

# THE PARISH OF ST CHARLES AND ST THOMAS MORE

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A  
20th September 2020



Contact us...

Parish Telephone 0151 727 2493

Parish Email Address [stcharles@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto:stcharles@rcaolp.co.uk)

Please remember in your prayers all those who are sick, those who have died, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time and all those who mourn.

## Candle Intentions this Week:

**Sanctuary Candle:**  
Norah Mary Toohey

**Marian Candle:**  
Gaynor

**Sacred Heart Candle:**  
Matthew Newell

## Mass Attendance...

**Monday - Friday**  
7 pm between 15 - 28

**Saturday**  
4.30 pm 58  
6.00 pm 25

**Sunday**  
8.30 am 29  
10.00 am 43  
11.30 am 61

A total of 216 attended our weekend Masses...

If you are beginning to feel more vulnerable as the cases of Coronavirus begins to rise locally, please consider if you should be attending Mass and if you might be better coming midweek.

Day	Feast	Times	Mass Intention
Saturday	<i>Vigil Mass</i> <i>Vigil Mass</i>	4.30 pm 6.00 pm	<i>Pauline Furlong</i> <i>Joseph Francis Gradwell</i>
Sunday	<i>Sunday Mass</i> <i>Sunday Mass</i> <i>Sunday Mass</i>	8.30 am 10.00 am 11.30 am	<i>Michael Boothe</i> <i>Michael Brodie</i> <i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday	<i>St Matthew</i>	7.00 pm	<i>Farragher Fam Ancest</i>
Tuesday		7.00 pm	<i>Kenneth McCormack</i>
Wednesday	<i>St Pio of Pietrelcina</i>	7.00 pm	<i>Tony Gill</i>
Thursday	<i>Our Lady of Walsingham</i>	7.00 pm	<i>Aidan Kirwan</i>
Friday		7.00 pm	<i>Josephine Barrow</i>
Saturday	<i>Vigil Mass</i> <i>Vigil Mass</i>	4.30 pm 6.00 pm	<i>Eva Tsggart</i> <i>Peter &amp; Mary Farrell</i>
Sunday	<i>Sunday Mass</i> <i>Sunday Mass</i> <i>Sunday Mass</i>	8.30 am 10.00 am 11.30 am	<i>Fr Mangan &amp; M. McKenna</i> <i>Thanksgiving</i> <i>People of the Parish</i>

## Parish Income...

Envelopes	£ 400.00
Loose plate	£ 252.68
Standing Orders	£ 383.52
<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 1036.20</b>

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.

## Parish Stewards...

As the number of people infected locally with the coronavirus once more begins to rise, I must pay tribute to the tremendous work undertaken by our stewards, without whose help we would not be able to open the doors of our Church for Masses and Funerals.

If you feel that you are able to offer yourself as a Parish Steward please contact Fr Ron. A few gaps are beginning to appear in the rota which might result in the cutting of Masses and as the saying goes...

"many hands make light work!"



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

Last week I took a look at the three main actions that were adopted so as to meet the *livesimply* award criteria of living simply, sustainably and in solidarity with the poor. Through the extra reading I was able to get done while doing a placement in time of pandemic, I discovered just what the *livesimply* action plan entailed for a parish in Aigburth. "Walk to Church Sundays", awareness-raising visits to recycling centres, and the valuable support given to the MICAH food bank, are just three key examples, however. So much more has already been achieved on top of these!

Some activities, such as the writing of Christmas cards to parishes in the Holy Land or to prisoners of conscience, or the organisation of fair trade stalls, go back to the foundation of the Justice and Peace group at St Thomas More's in 2001. Others, such as the group's involvement in supporting a Syrian refugee family under the Home Office Community Sponsorship Scheme, are a response to more recent world events.

Still others are clearly part of how the parish has sought to answer the impassioned call of Pope Francis in his encyclical *Laudato Si'* for the whole of humanity to care for our common home. The journey towards the *livesimply* award is central to this, of course, and I was impressed to read of the range of other actions it has encompassed – from Lenten reflections on the encyclical, to talks with the Pizza and Prayers group, to the showing of relevant films, or the display of the individual "leaves" put together by Messy Church to represent individual parishioners' own commitments to a more simple lifestyle, following mass on the *livesimply* launch weekend in November 2017.

Almost three years and an ongoing pandemic later, we are once again in the Season of Creation, the period from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October each year, when Christians are called to join together in prayer and action for the protection of creation. Although we live in very uncertain times, let's hope that there will be opportunities for the parish to mark the season this year as well, and to build on all the good work done in this direction already.  
More next week!

Martin Fyles



**The Rule of Six...**

With the introduction of the "Rule of Six" we have once more had to look at activities that are taking place, and while religious services and prayer groups are unaffected, we have, reluctantly, had to suspend the Pensioners Club once more. They were just having too much fun!!!

**First Holy Communions...**

Fr Ron emailed the families of the 2019/2020 First Holy Communion Programme to discuss what might be possible for the First Holy Communion Masses in the current circumstances.

If you have not received this email please contact the Parish Office during the week.

God grace us to turn from selfish hoarding  
As the rich farmer learnt  
That the food offered to the poor  
Nourished his own soul.

