

Parish Newsletter

**THE PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, HAIGH, ASPULL & BLACKROD
WITH THE PARISH OF HOLY FAMILY, NEW SPRINGS**

S.R.C.D.T. REG. CHARITY No. 250037

October 3rd/4th 2020

Twenty-Seventh Sunday of the Year (A)



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Masses :
Saturday Vigil 6.00pm - Our Lady's
Sunday 9.30am - Our Lady's
Sunday 11.15am - Holy Family



WEEKEND MASSES AT OUR LADY'S AND HOLY FAMILY

This weekend's Masses:

Vigil Mass - Saturday at 6.00pm and the Sunday Mass at 9.30am, both at Our Lady's.

Sunday Mass - Holy Family at 11.15am.

Parishioners are reminded that, at present, there is still no obligation to attend Mass. We will let you know when this changes.

There are no mid-week Masses planned for the near future.

Response to the Psalm: The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

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

FOR THOSE NOT READY OR ABLE TO RETURN TO CHURCH - SERVICES ONLINE

A number of parishes continue to stream masses on line both daily and on Sundays.

The nearest to our parish at the moment, in our Diocese, is St Vincent's, Over Hulton. Online Live streaming of mass can be accessed via their website: <http://stvincentsbolton.org/>

Other local churches providing online Live Streaming of masses include:

St Cuthbert's, Bolton www.stcuthberts.org.uk

St Gregory's, Chorley www.stgregoryschorley.org.uk

Further options can be found here: <https://www.churchservices.tv/>

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.

Amen.

(based on a prayer of St Alphonsus Liguori)

CALENDAR FOR THIS WEEK

6th Oct – St Bruno: 12th century religious founder.

7th Oct – The Feast of the Holy Rosary: Celebrated in the month of October traditionally devoted to the Rosary.

9th Oct – St. John Henry Newman: Our newest English Saint, beatified by Pope Benedict XVI in Birmingham in 2010. He was born in London in 1801 and died in 1890. Educated at Oxford, he was the most notable

Catholic convert of the age. He became a member of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri, and was made Cardinal by Pope Leo XIII.

10th Oct – St Paulinus of York: died in 644. He was among the second group of monks sent to England by Pope Gregory. After twenty years in Kent, he was ordained bishop and sent to Northumbria. By 627, he baptised the king and many of his nobles. Paulinus returned to Kent, where he served in Rochester.

PARISH NOTICES

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEKEND

Thoughts for the 27th Sunday of the Year.

Over the years I have been invited to speak at schools and colleges, and on one occasion, to a charity function for 'Ladies who Lunch', to talk about being a priest. We know sadly that the Catholic Priesthood has become a tarnished brand in recent years, but people are still interested, with all sorts of questions about the preparation and the life of a priest. I have been asked about my vocation, "Did God speak to you?", "Did you see angels or hear celestial music?". The answer to those, of course, was no. "Did you want to get married and have a family?". Yes, but I doubt that any woman would have put up with me for very long. "How did your family and friends react to your decision?" "What and where did you study and for how long?" "Did you have any doubts about your faith or have doubts today?" "Are there any things you would like to see change in the Church?" "Do you have any regrets?" "What do you find most difficult about your job and what do you enjoy the most?" And then the question that young people always want to ask but they are often not allowed to by their teachers is, "How much do you get paid?"

Yes, a living faith only grows through doubts and questions and we all have them. I am not in a position of authority to mould or to change Church teaching or practice and everyone has regrets, whatever their calling, but if we are busy we get on with things because life is too short. Yes, I do enjoy very much preparing a couple for their marriage and, yes, a well prepared Funeral, celebrated with family and friends of somebody I knew, yes that I can really say is enjoyable but I hope I would be equally as professional about a funeral of

someone I did not know. Yes, more pay would be great but we do not need more than our allowance or, in my case now, my State Pension, since I have no mortgage to pay and no family to provide for. When Bishop John came as our new Bishop some years ago he visited every priest to get to know his team and he asked us lots of questions. When he began I said, "Is this for the prosecution or the defence?" and he laughed because he had been a Barrister before himself entering the priesthood. In the middle of a long list of questions about how old I am, what was my health like, what would happen if I retired, am I financially independent, do I say my prayers, do I have a spiritual director, do I have priest friends, do I have friends out of the priesthood etc, he threw in - question - "Are you happy?". My answer to him then and to anyone now who would ask me the same question, the answer would be, "I hope it is obvious".

