

ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

The R.C. Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity

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Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary time

13th September 2020

THEME: Unless we forgive, we shall not be forgiven.

MASS TIMES: St Mary's: Sunday 9-30am; Monday-Friday 9am. Saturday 10am
St Paul's: Saturday vigil 6-00pm

RECENT DEATH: Mary Murphy and Sr Margaret O'Doherty of the Holy Family sisters. Sr Margaret died at the Holy Family convent Rock Ferry, Wirral. We offer our sincere sympathy to all their relatives and friends. Sr Margaret was a member of staff at All Saints (known as St Peter and Paul's at the time.)

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: MATTHEW 18:21-35. When we hear this story, we probably share the indignation of the fellow servants at such injustice. The issue is clear and easily seen. Unfortunately, in real life things are not so glaringly black and white, and it is quite possible for us to find we have been behaving like the unforgiving servant without realising it. Often, it happens when we are under pressure: if we have a deadline to meet, we may take out our anxiety on those who hold us up; if money is scarce, we are more likely to flare up at anyone causing extensive damage. Yet, when you think about it, such pressure is really caused by us keeping a tight grip on our lives instead of giving them away to Christ. If, when we feel the tension, we take a deep breath and remember that as children of eternity our lives are now spaces for God to work in, then irritations and setbacks become opportunities to grow in patience to spread God's kind of peace which the world lacks, and to put into practice his loving forgiveness.

RETURNING TO CHURCH: The number of people returning to church to celebrate Holy Mass and receive Holy Communion has increased gradually week on week as parishioners spread the good news that church is a safe place. We are all very conscious that it is a strange experience to have to book in advance, a requirement set out in the guidelines. It is called the "new normal". We hope that many more will consider returning over the next few weeks as confidence in our safety regulations grows. A number of people said they felt very disconnected during shutdown, after being a very active member of the Eucharistic community (parish community) all their lives. A parishioner who returned to church on Sunday after speaking to Fr Oliver during the week, said "that they felt a new person spiritually after attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion" Parishioners wish to thank all those who are involved with their safety while at church for their care and attention.

GUIDANCE FOR THE PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK HAS BEEN ISSUED: Home visits can now take place by Priests, Deacons and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Extreme caution should be taken to avoid any possibility of passing infection between the visitor and the housebound. It is important that the Government Guidance for people visiting other people's homes is followed. Of particular note is whether those visiting (priest, deacon or EMOHC) fall into the Government categories of clinically extremely vulnerable people or clinically vulnerable people. Care Homes are not included under these guidelines. Fr Oliver will contact all those who, prior to the shutdown, received Holy Communion from him or an Extraordinary Minister, to see if they would like to resume receiving the Sacrament. He will visit each one before they receive a visit from EMOHC. Guidance will be given to all prior to resumption of this ministry in due time, provided restrictions are not mandated in the meanwhile.

BAPTISMS: Father Oliver is resuming the celebration of the Sacrament and invites parents who prior to shutdown had made arrangements for a member of their family to be baptised to contact him to make a new appointment for the Sacrament to be celebrated. The celebration will take place within the context of the new guidelines.

BELARUS: Bishop Declan Lang, chair of the Bishops International Affairs department, is urging the U K government to collaborate with governments of other countries to address the human rights abuses in Belarus. "We stand in solidarity with the Belarusian people and are profoundly concerned by the arbitrary detention and torture of those calling peacefully for democratic reform. I urge our own government to continue its important collaboration with other countries in addressing those human rights abuses and promoting an inclusive dialogue as called for by the Bishops Conference of Belarus." Bishop D Lang.

CATHOLIC CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: For over 25 years the Catholic Certificate of Religious Studies has enabled those responsible for passing on our catholic Christian Faith through education or catechesis to gain a deeper knowledge of that faith. During the period of lockdown the diocese was able to continue with the CCRS journey despite the technical issues at various points. This year's programme will begin on Saturday 19th September at Our Lady of the Sea parish centre, 2 Enfield Road, Ellesmere Port CH45 8BY. Catechists, Ministers of the Word and Extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist are encouraged to attend. Further details from Anthony Timothy 0151 652 9855 or from Fr Michael Coughlin email frmichaelcoughlin@hotmail.co.uk www.ccrs/dioceseofshrewsbury.org

THE PARISH PRAYER: Father, pour out your Spirit upon our community and grant us a new vision of your glory; a new experience of your power; a new faithfulness to your word; a new consecration to your service. That your love may grow among us and your kingdom come. Through Christ our Lord Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: Soul of Christ, be my sanctification. Body of Christ, be my salvation. Blood of Christ, fill all my veins. Water from the side of Christ, wash out my stains. May Christ's passion, strengthen me, O good Jesus, hear me. In thy wounds, I fain would hide, never to be parted from your side. Guard me, when my foes assail me. Call me, when my life shall fail me. Command me, then to come to thee. That I for all eternity with thy saints may praise thee. Amen. (St John Henry Newman)

SEASON OF CREATION: Is an annual celebration uniting Christians in prayer and action for the protection of our common home. The season runs from September to October ending on the feast of St Francis. The idea of celebrating as a day of prayer for creation began at the wish of the Emmanuel Patriarch Dimitrios in 1989 and was endorsed by Pope Francis in 2015. During the season we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events in order to deepen our relationship with God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Writing about the season in 2019 Pope Francis said "this is the season for letting our prayer be inspired anew" a season to reflect on our lifestyles and a season for undertaking prophetic actions ... calling for courageous decisions in directing the planet towards life , not deceit. The celebration takes place in the context of the fifth anniversary of the publication the encyclical 'Laudato Si' which Pope Francis gave on Sunday May 24th 2015.

