

THE PARISH OF ST CHARLES AND ST THOMAS MORE

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
11th October 2020
The Month of the Holy Rosary



Contact us...

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Please remember in your prayers

all those who are sick,

those who have died recently and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time

and all those who mourn them.

Temporary Mass Times

Day	Feast	Times	Mass Intention
Saturday	<i>Vigil Mass</i>	4.30 pm	<i>Peter Coakley</i>
	<i>Vigil Mass</i>	6.00 pm	<i>McGinn Family</i>
Sunday	<i>Sunday Mass</i>	8.30 am	<i>Fr George Russell</i>
	<i>Sunday Mass</i>	10.00 am	<i>Norma Carney</i>
	<i>Sunday Mass</i>	11.30 am	<i>Claire Hart</i>
Monday		7.00 pm	<i>Claire Kellgren</i>
Tuesday		7.00 pm	<i>Mary Agnes Hilliard</i>
Wednesday		7.00 pm	<i>Margaret Whewell</i>
Thursday	<i>St Teresa of Avila</i>	7.00 pm	<i>George Corcoran</i>
Friday		7.00 pm	<i>Thanksgiving (AER)</i>
Saturday	<i>Vigil Mass</i>	4.30 pm	<i>Anita & Michael Byrne</i>
	<i>Vigil Mass</i>	6.00 pm	<i>Shane Halpin</i>
Sunday	<i>Sunday Mass</i>	8.30 am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	<i>Sunday Mass</i>	10.00 am	<i>Patricia Powell</i>
	<i>Sunday Mass</i>	11.30 am	<i>Tony Wenton</i>

First Holy Communion

This week we continue our celebrations of First Holy Communion at week-night Masses.

Please keep the children and their families in your prayers that despite the restriction in place they may remember these as joyful encounters with the Lord.

Mass Attendance...

With the increased local restrictions people must make an informed choice about whether it is safe for them to come to Church at this time. Please note this week at Mon-Thurs Masses there will be more people attending as we celebrate First Holy Communion with the children of the Parish.

Saturday

4.30 pm 54

6.00 pm 25

Sunday

8.30 am 23

10.00 am 54

11.30 am 68

Total 224

Candle Intentions this Week:

Sanctuary Candle:
Fr George Russell

Marian Candle:
Special Intention TM

Sacred Heart Candle:
Special Intention SM

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 Income...

Envelopes £ 308.00

Loose plate £ 414.70

Standing Orders £ 383.52

Total £ 1106.22

Thank you for your support.

Month of the Holy Rosary.

During the Papal Audience that took place in Rome on the Wednesday the 7th October the Pope reflected on the importance of the rosary. Reflecting on the contemplative nature of this prayer, Pope Francis said that meditating on the mysteries of salvation “the loving face of God Himself... is increasingly revealed to us.”



Pope Francis also invited pilgrims to pray the rosary and to carry it with them in their pocket. The rosary, he said, is the most beautiful prayer we can offer to the Virgin Mary because it is “a contemplation of the life of Jesus the Saviour with His mother.”

He said, “In her apparitions, Our Lady often exhorted the recitation of the Rosary, especially in the face of looming threats to the world. Even today, in this time of pandemic, it is necessary to hold the rosary in our hands

and pray for us, our loved ones and all people.”

He prayed that through the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary we might all be inspired to give our lives as a loving service to all our brothers and sisters, especially those who feel abandoned and unprotected at this time.

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.

Food Bank Donations.

Thank you to all who have so generously brought in donations for the Food Bank. At this time of financial difficulty for so many I am sure they will be well appreciated by those who receive them.

Any items brought this weekend
can be left at the back of church.

Many thanks.



‘Matthew’

First of the four, Saint Matthew is the Man;
A Gospel that begins with generation,
Family lines entwine around the Son,
Born in Judea, born for every nation
Born under Law that all the Law of Moses
Might be fulfilled and flower into Grace;
A hidden thread of words and deeds discloses
Eternal love within a human face.
This is the Gospel of the great reversal:
A wayside weed is Solomon in glory,
The smallest sparrow’s fall is universal
And Christ is the heart of every human story;
‘I will be with you, though you may not see,
And all you do, you do it unto me.’