Fr. Kevin

MASS INTENTIONS

Received and celebrated this week:

- A sick person
- George and Mary Cott.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

All who are sick at this time and especially Bob Westmorland, Tony Webber, Ken Thomas, Kevin Croston and Bob Connor.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY

This falls on Friday 9th October. There is information about this and how our parish can respond to the urgent needs of people around the world on the back page of this Newsletter.

There will be a collection at masses next weekend.

BAPTISMS RESUME IN OUR PARISHES

On 11th October when we will welcome Edward McGarvie at Our Lady's;

25th October, Olivia Vanessa Ireland at Holy Family;

15th November at Our Lady's, Raine Counce; and James Harrison Lane at Our Lady's, 22nd November.

CHURCH COLLECTION ENVELOPES

Are now available. Numbers between 101 and 110 have been reassigned to numbers between 1 and 100. They come into use the first weekend of November.

A STRANGE REQUEST

Does anyone in the parish have access to a drone with a camera? We have a project which would be helped by having video footage of Our Lady's Church as seen from above and outside. If you can help, then please contact Kevin Riley.

ATTENDING MASS IN OUR PARISHES

The following is a simple reminder.

Numbers are restricted to those set by social distancing guidelines.

Everyone **MUST** wear a face covering unless they are exempt.

You must follow the guidance given by stewards, including when to go to receive Communion.

There will be no singing.

Communion will be distributed after the final blessing and those receiving communion will leave immediately after receiving the Eucharist, following the one-way system. (Please take all your belongings with you to communion) and do not return to your bench.

You are asked not to arrive too early for the Masses; 15 to 20 minutes before Mass is all that you will need and you will be asked to take your seat and **wait in a respectful and prayerful silence** until Mass starts.

LIVE STREAM SERVICES THIS WEEK

For those who are not yet able to attend Mass in our parishes, this weekend's live stream masses at St Vincent's are:

Saturday Vigil - 6.00pm

Sunday - 10.00am

Weekday live stream masses - Wednesday

and Friday - 9.30am to 10.00am.

PREPARATION FOR FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020-21

It is something of an understatement that this coming year's Sacramental Programme presents some new challenges. At this stage we do not know when parish meetings will be able to take place. Nor do we know when we will be able to welcome larger congregations in our churches. Neither of the two, however, seem imminent.

However, there are resources available online. All are suitable for our First Communion candidates to work through with the support of their parents:

The Liverpool scheme 'With You Always'.

These materials are already being used in a number of our parishes. They are designed for parents and children to work together on during a session in the parish hall. However they are suitable for home-based catechesis. The one exception is the first session which focuses on the children completing their worksheet as they explore the church. The materials are not available online and would have to be distributed to families via post or the school. <http://www.withyoualways.org.uk/>

Online and free is **Blessed**, a programme for First Reconciliation and one for First Eucharist, from the United States. You can get a flavour of it here: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/blessed/program-view>.

This is a programme that is worth considering.

The long-standing **Salford materials**, formerly published by Gemini, are available on the diocesan website. The link is: <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/faith/sacraments/first-communion/>

The Pastoral Center, in the USA (as the spelling suggests), has a good program for both sacraments, available on a license which is \$3.68 per child. The link is <https://>

Every good wish and blessing.

Am Kenia.

CAFOD HARVEST FAST DAY 9TH OCTOBER 2020

So far this year CAFOD has raised £2.5 million for their Coronavirus Appeal, thanks to the generosity of parishioners around the world.

This year's harvest appeal continues the theme of

SURVIVE, REBUILD & HEAL

We are asked to help those who are already disadvantaged to survive, rebuild their lives during the pandemic and to pray for healing for the world.

Pope Francis asks us to share, "as disciples of Christ, Who shared everything with us."



What your donations can provide:

- £17.70 could buy hygiene packs for three vulnerable families, containing soap, washing powder and reusable face masks.
- £12 can deliver an emergency food package containing essentials like rice, beans and eggs to a family in isolation.
- £33 can give a religious leader information about coronavirus, which they can share with their community.
- £135 can install one community handwashing point and train 25 villagers in safe hand-washing.

HOW TO DONATE:

- You can leave donations of cash or a cheque in an envelope with the words CAFOD on the front. Cheques should be made payable to CAFOD. Donations may be left at church or the presbytery.
- Text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10.
- To donate online go to : <http://cafod.org.uk>
- Please Gift Aid if appropriate

Here is a link to Gift Aid forms if you would like to print your own:

https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/476/5262/version/20/file/Parish_collection_Gift%20Aid%20Declaration-printable%202016.pdf