come and collect it from your home.

A Thought for Today

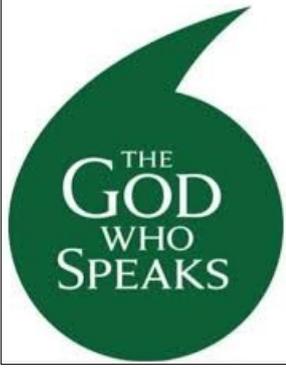
I created you to praise, reverence and serve me.
Do not ever be afraid of me
Even if you sin monstrously,
Because I do good to those who do not do good,
Even to those who hate me.
I bless those who curse me;
I love those who do not love me;
And I am kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

If you were my enemy, I would still love you.
Were you to steal from me,
I wouldn't ask for it back.
I am merciful; I don't judge; I don't condemn;
And I forgive, O yes I forgive,
Even if you come back to me to be forgiven
Seventy times seven every day.
Now are you beginning to understand
Why so many people do not believe I exist?
They can't believe in such goodness.

Patrick Purnell SJ.

***PRAYER IN TIME OF
DANGER & ILLNESS***

God Our Father,
each person is precious to You.
You are the Giver of life.
Have mercy on us and protect us at this time,
as the Coronavirus threatens health and life.
You are an ever-present Helper
in time of trouble.
Watch over those who are suffering,
give strength to those who are aiding the Sick
and give courage to all in this time of anxiety.
We ask this of you in the name
of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen.



Frankie is a drug addict. His parents broke up when he was very small, and he was unable to cope living first with one and then the other. He was a vulnerable, anxious child, insecure and frightened. He entered into his teenage years and became extremely difficult to handle. He was aggressive and violent.

His parents who loved him very much were unable to control him. He was expelled from school and was educated in a special unit which made him, sadly, more difficult. As Frankie's life spiralled into chaos, he began to take drugs, so called soft ones at first, and then harder ones as time went on. Over the last twenty years he has been in and out of rehabilitation centres paid for by his Dad. He has been in prison several times for dealing to finance his habit.

Each time Frankie has been in prison his Dad has said the same thing, 'No more!' Yet each time he has come out of prison, his Dad has paid again for specialist rehabilitation. When that has finished, his Dad has found him a job working within the family firm and a flat to live in. It does not matter what Frankie does, and despite his own protestations at times, his Dad is always there for him. I asked Ed, Frankie's Dad, what would have to happen for him to give up on his son. He looked me straight in the eye and said 'I often wish I could say and mean this is the last time, but he's my son. Only death would make me give up on him. I love him more than I love myself.'

Ed showed me something powerful during that conversation. He helped me to sense the presence of God. It seems to me that forgiveness is a mystery to be found in the heart of humanity. It is caught up with the reality of love. It is a facet of love and whenever we experience forgiveness, we get a tiny glimpse of the reality of a God who has forgiven humanity and every individual.

We are forgiven for the mess we make of our own lives, the lives of others and the life of this planet that we have been given. That's what we see in the action of the king in releasing his steward. The transformative moment is when we begin to realise it and begin to see who God is. In the face of such immensity, and aware of our own smallness and pettiness all we can do is say thank you and live lives of forgiveness ourselves.

The whole of chapter 18 of Matthew's gospel is a reflection on how we're to live and our main characteristic is to be forgiveness. You have the story of the lost sheep and this parable of the unforgiving servant as well as the way to deal with those who sin against the community that we listened to last week. It's constant forgiveness and mercy and compassion. Yet so many of us act like the steward in the Gospel. He was willing to accept the forgiveness of his master but not to allow forgiveness to flow through into the life of the one who owed him money. We can be willing to accept the forgiveness of God but not to allow that forgiveness to flow into the lives of others.

For the sake of the world we need to share and receive forgiveness as an illustration that it is possible and that it really is the only way to peace filled lives. It's a process and it's hard but we have within us the presence of God, the power of the spirit in whom we can do anything. I often think of the words of Corrie Ten Boom who was preaching in Germany about forgiveness and saw in the congregation an SS officer who had treated her sister Betsy very badly. She knew she had to forgive him and as she stood before him, she cried out within herself 'Lord, I can't do this but you can' and she found herself embracing him. I was once on a course where the leader told us that the greatest sign of the kingdom of God is forgiveness. God loves us and constantly pours out forgiveness upon us. One way of showing others that truth is to allow his forgiveness to flow through us into the lives of others.

Entrance Antiphon **Cf. Sir 36: 18**

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you,
that your prophets be found true.
Hear the prayers of your servant,
and of your people Israel.

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Penitential Rite

Lord have mercy *R/. Lord have mercy*
Christ have mercy *R/. Christ have mercy*
Lord have mercy *R/. Lord have mercy*

Collect

Look upon us, O God,
Creator and ruler of all things,
and, that we may feel
the working of your mercy,
grant that we may serve you with all our heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First reading **Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9**

**Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does
you; and when you pray, your sins will be
forgiven**

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance will experience the
vengeance of the Lord,
who keeps strict account of sin.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the
Lord?
Showing no pity for a man like himself,
can he then plead for his own sins?
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes
resentment;
who will forgive him his sins?
Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death, and live by

the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear
your neighbour ill-will;
remember the covenant of the Most High, and
overlook the offence.

The Word of the Lord. **R/. Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm **Psalm 102(103):1-4,9-12**

*The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

My soul, give thanks to the Lord
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings.

*The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion.

*The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.

He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults.

*The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.

*The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

Second reading**Romans 14:7****-9****Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord**

The life and death of each of us has its influence
on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if
we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead
we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ
both died and came to life: it was so that he
might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The Word of the Lord. **R/. Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation **1S3:9,Jn6:68**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 18:21-35**

To be forgiven, you must forgive

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,*

At the words that follow all bow.

*who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to
judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.*

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord,
and in your kindness accept these,
your servants' offerings,
that what each has offered
to the honour of your name
may serve the salvation of all.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 35: 8

How precious is your mercy, O God!
The children of men seek shelter
in the shadow of your wings.

Prayer after Communion

May the working of this heavenly gift,
O Lord, we pray,
take possession of our minds and bodies,
so that its effects, and not our own desires,
may always prevail in us.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Conclusion

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**