HEADTEACHER VACANCY: All Saints Catholic College. Required for January 2021 or Easter 2021 Salary L23 -29 (£70.556-£81.723). Closing date: Monday 28th September 10-00am. Shortlisting: Tuesday 29th September 6-00pm. Interviews: Wednesday 7th October and Thursday 8th October 2020. Further details on the School website or phone 338-2120.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please keep our sick and housebound parishioners in your daily prayers. If you know of anyone who is in special need of prayers or comfort, please let Fr. Oliver know.

ARRANGEMENTS for MASS

- If you are intending to come to mass then please provide advance notification, preferably by email to john.storey6@btopenworld.com or by phone on 0161 330 2424. Due to limited places available pre-booking allows us to check if we are reaching capacity and advise you not to travel if that is the case. Pre-booking allows us to manage a track and trace operation.
- A face mask must be worn whilst you are in Church. The only exception is for young children. Please do not come to mass if you are feeling ill or if you are unable to wear a face covering.
- On arrival you will be greeted by a steward who will ask you to sanitise your hands and check your name against the booked list. If you haven't pre-booked, please give the steward your details.
- Stewards will guide you to the available pews. Please inform the steward if you are in a family group or "bubble". To avoid passing those already seated it is important to fill pews from the front.
- Mass will take approximately 30 minutes, there are no mass sheets and there will be no singing
- **Holy Communion will be distributed after the final blessing.** Please remain seated whilst Father prepares for communion. Stewards will then guide the congregation for communion starting with the front pews of the centre aisle. After receiving communion **do not return to your seat** and leave church by the exit doors on the left (front of church at St Mary's, back of church at St Paul's).
- **The toilets will not be open.**

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION FROM MRS CLAIRE MCMANUS: "Start by doing what is necessary, then do what is possible and suddenly, you are doing the impossible" St Francis.

I am delighted and honoured to have been appointed as the new Headteacher of St Mary's Catholic Primary school and I am very keen to get to know parents, pupils and staff and to strengthen the links between home, school and parish.

I have found St Mary's to be a happy school, filled with love. I am looking forward to finding out more about the school, so that the changes we make in this new chapter, retain the strong sense of Catholicity and ensure that St Mary's is the best it can be, for all the children who attend.

I am inspired by the school's mission to work to develop the full potential of each individual in an environment where the Gospel values of love, peace, truth and justice are lived out and this aligns perfectly with my own personal leadership vision.

I have been a senior leader in Catholic education for fourteen years, with my most recent role being deputy Headteacher at St Herbert's, Chadderton, Oldham. I have taught all year groups from Reception to year 6. I myself have two wonderful children who are both primary school age. I strongly believe that each child is made in the image and likeness of God and as such, will strive to ensure that at St Mary's, all children are loved, nurtured and that their unique gifts and talents are celebrated and developed.

Schools are places of constant renewal and development and I look forward to being part of the wonderful journey of catholic education at St Mary's in the coming years. I look forward to a time when I can introduce myself in person. With warmest wishes, Mrs C McManus

THANKS: The Burke family would like thank everyone for their kind words, flowers and cards of condolence received at this very sad time, they take great comfort from the fact that Jenny was so fondly thought of by all who knew her.

OFFERTORY: Thank you to everyone who has made an offering to St Mary's or St Paul's during this ongoing period of pandemic. There will be no collection at Mass on Sunday, but there will be a basket for your offertory as you leave Church.

TOTE: The 100 Club remains suspended for the moment. Any payments received have been recorded and will be used for future draws. When the draws resume, individual balances will be available.

BIDDING PRAYERS for Twenty-Fourth Sunday in ordinary time

Priest:

We ask God our Father to grant us a share in his work of mercy, the mercy which makes sense of that which we endure in our lives on earth.

We pray for the Pope that he may be a sign of power and mercy; that in a ministry of mercy he may show the world that God is with us.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for bishops, priests and leaders in the church that they may be inspired by the forgiveness shown to them, that they may be heralds of a new kind of mercy.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for all the church: that we may be inventive in finding ways to restore broken friendships and families torn apart by anger.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who are seeking forgiveness but cannot find strength in themselves to accept mercy: May there be a moment in their life where they suddenly find their way to let go of old wrongs and be reconciled to God.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for our own special needs.

We ask Mary the Mother of God to join us in our prayers as we say Hail Mary.

Priest: God our loving Father, in your mercy we ask you to hear our prayers we offer through your Son, Christ our Lord.