

# ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

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

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**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary time**

**20th September 2020**

**THEME:** God's values are different.

Ordinary human standards often based on survival, lead to ways which are quite different from the ways of God. All his justice is shot through with his generosity, which the world often misunderstands. We have been called to live in him and he in us; that closeness of wills helps us to see things God's way, and reach out in love to others, as he does.

**MASS TIMES:** St Mary's: Sun 9-30am; Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri 9am; Sat 10am;

St Paul's: Saturday vigil 6-00pm

**REQUIEM MASS:** Thursday 11-30am Josephine Maddocks

**Funeral Service:** Wednesday 1-30pm Agnes Bardsley.

**SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:** MATTHEW 20:1-6 Humans are often blinkered when it comes to justice. Generosity in justice rouses suspicions that we may be losing out, and that would never do. Being competitive, we usually feel rather grudging when we meet people who are good at everything and even look attractive as well; we also spend time squashing these feelings in favour of good sportsmanship, but their existence cannot be denied. In God's kind of justice there is joy for everyone who turns to him, especially those who looked as if they were heading for destruction but finally received God into their hearts, or those who have such little help and guidance and yet turn to Christ. If we are really living in Christ ourselves, we shall start to share his generous-hearted way of looking at things, rejoicing in people's gifts and the good use they are making of them, and delighting in newcomers to the church bringing freshness and different outlooks to enrich and enliven the worship.

**THE QUALITY OF MERCY:** Shortly after proclaiming the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis referred to the famous words of the world's greatest dramatist William Shakespeare on "the quality of mercy". Those are the words Shakespeare puts into the mouth of Portia, the heroine of his comedy, The Merchant of Venice. She is speaking to the Jewish money-lender Shylock in the climactic trial scene, at which the Jew seeks to take his legal revenge on the Venetian merchant Antonio. In return for a loan, which the merchant has been unable to repay in time, the Jew wants to take the pledge of a pound of flesh from the body of Antonio nearest his heart. At the trial Shylock insists on his right, even to the extent of preparing his knife for that purpose. Portia, however, who has secretly come disguised as a lawyer from her home in Belmont (the beautiful mountain), while admitting the just claim of Shylock, first proposes a plea for mercy on the merchant in her quality of mercy monologue.

**GUIDANCE FOR THE PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK HAS BEEN ISSUED:** Home visits can now take place by Priest, 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 want to make arrangements for a member of their family to be baptised, to book for and attend a 9:30am Mass at St Mary's on Sunday and speak to him afterwards, to make an appointment for the Sacrament to be celebrated. The celebration will take place within the context of the new guidelines.

**CARITAS.** The Director of Caritas Salford warns of a massive rise in poverty. The end of the government's furlough scheme "will take many people into unemployment and debt, and increase the number of people who are homeless." Without a minimum basic income, many new people will face poverty. Latest statistics show that one in every four children in Greater Manchester is living in poverty; despite some having one or both of their parents working. People who are experiencing mental health issues and who are in desperate need of face to face appointments with their mental health workers are particularly at risk.

**LOVE FOR ALL CREATION (extracted from The Tablet):** Pope Francis' forthcoming encyclical is on the subject of "fraternity", which in the Latin original –Fratelloi tutti- means "brothers and sisters". In the encyclical he uses the phrase as his namesake would have done, to include all creatures great and small, animate and inanimate. The wind, sun, moon and stars are also part of this passionate, faith-inspired embrace; as are the birds, beloved of the saint who radiated "sublime fraternity of all creation". The Pope's refusal to countenance causing deliberate suffering to any living creature is almost Buddhist in its spirituality. The reconciliation of people of every faith is likely to be a major theme of his encyclical. Francis' previous encyclical, *Laudato Si* offered the world much needed leadership in the urgent struggle to limit climate change and the loss of biodiversity. He famously linked care for Creation as inseparable from the care of the poor. His new encyclical can be expected to be equally in touch with contemporary secular concerns, such as the increasing tension between religions, races and nations; and to make unexpected links and comparisons. This will not gloss over our differences, but press us to face them. In recovering our fundamental unity as human beings, we can start to recognise and heal the painful wounds that disturb and divide us – between religions, tribes and races. Fraternity does not exclude fraternal correction: it almost demands it. It is not transactional but transformative. He will travel to Assisi on October 3rd, the Feast of St Francis, where he will sign the encyclical after celebrating mass at the tomb of St Francis, where Fr Oliver also celebrated mass with members of the parish, a number of years ago.

**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 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 Rd Ellesmere Port CH65 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](mailto:frmichaelcoughlin@hotmail.co.uk) [www.ccrs/dioceseofshrewsbury.org](http://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)

**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 0161 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](mailto: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

**RETURN OF SCHOOLS:** The return of pupils has gone very smoothly with 96% attendance.

**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.

**THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF POPE BENEDICT'S PASTORAL VISIT:** This is the tenth anniversary of Pope Benedict's pastoral visit to our shores. His visit took place between 16th -19th of September. During his visit he Beatified John Henry Newman in an open air Eucharistic celebration in Birmingham which was a very special occasion for the Catholic Church in England and Wales and for the Anglican Church into which he was baptised. Pope Francis celebrated his canonisation on the 13th of October 2019 in Rome

**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-Fifth Sunday in ordinary time**

**Priest:**

In this sometimes bewildering and tragic world, let us pray for those who are suffering, and for God's blessing on the church, that we may all hear and accept the invitation of God to lead lives of goodness and peacefulness.

For the Pope, our bishops, priests and deacons and faithful people that we may live out the love and mercy of God.

**Lord hear us**

We pray for our parish: that we may be welcoming and open to all whom the Lord is calling into his kingdom.

**Lord hear us**

We pray for those who have not yet heard God's call and those who are resisting it: that they may come to know the Lord's love and mercy.

**Lord hear us**

We pray for those who caring the burden of sickness and sorrow: that they may find the peace that passes all understanding.

**Lord hear us.**

We pray for all the faithful whose work in the Lord's vineyard is done, and for the souls of all those who have died in recent times from our community: that they may receive the reward of their labours.

**Lord hear us**

We pray for our own spiritual and temporal needs.

We ask Mary help of Christians, St Winefred and all the saints of the Shrewsbury Diocese to intercede for us as we place all our intentions before the Lord.

Hail Mary,

Loving Father, we can do nothing without your help. Grant to us and all for whom we pray the strength, fulfilment and joy that comes from you through Christ our Lord Amen