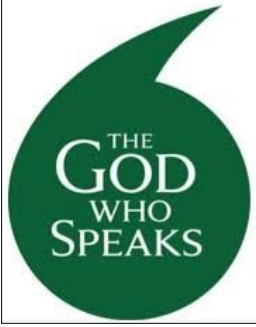
by Malcolm Guite

Armchair Retreat...

A friend of mine was due to start a 30 day retreat on Monday at St Bueno's, but it was cancelled a few days ago because of the increased restrictions that are being put in place in Wales.

At this time, when many retreat houses are closed and other opportunities are limited, it might be worth considering a retreat in everyday life.

On the Archdiocesan website (following the link: prayer and other resources) you will find a number of videos featuring Fr Denis Blackledge SJ, the Jesuit Parish Priest of Saint Francis Xavier’s Church in Liverpool through which he delivers a series of reflections entitled “armchair retreats” which might be worth a look!



In all the parables we have heard in the last three weeks, Jesus is speaking in the Temple to the religious leaders. Here he is trying to show them that the King is God and he is the son whose importance they do not acknowledge. The King's response is ferocious. Maybe Jesus is frustrated at their failure to understand his lifechanging message and uses increasingly stark images to try to get it across?

He is also, again, reversing the normal assumptions about who is important in his society, and asking us to think about the place of so many others who are not respected in our own time, and those who are. In the parable, a crowd of ordinary people, however dodgy, replaces the invited guests, who would have been the wealthy and powerful, the top tier of society, for a royal wedding like this.

What about the nature of the banquet? A wedding celebration is a joyful, generous feast where the happiness of the bride and groom and their families is shared with their guests. We are used to thinking about the banquet of the Eucharist, which so many of us are missing because of the COVID-19, and about our hope of joining the Lord at his table in heaven.

But what about, also, the banquet of creation, the vast table of gifts God has given us in the richness of the Earth and everything in it? This is here for us now, all around us. Pope Francis has drawn attention again and again to the neglect and exploitation of creation, which is happening everywhere, stripping the earth of natural resources, destroying the habitats of many of our fellow creatures and forcing both humans and animals to move. It is very sobering to realise how many new infections, like COVID-19, have reached us because humans now come into contact with animals who carry these diseases through, for example, destruction of forests to grow cash crops like palm oil and the trade in exotic pets.

We exploit creation to meet our needs but also our greed - the comfortable lifestyles that many of us in the prosperous parts of the world have come to think of as our entitlement. We are encouraged to think this way - "because we're worth it"- in an economy based on consumption. This makes a small section of society very rich, and very powerful, but exploits the earth and the thousands of poor people who work to bring us, for example, our cheap clothes and fast food. Millions don't have enough to eat while others, often the poor in rich countries, suffer the converse problem of obesity with all its physical and mental consequences. As Pope Francis has made very clear in his encyclical "Laudato Si, On Care for Our Common Home", the climate crisis is inseparable from the way we humans live and interact with our brothers and sisters, and every other element of the great banquet of God's creation.

I have always felt sorry for the man in the parable who was thrown out because he did not have a wedding robe. He's suddenly been invited in from the street. But how many of us would be going about our normal day dressed for a wedding?! However, thinking more about it, he is singled out in the parable from the other last-minute guests, so presumably they had been able to find something suitable to wear for such a great occasion. Was he condemned not for his clothes but for lack of effort or complacency? Had he seen an opportunity but not recognised the generosity of the King who had offered this to him or the responsibility this required? Do we treat God's creation as an "all you can eat" buffet, where we can take what we like and keep going back for more without any heed for how the food is provided and whose gift it is?

We have been given a wonderful, rich banquet, there for everyone, by the most generous King. Let us enjoy it but also ensure that we respect it and share it fairly with all our fellow creatures. Pope Francis reminds us to give thanks before we eat - a simple, traditional way to acknowledge the fruit of the earth and work of human hands in everything we have.

This reflection is from Susan O'Halloran, a parishioner of St Anne's, Ormskirk and a member of the Environment Task Group within the Archdiocese

Entrance Antiphon

Ps 129: 3-4

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
 Lord, who could stand?
 But with you is found forgiveness,
 O God of Israel.

The Lord is my shepherd;
 there is nothing I shall want.
 Fresh and green are the pastures
 where he gives me repose.
 Near restful waters he leads me,
 to revive my drooping spirit.

Collect

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,
 at all times go before us and follow after
 and make us always determined
 to carry out good works.
 Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 God, for ever and ever. Amen.

*In the Lord's own house shall
 I dwell for ever and ever.*

He guides me along the right path;
 he is true to his name.
 If I should walk in the valley of darkness
 no evil would I fear.
 You are there with your crook and your staff;
 with these you give me comfort.

First reading

Isaiah 25:6-10

**The Lord will prepare a banquet
 for every nation**

On this mountain,
 the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
 a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,
 of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.
 On this mountain he will remove
 the mourning veil covering all peoples,
 and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
 he will destroy Death for ever.
 The Lord will wipe away
 the tears from every cheek;
 he will take away his people's shame
 everywhere on earth,
 for the Lord has said so.
 That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
 in whom we hoped for salvation;
 the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
 We exult and we rejoice
 that he has saved us;
 for the hand of the Lord
 rests on this mountain.

*In the Lord's own house
 shall I dwell for ever and ever.*

You have prepared a banquet for me
 in the sight of my foes.
 My head you have anointed with oil;
 my cup is overflowing.

*In the Lord's own house shall
 I dwell for ever and ever.*

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
 all the days of my life.
 In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
 for ever and ever.

*In the Lord's own house shall
 I dwell for ever and ever.*

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

Second reading **Philippians 4:12-14,19-20**

**With the help of the One who gives me
 strength, there is nothing I cannot master**

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich
 too. I have been through my initiation and now I
 am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or
 empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is
 nothing I cannot master with the help of the One
 who gives me strength. All the same, it was good
 of you to share with me in my hardships. In
 return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ
 Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God,
 our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 22(23)

*In the Lord's own house shall
 I dwell for ever and ever.*

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

Gospel Acclamation**Jn1:14,12**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word was made flesh and lived among us:
to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel**Matthew 22:1-14****Invite everyone you can to the wedding**

Jesus began to speak to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son’s wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. “Tell those who have been invited” he said “that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding.” But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, “The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding.” So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests. When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, “How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?” And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.” For many are called, but few are chosen.’

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

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful with the sacrificial offerings, that, through these acts of devotedness, we may pass over to the glory of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Communion Antiphon**Cf. Ps 33: 11**

The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Prayer after Communion

We entreat your majesty most humbly, O Lord, that, as you feed us with the nourishment which comes from the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, so you may make us sharers of his divine nature. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Conclusion

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

The name of Monsignor Austin Hunt, who has died aged 88, is synonymous with the permanent diaconate, since for the forty years that he was Director for the Permanent Diaconate he moulded the reality of diaconal ministry in the Archdiocese of Liverpool and firmly established it as an integral feature of many parishes.

Pope Paul VI issued norms for the restoration of the permanent diaconate in 1967, but by the mid-1970s there were only a handful of permanent deacons across England and Wales. Archbishop Derek Worlock was determined, upon his arrival in Liverpool in early 1976, that the permanent diaconate should be established in the archdiocese. His choice as the first Director for the Permanent Diaconate was Fr Austin Hunt, at that time assistant to Canon Gerard Walsh at Sacred Heart, Wigan. In February 1977 Fr Austin joined the staff at the Metropolitan Cathedral and from that base began the process of co-ordinating the programme of formation for the first group of candidates for the permanent diaconate. The ground-breaking nature of the task faced by Fr Austin was alluded to by Deacon Leo McNicholas when he said, "As one of the first group of five men to be prepared for ordination, in what was then a journey into almost unknown territory, I am grateful to Monsignor Austin for his meticulous attention to detail, particularly in regard to liturgy." Undaunted, Fr Austin visited many dioceses across Europe and the United States to learn from their experience in the selection, formation and deployment of deacons. With help from a dedicated team of tutors and helpers, including three future bishops (Vincent Nichols, John Rawsthorne and Vincent Malone), he developed a programme of formation within the archdiocese.

Fr Austin threw himself tirelessly into his work as Director. He would visit diaconal candidates, their wives and families at home, and these visits would continue after ordination. He arranged retreats and social events for the diaconal family. Deacon John Traynor recalls that, "Despite his often stern manner, Austin was very personable... He loved nothing better than the social evenings after retreats at Upholland, when we were all encouraged to give a spot as singers, raconteurs, musicians, story tellers, comedians...He looked forward to a few whiskies nattering at the bar."

