

# ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

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

Parish Priest: Father Oliver O'Doherty 29 Zetland St, Dukinfield, Cheshire SK16 4EJ

Website: [stmaryandstpaul.org.uk](http://stmaryandstpaul.org.uk)

Email: [o.odoherty@ntlworld.com](mailto:o.odoherty@ntlworld.com)

Telephone: 0161 330 2424

**Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary time**

**4th October 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: Sunday 9-30am; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9am; Saturday 10am;  
St Paul's: Thursday 9am; Saturday vigil 6-00pm

**From Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> October, Thursday morning Mass will be at St Paul's at 9am**

**Please note all children over 3 need to wear a face mask in Church.**

**BAPTISM:** James Henry Mylcheest was welcomed into the family of God last Sunday.

**RECENT DEATHS:** Agnes Bardsley, Elizabeth Smith, Vincent Connor, Peter Constantine. We offer our sincere sympathy to all their relatives and friends.

**SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:** MATTHEW 21:33-43 The evil tenants. In today's Gospel, Matthew borrows some ideas from Isaiah's song, but alters the central imagery: Israel is no longer the vineyard itself but tenant farmers working for their landlord. Features of the parable reflect conditions of rural life in Galilee: it was common for land to be owned by absentee landlords who would collect their rent from the tenant farmers at harvest time. The lengthy absence of the landlords, alongside the harsh economic climate of the country often led to difficulties between the landlord and tenant, sometimes leading to assaults on the agents sent to collect the rent.

Matthew clearly uses the parable, addressed to the chief priests and elders, as a summary of salvation history. The landlord's servants stand for the succession of prophets God has sent to Israel, only to see them treated with disdain and violence. The son is clearly a figure of Jesus himself, dragged out of Jerusalem to be murdered. Jesus is not just another of the prophets, but God's own son. The punishment of leasing the vineyard to other tenants clearly indicates Matthew's thought that the kingdom of God will be granted to the Gentiles, who will be expected to deliver the produce.

The parable speaks to us about the patience of God: when his servants are killed he sends more and more in the hope that people will turn from their evil ways. Even when people are killed, he still hopes that his beloved Son will make his people change their ways. Jesus is God's last appeal, his final challenge. Depending on our response to him, judgment is then made. If we are now the tenants, then we are subject to God's expectation of us and subject to his judgment of us. God looks to us for fruits of faith and love and obedience: he expects that we deliver forgiveness and mercy: are these the fruits we produce?

**POPE FRANCIS:** We need to pursue a genuine fraternity based on our common origin from God. The desire for peace lies deep within the human heart, and we should not resign ourselves to seeking anything less than this.

**POPE FRANCIS:** Everyone is important in God's eyes, everyone can transform a part of the world polluted by human voracity into the good reality willed by the creator.

**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.

**HYDE & DISTRICT FELLOWSHIP OF CHURCHES FOODBANK.** Over the last 8 years a foodbank has operated in the Central Methodist Church, Hyde. Sadly due to several reasons, including Covid-19, the foodbank has had to close permanently. There is a temporary one at the Grafton centre, one at St Mary's, Haughton Green, 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 foodbank.

**FAMILY FAST DAY:** Next Friday October 9th is family fast day. The Theme this year is 'A Harvest like no other' and details can be found on the Cafod website <https://cafod.org.uk> Please pick up a family fast envelope from the table on the way out and return it next Sunday. Thank you.

**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)

**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 3 and under. 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.”

**THANKS:** A parishioner phoned in during the week asking that we record their family thanks to: Fr Oliver, John Storey, helpers and cleaners for making it possible to have our churches open for Holy Mass at the weekends. Without them we would not be able to assemble to celebrate our faith in the Eucharist together.

**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.

**CARLO ACUTIS:** The London born computer genius who died from leukaemia in 2006, aged 15, will be beatified next Saturday 10th October 2020 in Assisi, in the final step before sainthood. He is tipped to become a “patron saint of the internet” after he was credited with the recovery of a young Brazilian boy from a rare illness. The teenager died in Milan, Italy where he moved shortly after being born to a half – English father and Italian mother in London. He set up a website to investigate miracles around the world and supported bullied classmates. According to his mother. “He was a computer genius so this probably makes him very close to the young people of nowadays. He was living the same life as them. He liked to play video games, use the internet and liked football”

The Brazilian boy was said to have fought the disease after praying to Carlo asking him to communicate with God. The Vatican said the miracle had been approved by the Medial Council of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Saint Isidore of Seville, a seventh century scholar, is at present considered the patron saint of the internet. Carlo, a devout Christian, would become the second Briton to be canonised in nearly half a century, after the 18th century theologian and poet Cardinal Henry Newman.

**Carlo Acutis:** “I really believe many people do not really understand the value of Holy Mass. Because if they were to realise the great treasure that the Lord gave us – Offering himself as our food and drink in the Holy Eucharist – they would go to church every day to participate in the fruits of the sacrifice which is being celebrated there. And they would renounce so many superfluous things”

**NEWS FROM 10 DOWNING ST:** Four month old Wlifred son of Boris Johnson and Carrie Symonds was baptised recently in Westminster Cathedral by Fr Daniel Humphreys in the lady chapel. Boris and Carrie are baptised Catholics.

**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-Seventh Sunday in ordinary time**

### **Priest**

We thank God for the wonder of “our common home” and that God will always keep us mindful of our responsibility for it and for each other.

We pray for the Pope and all our bishops: that they may continue to teach us to be sensitive to the needs of our world.

**Lord, hear us.**

We pray for those who are suffering the effects of climate change through extreme weather conditions, storms and drought. .

**Lord, hear us.**

We pray for those who are working for peace and justice in the world: that they may help us to avoid the threats that confront us.

**Lord, hear us**

We pray for young people as they look to the future: that they may see how they can play their part in building God’s new world.

**Lord, hear us**

We pray for those who are sick and those who care for them: that the Lord will give them healing and hope.

**Lord, hear us.**

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.

## The readings for Sunday 4th October

**Entrance Antiphon** Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

### **A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 5:1-7**

Let me sing to my friend the song of his love for his vineyard. My friend had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones and planted choice vines in it. In the middle he built a tower, he dug a press there too. He expected it to yield grapes, but sour grapes were all that it gave.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, I ask you to judge between my vineyard and me. What could I have done for my vineyard that I have not done? I expected it to yield grapes. Why did it yield sour grapes instead? Very well, I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge for it to be grazed on, and knock down its wall for it to be trampled on. I will lay it waste, unpruned, undug; overgrown by the briar and the thorn. I will command the clouds to rain no rain on it. Yes, the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts is the House of Israel, and the men of Judah that chosen plant. He expected justice, but found bloodshed, integrity, but only a cry of distress.

### **Psalm 79 Response: **The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel****

You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
to plant it you drove out the nations.  
It stretched out its branches to the sea,  
to the Great River it stretched out its shoots.

#### **Response**

Then why have you broken down its walls?  
It is plucked by all who pass by.  
It is ravaged by the boar of the forest,  
devoured by the beasts of the field. **Response**  
God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **Response**  
And we shall never forsake you again;  
give us life that we may call upon your name.  
God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

#### **Response**

### **A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians 4:6-9**

There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your

hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, everything that is good and pure, everything that we love and honour, and everything that can be thought virtuous or worthy of praise. Keep doing all the things that you learnt from me and have been taught by me and have heard or seen that I do. Then the God of peace will be with you.

**Alleluia, alleluia!** I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. **Alleluia!**

### **A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 21:33-43**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see? I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

### **Communion Antiphon**

The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

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.