



Parish of St. Vincent de Paul

Newsletter

19th July 2020

16th Sunday year A

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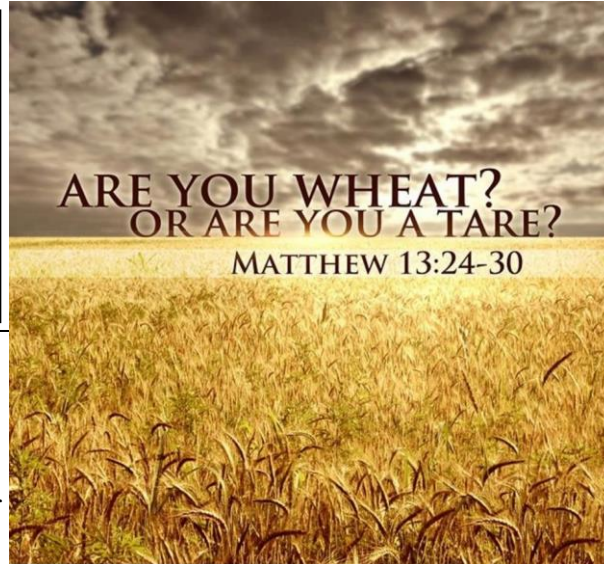
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FB: Vincent De Paul Church

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Mass Times

Sunday streamed	09.00
Monday	07:30
Tuesday	07:30
Wednesday	09.00
Thursday	07:30
Friday	09.00
Saturday vigil	18.00



Mass Intentions

- Sat 18: Des Devine RIP
- Sun 19: Teresa Swift 90th birthday
- Mon 20: Les Burns RIP
- Tues 21: Baxter Family
- Wed 22: Mary & James Sharkey
- Thu 23: Pauline Collins
- Fri 24: Sr. Veronica birthday
- Sat 25: Robbie & Agnes O’Gorman
Kitty & George Everett

Homily Notes

How would we read and apply this parable of the darnel if we lived in Sudan or in Chad where we have a

group of crime perpetrators called *Janjaweed*? While we are not in Sudan or Chad and therefore not confronted with *Janjaweed*, we are now and then faced with the question of how to deal with our weeds - whatever they may be. We fear that if we left them, they might pollute and destroy the wheat. Why not weed them out?

In scripture we learn that there were people in Jesus’ time who wanted him to separate the bad from the good. Even John the Baptist expected Jesus to separate people and to have only holy people around him. John had foretold that Our Lord would separate the chaff from the wheat, but our Lord did not do that. He instead had all sorts of people around him; the learned, the ignorant, the good-living, the bad living, tax-collectors, prostitutes, the lost. His was a gospel of mercy.

Race, religion, colour, sex, politics are easily used for identifying society’s weeds. Genocide and ethnic cleansing are extreme and open forms of weeding but there are hidden ones too. Here we can remember the suffering of the Rohingya people in Myanmar, who are facing severe communal and state sponsored violence.

We can get it wrong in weeding out people. St Paul learnt this after he had gone around weeding out the followers of Christ (Acts 9). St Peter could have been weeded out after denying Jesus. Weeding out can happen at a personal level and in small ways and we may easily find ourselves on that path of weeding, yet “only God has eyes sufficiently discerning and fingers sufficiently gentle for this job”. *Charles*

Corona Thoughts

The first time I had to take communion in the new “Covid Liturgy”, I felt shocked and totally perturbed. I heard myself say, “This is blasphemy”. I

have still not reconciled myself to coming up at the very end of Mass, after the “post-communion prayer”, after the blessing and even after the dismissal. Nor can I accept the absence of dialogue, “The Body of Christ / Amen”. And then; we are instructed to immediately leave the church and walk the path home, without even stopping to greet each other and find out how we all are!!! Oh no... Can this be true?

But I know I have to make the effort to reconcile myself to the situation. “Of course”, I remind myself, “I am a priest and for the past four months I have blithely continued to celebrate the Eucharist and take my Communion each and every day with my three companions, whilst the rest of the Church has been denied and excluded. They are the ones who have suffered,” I have to remind myself, “They are the ones who have missed out of this great sacrament of oneness with the Lord. Not you. They have fasted while you have continued to feast each day”.

So, while I may not like the way things still are, I can rejoice that – at least those of us who are in better health – we can come together, even at one meter plus distance, to celebrate the Lord’s Eucharist. We can see each other and be happy in each other’s presence again. We respect the consigns given to us to keep the virus at a distance, but we also celebrate God’s presence among us and the unity of our community. It is so good to see each other again and to hear to each other’s voices. And then, when we get home, we can take a moment to give thanks that we are still here to appreciate each other and to humbly recognise God’s constant and fatherly love for us all.

Terry

Parish Notice Board

Lottery Results

2. 3. 5. 9. 13. 14.

No Winners

Drawn 12th July 2020

Offerings for 12th July

Envelopes £84.00

Plate £60.00

Lottery £102.00

Masses £55.00

REMEMBER IN CHURCH. ♦

to wear a mask ♦ to keep your distance ♦ to follow the stewards' requests ♦ that you can give your offering by STO or leave it on the plate at the entrance to church ♦ that Communion will be given on the hand at the end of Mass and that you may then simply leave without returning to your place ♦ the stewards will clean up after us.

♦ ABOVE ALL TO KEEP SMILING BEHIND THE MASK 😊



Fr. Ferdinand greets us from his holiday in the South of France !!

REFLECTIONS ON THE EUCHARIST AND UNITY

We have very little news to share with you this weekend. As my eye was caught by this article by Fr. Chris Thomas on the Archdiocesan Web Site, I thought I would share it with you. It might help to dispel some of the pain caused by the way we have to receive communion just now due to Covid 19!!!

“I was invited not so long ago to talk to a group about transformation and the Eucharist. I told them about the time a woman, who lived on the streets, had kissed me and held me as she cried some of her pain away. She stank of stale sweat and alcohol. I was challenged about how transformed I really was when this happened. She needed human warmth, comfort and to be held. If I appeared to her like a lump of stone, she graciously never said. That experience allowed me to reflect on transformation and Eucharist and our call to be one with the least of our brothers and sisters. Afterwards, a woman came up to me, horrified that a woman of the streets should have been the means of transformation.

It was a gospel moment but not a comfortable moment. I had a certainty I was there to tell that woman the story. Her understanding of Eucharist had been hugely challenged by my sharing and what that might mean for her. It frightened her as she recognised the need for deep inner transformation, if she were to really serve.

Eucharist draws us deeply into relationship with Jesus and with others. We need to be transformed to see that clearly. When we break bread, we identify with everyone who is broken. *When we drink from the cup, we identify with everyone who shares themselves with another. It is not an individual devotion but the sacrament of unity through which we become what we receive and learn how to serve one another.* Richard Rohr says: ‘We keep eating and drinking the Mystery, until one day it dawns on us in an undefended moment: my God, I really am what I eat.’

I remember attending a Sunday Mass in a place that is rich in community values. When we got to the offertory collection, a man got up. He wandered down the church with his basket, talking away to himself and occasionally to others. Then a little girl decided it was her job so when she received the basket, she handed it around. The man was bewildered and began to mutter. He was obviously distressed. Behind me were three women whose conversation had kept me entertained as I listened to various health problems. One of these women, moved with compassion, went and put her arms around the man and said, ‘C’mon love, you come and sit with us for a while’. He began to cry as she held him. At that Eucharistic gathering the unity and service that we are invited into every time we gather was apparent in the gift of an elderly woman to that man who would experience rejection in most other places.

So, to the shores of Galilee and the words to Peter: ‘Do you love me ... then feed my sheep.’ He stands as a symbol of the Church, invited to feed the world with the presence of Jesus that is recognised in the breaking of the bread. He stands as a symbol of all, called to unite the world in the mystery of love through the service of the most broken. He stands to challenge us to recognise the invitation to unity that the Eucharist holds out to us.”

By Fr. Chris Thomas

Prayer Intentions

Our Prayers are asked for the following who are sick: John BIRKENHEAD, Michael BRATIN, Kenneth BROPHY, Vera CARTLEDGE, William FLATLEY, Joan FORD, Molly McEVOY, Elizabeth MIDSATER, May MURRAY, Joe & Jean PERRY, Dominic REID, Edna RENSHAW, Kelly SHEPHERD, Peter SPENCER, Madeleine SPINT.

Also for the intentions of: Baby KERWIN, Cathy ADAMS, Tommy ATKINS, Anne BAXTER, Catherine BOWLES, Lilly FLANNERY, Beverley HARPER, Joan HART, Theresa HASTIE, Lindsay MAHER, The McCANN Family, May McCARTHY, Kathleen McGOVERN, The MIDGHALL Family, Joey MORGAN, Prudence MULENGA, Marie NORRIS, Carole and Billy RUDKIN, SCOTT Family, Teresa SWIFT, The TARPEY Family, The THOMAS Family, Terri VALIANT, Pauline WALSH, The WILLIAMS Family. Thanksgiving for a prayer answered, Alice.

And for those who have died: Norah MARTIN who died on the 13th July. Les BURNS who died on the 13th July. Des Devine