In recognition of his untiring dedication to the establishment of the permanent diaconate in the archdiocese he was appointed a Prelate of Honour by Pope John Paul II on 26th October 1992.

Over the years he acquired a great deal of experience that was shared enthusiastically with others. Thus, he served as a member of the International Diaconate Committee and he addressed several international conferences about the diaconate. He also chaired the National Conference of Diaconate Directors and Deacon Delegates for England and Wales.

On 12th June 2016 he presented his final two candidates for ordination, meaning that in the forty years of his directorship, he was responsible for the formation of more than 100 permanent deacons. At the reception which followed in the Pontifical Hall at the Cathedral, the Archbishop read out a personal message from Cardinal Vincent Nichols. "It gives me great pleasure to write this personal message of congratulations to you as you begin your well-earned retirement, or should I say, prepare to gracefully fade into the background! I thank God for all the gifts that he has given you and I thank you for your generosity in sharing those gifts so readily with others. You have done a remarkable job in directing the Diaconate programme, in the Diocese of Liverpool, over these past forty years." Archbishop Malcolm echoed those sentiments and added that, "Behind every good man is a good woman," in recognition of the tireless support that Austin had received from his sister Barbara in his role as Director.

Austin William Hunt was born on 9th June 1932 at Appleton, Widnes, the son of Robert Hunt and Evelyn (née Farrington). Together with his older brother Joseph and younger sister Barbara, he grew up in St Bede's parish, Widnes, where he was baptised. He attended St Bede's School from the age of four until the outbreak of war in September 1939, when the family moved firstly to Rhyl and then, in December 1939, to St Teresa's parish, Birkdale. He attended St Teresa's School and became an altar server. Travelling back and forth to Widnes, and other war duties, took its toll on his father's health, so the family returned to Widnes in 1942. In 1943 Austin had the choice of three secondary-school scholarships. St Edward's College, Sandfield Park, Liverpool, was chosen, as the family was already intent on returning to Southport; which the Hunts did in February 1945. The family spent time in various parishes before finally settling in St Teresa's, Birkdale, in 1949. Each of these parishes contributed to Austin's religious formation, but it was Fr Brian Foley at St Teresa's who encouraged Austin's growing awareness of things liturgical and musical. In 1950 Austin began his training as a teacher at St Mary's, Strawberry Hill, specialising in Latin and Spanish, and he qualified in 1952. He taught briefly at St Mary's, Warrington, and then at two schools in Southport - St Marie's and Our Lady of Lourdes. In 1960 he began his training for the priesthood at the Beda College in Rome. Whilst at the college he became involved in looking after pilgrims, making good use of his skills in Italian and Spanish. He was ordained priest in Rome on 14th March 1964 at the Basilica of St Paul without the Walls.

Following ordination he served in several parishes as assistant priest: St Francis of Assisi, Garston (September 1964); St John, Kirkdale (December 1964); St William, Ince (September 1970), Sacred Heart, Wigan (November 1971), the Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool (February 1977) and St Thomas of Canterbury, Waterloo (September 1979). From 1976 he combined parochial duties with his role as Director for the Permanent Diaconate.

He had two appointments as parish priest: St Thomas More, Aigburth (1984-1992) and All Saints, Anfield (1992-2008). He was a dedicated parish priest and served his parishioners well, though inevitably his work as Director made great demands on his time. Equally parish life was often enriched by the celebrations connected with candidacy and the ministries received by aspiring candidates to the diaconate, as well as the many other varied gatherings of the diaconal family. He retired from parish ministry in 2008, though he continued in his role as Director for the Permanent Diaconate for a further eight years. After retirement Austin lived with his sister Barbara in Birkdale, enjoying a gentler pace of life, and appreciating the continued support of friends and colleagues.

In 2014 he celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. He said afterwards that, "I really enjoyed every moment and I am very grateful to all those who helped to organise it and were able to join me on the day to give thanks for fifty years of priesthood." Thus, with joyful enthusiasm and thanksgiving, and recognising the contribution of others, he described this personal milestone. He could probably have spoken in similar vein about the permanent diaconate and the ministry of deacons in the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

He died in the early hours of Tuesday 6th October 2020.

May he rest in peace