Grant that we share your resources, our concern,  
Our time and lamentation,  
That all may grieve and give and grow together.

Whether we are home alone,  
Weary with giving, exhausted with serving,  
Isolated in grief,  
We are God's guests on earth,  
And God keeps a generous table.

Rosemary Power. .

**Hope Postgrads**

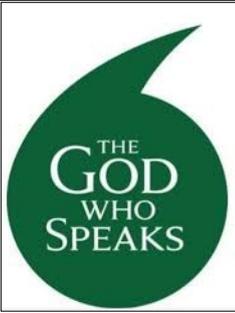
Welcome to Liverpool and to the Parish of  
St Charles and St Thomas More!

While you are always most welcome to join us here at the Parish it is also possible to connect with CathSoc and chaplains at Hope.

There is a meet up at the Bookbinder in Lark Lane this Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 4pm.  
Just turn up.

You can also look them up on  
Liverpool Hope CathSoc Facebook Page  
or contact

James Crawford [12005138@hope.ac.uk](mailto:12005138@hope.ac.uk)  
or Fr Stephen [pritch@s@hope.ac.uk](mailto:pritch@s@hope.ac.uk)



We are now in Creation Time, a special time in September and October started by Pope Francis for us to reflect on the beauty of Creation and the damage that humankind is doing to the Earth, and to help us do something about it. Right now, the Earth and everything on it is in real trouble because people and industry all over the world have been burning and releasing into the atmosphere the coal, gas and oil which had been trapped in the earth millions of years ago. This is causing climate change. Pope Francis was so concerned about this that he wrote a letter to everyone in 2015 called *Laudato Si'*: On Care of our Common Home, and his concern hasn't lessened since. The urgent thing is that we now have less than ten years to change the way mankind functions on the Earth and get on top of this. Pope Francis says climate change is a symptom of how we are mistreating creation, threatening many species of wildlife and people in poverty across the world. What is this Gospel story saying to us?

Some years ago, this story was at the heart of our monthly prayers at CAFOD. The vineyard owner gives each of the workers a denarius for their work. In Jesus' time, a denarius was like the National Minimum Wage today - the vineyard owner was ensuring that those who worked for him and their families had enough to live on that day, as well as ensuring that his grapes were picked, and the vineyard looked after. As we reflected, we asked a question: if people got the same pay whether they worked all day or just for one hour, who would turn up to look after the vineyard early the following morning or would they all leave it till there was just an hour of daylight left? That is not the point Jesus is making in the parable, but it is something his audience would be considering, and so should we.

I live near Prescot and people still talk about the BICC factory ("The BI") which employed thousands of people making electrical cables in the factory, and thousands more in supporting jobs. The BI was run down and closed in 1991, people moved away and 30 years later, Prescot has not fully recovered. An out of town retail park has replaced some of it but the town centre has many underused and boarded up shops.

In the Gospel story, it's not just the local community or the owner that needs the vineyard. They both need it – it's their common home, all the year round. They are both bound to it. It is part of their lives and it keeps them all alive, and so it is the responsibility of all of them to care for it. Like for many in Prescot, the BI was the backdrop for every moment of their lives, their successes, failures, from cradle to grave, bringing them together and sustaining their lives and their family and community, body and soul. People depend on an employer and an employer depends on its people. But it's the place that brings them together.

The BI was part of the Common Good. That is even more the case with the Earth as a whole, a bigger scale, but the impacts of climate change are felt everywhere, and we all play a part in it. For now, as the summer days get shorter, can we think about playing our part in preserving the Common Good? Let's keep the oil, gas and coal in the ground! Let's reach for a jumper, rather than the boiler switch, and walk rather than get in the car if we can. Small steps will make a difference if we all take them. Try and spend five minutes looking at and listening to nature. And please write to express your concern to your MP. It's their job to represent us and we need to tell them this is important to us.

You could request they ask that the Government:

- invests overseas in renewable energy, not in energy from oil, coal and gas,
- ensures by 2030 that new cars sold are electric rather than petrol or diesel,
- reduces speeds around schools to 20mph to encourage walking and cycling

Pope Francis has released a video for Creation Time in which he says, "Today, not tomorrow; today, we have to take care of Creation responsibly. Let us pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered but shared in a just and respectful manner. No - to plundering; yes - to sharing."

So, this Creation Time, let's join him in celebrating and protecting our Common Home.



**Gospel Acclamation**      **cf.Lk19:38,2:14**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessings on the King who comes,  
in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven  
and glory in the highest heavens!  
Alleluia!

**Gospel**      **Matthew 20:1-16**

**Why be envious because I am generous?**

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, “You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.” So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, “Why have you been standing here idle all day?” “Because no one has hired us” they answered. He said to them, “You go into my vineyard too.” In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, “Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.” So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. “The men who came last” they said “have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day’s work in all the heat.” He answered one of them and said, “My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?” Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.’

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**

Receive with favour, O Lord, we pray,  
the offerings of your people,  
that what they profess with devotion and faith  
may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Communion Antiphon**

**Ps 118: 4-5**

You have laid down your precepts  
to be carefully kept;  
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

**Prayer after Communion**

Graciously raise up, O Lord,  
those you renew with this Sacrament,  
that we may come to possess your redemption  
both in mystery and in the manner of our life.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Conclusion**

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