

# 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

## Thirty third Sunday in Ordinary Time

## 15th November 2020

**THEME:** Use your talents

Our life, energy, strength, and gifts are given to us by our creator to use for good. If we are wise stewards, we will further God's glory and hasten the coming of his kingdom. Like the valuable life of the proverbs, we shall be valuable members of the family of Christ. However, little we feel we have to offer, we need to use and develop it, not hide it away.

**MASS TIMES:** St Mary's Sunday 9-30am to 11-00am. The church will be open for private prayer. Fr Oliver will be available to parishioners who need to speak to him.

**St Paul's:** Saturday 6-00 to 6-30pm for private prayer. Fr Oliver will be present.

**St Paul's:** Wednesday 18th November Requiem mass 10-45am for Crescenzo Iullano

**BAPTISM:** Harriet Clara Alldritt was welcomed into the family of God last Sunday.

**SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:** MATTHEW 25:14-30 Some people keep their best china permanently behind glass doors; some have precious jewellery in bank vaults instead of around their necks; some keep a large 'nest-egg' of money and rarely dip into it, even if the carpet is threadbare.

All these precautions are taken because greatly valued things are precious, and we want to preserve them from damage. But the need to preserve can get out of hand until, since we are not using something, we can value the thought of it, rather than the thing itself. And then, in a way, it's possible use is being wasted.

Gifts and talents are often underused and hidden away as well. Sometimes this is because our sophisticated society brings a slick professionalism into every home through the media, and home-grown talent is thought to be of second best.

What Jesus wants us to know is that we are all valuable and have been given talents which can be used to good effect in our world. We really ought to use them, or the world will suffer - yes, even if, one seemingly meagre talent is wasted, the world will be poorer.

If we are willing to have a go, try anything once or make fools of ourselves in a good cause, we might well unearth talents we did not even know we had!

**THE CLOSURE OF CHURCHES:** Karl Rahner one of the most influential theologians of the twentieth century once wrote: "The Christian of the future will be a mystic or not exist at all". "By mystic" Rahner did not mean that Christians should don monastic habits or retreat into the desert, but that believers would need a genuine experience of God "from the very heart of our existence". In the midst of the second wave of COVID-19 and the looming restrictions across Europe his words seem very apt. They also help to frame remarks made by Pope Francis in a recent interview where he addressed the repercussions for the church of a second lockdown. Bishops and priests are concerned about the impact that closing church buildings will have on people's faith, and worry that when they reopen, some won't return. The Pope doesn't share those fears. "I'll tell you about an episode that displeased me," Francis told Gian Marco Chiocci director of the Italian news agency. I learned of a bishop who claimed that 'people' had lost the 'habit' of going to church during the current Pandemic and will no longer go to kneel before a crucifix or to receive Holy Communion. I say that if these people only went to church out of 'habit' it would be better they stayed at home".

Stressing that people are called by the Holy Spirit, he said that after the tough test of the pandemic “the faithful will be truer believers and more authentic”. He added “Believe me, it will be so”.

The Pope has called believers to be credible witnesses to their faith through their words, hearts and hands. It is a vision that can be traced back to the Latin American Bishop’s document of 2007 which he helped to draft. It declares “a credible witness of holiness and commitment is expected from those who live in Christ”

#### **ARRANGEMENTS for MASS**

- If you are intending to come to mass please provide advance notification, preferably by email [john.storey6@btopenworld.com](mailto:john.storey6@btopenworld.com) or tel: 0161 330 2424.
- A face mask must be worn whilst you are in Church. The only exception is for 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 asked to sanitise your hands and check your name against the booked list. If you have not pre-booked, please give the steward your details.
- You will be guided to a pew. To avoid passing those already seated, pews are filled 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).
- **Parishioners who are finding it difficult due to the steps to enter or leave church please speak to John Storey.**
- **The toilets will not be open.**

**Stewards are needed to assist at the 11-00am Mass to assist with ensuring the safety of those who will be participating. If you can help, please contact John Storey or Fr Oliver.**

**NOVEMBER MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS:** Holy Souls envelopes are on the church table for your personal use. Please put the names of those who wish to be remembered in the Holy Souls masses through November in the envelope and place it in the Holy Souls box on the church table. It is a Catholic tradition to include a stipend.

**SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL:** During the last lockdown the parish S.V.P continued their work through phone calls to those they visit, ensuring that they were not forgotten, continuing to do so during the present situation. A number of families have been referred to them who are experiencing financial difficulties during these challenging times and we are pleased to tell you that they were able to come to their assistance with the support of Caritas Shrewsbury, the SVP at diocesan level and through a very generous donation from a member of the parish.

**NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY:** Sunday 22nd November, the Feast of Christ the King, is National Youth Sunday. This year the NYS team are inviting schools to join them on You Tube for a day of prayer, FUN, GAMES AND INSPIRATION. Join us on Friday 20th November to celebrate National Youth Sunday! Go to [www.nationalyouthsunday.com/nyfd](http://www.nationalyouthsunday.com/nyfd) for more information and to register your school.

**HELP PROTECT BABIES WITH CLEFT PALATE AND CLUB FEET:** Sadly, abortion is currently available in the UK, right up to birth, for babies with cleft lip, cleft palate, and club foot. All these conditions can be corrected. A cross-party group of MPs from the three largest parties in the UK Parliament have come together to bring forward the Abortion cleft lip, cleft palate, and club foot Bill. The Bill will change the law to clarify that cleft palate, cleft lip, and club foot are not grounds for abortion in the UK. Can you help with getting your MP to support the Bill? Please visit [www.standupandsmile.org.uk](http://www.standupandsmile.org.uk) or email your MP asking them to support the Bill. It will only take 30 seconds.

## **BIDDING PRAYERS for Thirty third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **Priest:**

Let us bring our petitions before the Lord.

For the Pope that he may protect and increase the flock that is entrusted to his care.

**Lord, hear us.**

We pray for bishops and priests, and all church leaders: that they may be granted strength and wisdom in the service of God's people.

**Lord, hear us.**

We pray for elected officials and world leaders entrusted with responsibilities both small and great: that they may be good and faithful public servants.

**Lord, hear us.**

We pray for young people: that they may be helped to find the unique giftedness with which God has graced every human person.

**Lord, hear us**

We pray for ourselves: that we may be conscientious in the smallest of duties and give the support we need when our burdens weigh heavily

**Lord, hear us**

We pray for those who lost their lives through warfare and violence. That God has granted them a place in the kingdom of heaven

**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, the Lord is with you; blessed art thou amongst all women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death, Amen.

**Priest:** Loving Father, you sent your Son into the world as the human face of your love. Receive the prayers of those who call on His Holy Name. Amen.

## The readings for Sunday 15th November

**Entrance Antiphon** The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

### A Reading from the Book of Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20,30-31

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

### Psalm 127 Response: **O blessed are those who fear the Lord**

O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. **Response**

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. **Response**

Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life! **Response**

### A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

**Alleluia, alleluia!** Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life.  
**Alleluia!**

## A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. 'The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'"

**Communion Antiphon** To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord

**Gloria:**

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

**Credo:**

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.