

ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

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

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Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary time

27th September 2020

THEME: God the master of the vineyard.

God puts faith in us with everything we need to produce good fruit. But if we refuse his gifts, reject him and betray his trust, then the opportunities will be given elsewhere. If, on the other hand, we trust and lovingly commit ourselves to God, we shall experience his lasting peace.

MASS TIMES: St Mary's: Sun 9-30am; Mon - Fri 9am; Sat 10am;
St Paul's: Saturday vigil 6-00pm.

From Thurs 8th October, Thursday morning Mass will be at St Paul's at 9am.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: MATTHEW 21:33-43 Both Jesus and his audience would have known the Isaiah story of the vineyard, and Jesus uses their knowledge with dramatic effect just as the chief priests and elders are setting comfortably into what they think is a story they know well, and in which they are heroes who have remained within the law, suddenly Jesus branches off and starts talking about the tenants and ill-treatment of the owner's servants. They listen intently, indignation rising at every stage, and are unequivocal about the punishment for those wretches. Then quietly Jesus shows them that they themselves have behaved like the tenants. That is the moment when they are bound to be cut to the quick, resulting either in full and joyful repentance or in defensive hatred. There is nothing wrong in their moral reasoning throughout the story-they just could not see their own behaviour in that light.

POPE FRANCIS: We are called to be instruments of God our Father, so that our planet might be what He dreamed of when he created it and correspond with his plan for peace, beauty and fullness.

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 and the rule of six now applies, therefore only 6 people, including the priest may attend.**

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: A note from the British Legion. Tameside Council has announced that there will be no formal services or parades this year due to the Covid-19 regulations. No formal gatherings are allowed due to the 'rule of six'. The British Legion will lay a wreath at the cenotaphs on Sunday 8th November with the local MP if available and someone from the council to lay a wreath on behalf of the Mayor. Anyone who wants to lay a wreath can do so at any time between November 8th and 11th.

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 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 health workers are particularly at risk.

HYDE & DISTRICT FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES FOOD BANK. Over the last 8 years a food bank has operated in the Central Methodist Church, Hyde. Sadly due to several reasons, including Covid-19, the food bank has had to close permanently. There is a temporary one at the Grafton Centre, one at St Mary's, Haughton Green and one at the Baptist Church in Hattersley. We would like to thank you for all the contributions you have made over the years. The need is still there and any of the food banks would be grateful for your support. The Trustees of Hyde and District food bank.

FAMILY FAST DAY: Cafod Harvest Fast day will be on Friday October 9th. The Theme this year is 'A Harvest like no other' and details can be found on the Cafod website <https://www.cafod.org.uk>

CAFOD PRAYERS: Lord Jesus, give us the grace to hear your voice, and the strength to continue working for your kingdom in this time of pandemic. Do not allow us to be indifferent to those who today suffer the loss of a loved one or who suffer from absence of work. But give us the courage to accompany and side with those who suffer violence or injustice. Amen. (Javier Eduardo Martinez Rueda-Columbia)

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 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.**

RETURNING TO MASS: If you still feel unsure about returning to mass have a look at what parishioners are saying! "Having attended mass over the last few weeks, I have found it very safe and very clean, thanks to the good works of the stewards. I would encourage people to give it a try."

ATTENDANCE AT MASS: When we come together in prayer we support, encourage and strengthen each other in our faith. Your presence at mass on Sundays and weekdays is important and does make a difference.

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.

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC COLLEGE: All Saints in line with all high schools will not be holding an open evening this year due to Covid- 19. They have published details about the college on their website and on social media. <https://www.questmedianetwork.co.uk/news/tameside-reporter/watch-a-virtual-tour-of-all-saints-catholic-college/>

BIDDING PRAYERS for Twenty-Sixth Sunday in ordinary time

Priest: Let us turn to our heavenly Father and put before him our needs.

We pray for the church that our leaders may bear witness to Christ's divine humility in their lives.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for our Christian communities: that they may understand the folly of the cross and rejoice in the power of its message.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for world leaders: that they may not put their faith in power and arms but follow Christ's concern for those who are weak and poor.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who are suffering from ill-health: that they may see in Christ's suffering a source of comfort and healing.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for all those who have died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time that they may enjoy the fruits of Christ's resurrection.

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 pray

Hail Mary, full of grace, blessed be your name and blessed be the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

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

The readings for Sunday 27th September

Entrance Antiphon All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel **18:25-28**

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Psalm 24 Response: **Remember your mercy, Lord**

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **Response**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.

In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **Response**

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches his way to the poor. **Response**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians 2:1-11

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,

he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.

But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings in the heavens,
on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.
Alleluia!

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

Communion Antiphon

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise You,
We bless You
We adore you
We glorify You
We give You thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father almighty.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only-begotten Son.
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One.

You alone are the Lord.

You alone are the most high,

Jesus Christ

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father.

Amen

I believe in one God,

the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

Of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the Only Begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate

of the Virgin Mary,

and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried

and rose again on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory

to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is adored and

glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen