



Parish of St. Vincent de Paul

Newsletter

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18th February 2024
1st Sunday of Lent B

Mass Times this Week

Sunday	10.00
Monday	07.30
Tuesday	07:30
Wednesday	09.00
Thursday	07.30
Friday	09.00
Saturday (vigil)	18.00



Homily Notes

‘Repent’ means return to God, or simply ‘turn to God’.

Turn away from self, my own interest, my own advantage. The Church, in this special time of Lent – the period of preparation for Easter – suggests three means: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Prayer is putting ourselves in the presence of God, recognizing that life and all good things come from God, consequently in a spirit of thanksgiving. We can express this in words, our own or borrowed from some saint, or just be present to God in silence.

Fasting is emptying ourselves, to allow God to fill us with his Holy Spirit. Fasting can take many forms: from the quantity of food taken, or the quality, from alcohol, from spending a long time watching TV, regulating one’s time on the internet, and so on. Each one can find the appropriate thing to do.

Almsgiving means helping other people, through a gift of money or in kind, or by giving a helping hand, or giving of one’s time, visiting a lonely person.

In all these activities it is important that we ourselves not be at the centre. We are not to boast about what we are giving or giving up. Our Lenten activities are for God.

‘Believe in the Good News’ means really trust in Jesus, trusting that Jesus is truly the Son of God who has become one of us in order to lead us to his Father and to share his life with us.

The Gospel of this Sunday speaks about the Temptation of Jesus. This was no chance: the Spirit drove Jesus. It cannot have been easy for him: he was in the wilderness, with the beasts, and it lasted a long time, ‘forty days’. Jesus persevered. The angels looked after him, in other words, he remained in the presence of God, his Father.

Perhaps during this time of Lent we could take up the prayer of St Richard of Chichester:

Lord Jesus
May I know thee more clearly,
love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Michael

Mass Intentions

- Sat 17: Mary/James Sharkey
- Sun 18: Special intention
- Mon 19: Parishioners
- Tues 20: Mulvey Family
- Wed 21: Maureen O’Reilly
- Thu 22:
- Fri 23: Martina Stewart
- Sat 24: Gilbertson Family
- Sun 25: Robbie & Agnes O’Gorman

INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

In his encyclical “Laudato Si” Pope Francis speaks of 'Integral Ecology'.

Who knows what it is? Another phrase that Francis uses frequently in Laudato Si' is 'everything is connected'. And I came to realise that's what 'integral ecology' means - everything is connected.

Did you know that some trees and fungi have a connection which benefits them both? The fungi attach themselves to the roots of the trees and gain access to the sugars that they themselves can't produce, while the trees benefit as the process extends the roots, allowing for greater absorption of nutrients for them. Because of the scale of the fungus' growth along its roots, these spread further and overlap with other trees, and as a result the trees can communicate with each other, particularly in times of distress. An amazing example of interconnectedness - integral ecology - everything working with everything else for the common good.

Humans are not always very good at seeing themselves as part of nature, often considering themselves superior to, and in charge of, the rest of the created world. But as Pope Francis says in his recently published apostolic exhortation Laudate Deum, 'Human beings must be recognised as part of nature' and continues that 'a healthy ecology is also the result of interaction between human beings and the environment'. He tells us that we should be able 'to recognise ... that human life is incomprehensible and unsustainable without other creatures'.

This is the integral ecology that Pope Francis promulgates; an understanding that the wonderful world which God has created out of pure love is totally interconnected, and that everything, including humankind, is, according to Laudato Si', 'linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect'.

Adapted from : “Explaining Integral Theology”, by Jane Lavery, a volunteer with the Columban Justice, Peace and Ecology Team.

[Explaining Integral Ecology | ICN \(indcatholicnews.com\)](http://www.indcatholicnews.com)

Terry

Parish Notice Board

FAMILY OF PARISHES

St. Vincent de Paul

- **Tuesday:** Tuesday Café & Food Bank, 10am – 12.00, church

- **Wednesday:** Lection Divina (Bible-based prayer) **6.30pm** in church.

- **Friday:** Stations of the Cross **6pm**

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

- No prayer vigil this week

St. Patrick's

St. Anne's

- **Tuesday:** Alpha Course **6pm**, in parish rooms.

- **Wednesday:** Stations of the Cross in church, **7pm**

READERS, PLEASE NOTE: a retreat for you on Sunday 25th Feb, 3pm – 5pm, in church.

Formation and Prayer are essential to the integrity and effectiveness of our ministries. We encourage all readers, new and experienced, to participate in this retreat. Other ministers and parishioners are welcome.

BOOK LAUNCH & SIGNING

Please join the Pauline Books & Media in celebrating the launch of **Pondering and Praying Vatican II** by **Archbishop John Wilson**.

DATE: Thursday, 22 February 2024

VENUE: Pauline Books & Media, 84 Church Street, LIVERPOOL, L1 3AY

TIME: 2.30 PM

Archbishop John Wilson will be present to Launch and Sign the book.

Lottery Results – 11th February
03 04 08 09 11 13
Jackpot £550.00

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment

ELECTION OF NEW PARISH COUNCIL

The following have been elected onto the new parish council:

Georgia BIRCH, Danilo CUCCATO, Pat GLANVILLE, Paul GLOVER, Megan KNOWLES, Eleanor LALLEY, Frank SHOVLIN, Michael WILSON.

This turns out to be a happy balance between the Saturday and Sunday congregations and is a good cross-section of the people of the parish. We decided to coopt all 8 nominees, all of whom received more than 30% of the vote, to ensure a representation of the parish community and a happy number of councillors at each meeting. (Terry)

Councillors are asked to attend regular monthly meetings which are a place of discernment and decision-making for the good of the Parish Community life. They will also have to engage in the decisions they make and not wait for others to see them through. This entails an ability and readiness to serve.

The new council will meet at 6.30pm until 7.30pm on Monday 19th February, in the church.

'Another Fifty Catholic Churches to See Before You Die'. A talk by Elena Curtis. RC Cathedral, Gibbard Room. Saturday 24 Feb 11.00am. Admission £12.00

OFFERINGS 11th February

Envelopes £33

Plate £159.00

Restoration Fund: £100.00 (gift)

Many thanks

Stations of the Cross

Will resume on Friday at 6pm. All are welcome to join us for this traditional meditation of the Passion of Christ. Unable to join us? Why not follow this meditation on You Tube? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g9nu9x5ND2Y>

The Family Fast Day is on Friday 23rd February.

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

This Lent, your donations to **CAFOD's Family Fast Day** appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the envelope or online at cafod.org.uk and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families. Use the envelope in church or give online at cafod.org.uk

LGBT+ Catholics Archdiocese of Liverpool

Our next Mass and gathering will be on: Sunday 3rd March 2024

Mass 2.00pm

All Saints, Oakfield, L4 2QG

All are welcome.

Canon Steve Maloney

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Our Prayers are asked for the following who are sick: Kathleen CUMMINS, Eileen DOLAN, Joe EDIE, Lin GINLEY, Tony GRACE, Yvonne GRACE, Albert JONES, Edie JONES, Maria JUDGE, Jane MANN, Maureen MAGUIRE, Molly M'Evoy, May McGARRY, Joan MOORE, Frankie POWER, Peter O'BRIEN, Martina STEWARD, Jean TAYLOR, Mary TUIITE, Pauline WALSH, Joanne WILCOCK, Philip WONG.

Also, for the intentions of: Anne BAXTER, Rita & Jimmy FLATLEY, Carol GALVIN, Beverley HARPER, Joan HART, Mary HOWARD, Frances KERWIN, Ann MOORE, Susan MORSELLINO, Skyla REID, Maureen RICE, Sreya Rose, Teresa SWIFT, Martha TAGUE

Those who have died recently: David Cole, John Michael Lundon,

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