



Parish of St. Vincent de Paul

Newsletter

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21st August 2022
21st Sunday Year C

Regular Mass Times

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

Homily Notes

Today's Gospel about the narrow gate has a familiar message. It is the same one we hear in the proverb Jesus liked to repeat: "*My pleasure is in mercy not in sacrifice*" Mt 9. Equally it is the same message when Jesus says, "*the greatest commandment is 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with*

all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself" Lk 10:27.

There is no question about it; it is no good praying if your prayer does not enhance your love for others which is revealed in your actions. Equally, for a disciple of Jesus, there is no good acting if your action is not a revelation of your love and the love of God who lives and loves in you.

This Gospel piece reminds us that we may be surprised to by those who we find in Heaven. It is not necessarily those who come to church and show themselves as "good Catholics" or "good church-people", as we often read in news reports. Jesus tells us "People will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the Kingdom of God. Indeed, some are last who will be first" (in the eyes of people) "and some are first who will be last.

The narrow door of Jesus is a radical love of God and neighbour that marks us out from others. The narrow door is learning to live as Jesus lived; forsaking the values of the world and trusting totally in the Father.

It sounds tough and unachievable. It would be if we were on our own. An author I like to read, Antonio Pagola, puts it like this: "Jesus is a door that is always open. No one can close it, only ourselves if we close ourselves to his forgiveness".

We put our trust in Jesus and in God's mercy.

Terry



Mass Intentions

- Sa 20: Parishioners
- Su 21: Heather & Garry Foggo (SI)
- Mon 22 :Terence Ingham
- Tue 23:Maurice Cavanagh
- Wed 24:Tommy Norris
- Thur 25:Parishioners
- Fri 26 :Rebecca McGuiness
- Sa 27 :Terry Valiant
- Su28 :Anne Walsh

Saints of this week

St. Bartholomew Wednesday 24th

Bartholomew is included in the list of Apostles in 3 of the Gospels. Nothing is known about him except his name. Some think he is the same person as Nathanael in St. John's Gospel.

Early tradition says that he was a missionary in India first and then in Armenia, where he was martyred. This was done in a most painful way – he was flayed alive, stripped of his skin. He is known as Patron Saint of leather workers. He is also a patron saint of the sick, as his remains are said to have been brought to Rome and buried on an island in the Tiber. The shrine built in his memory became a hospital.

Blessed Dominic Barbari Friday 26 August

He was an Italian member of the Passionist Order who was sent to England in 1841. Despite his strong Italian accent, he was a popular preacher. It was he who helped St. John Henry Newman to enter the Catholic Church. His tomb is at the Parish of St Anne and Blessed Dominic, St. Helen's.

St. Monica Saturday 27th August

St. Monica was born in Thagaste in North Africa, modern Algeria. She was brought up a Christian. There were many Christians in North Africa in those days.

She was married young to Patricius and among their children was St. Augustine. He began his life as quite a rebel. He was very intelligent but of "uncertain morals", as they say. With many tears, Monica prayed unceasingly to God for her son's conversion and her prayers were eventually answered shortly before she died. Augustin then developed into a most influential Christian thinker and his works are still studied today.

Monica is a wonderful example of a Christian mother who never gives up on her wayward son and constantly prays for him to God.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

This editor of the parish newsletter (Fr. Terry) would like to share with you the editorial of this week's **Tablet**. I am motivated by the recent news reports about the hullabaloo during the Universal Synod of our sister Anglican Church at Lambeth. Some Bishops refused to partake in the Eucharist with Bishops who are openly gay or in gay relationships.

In our church, too, this is not an easy topic to discuss. In fact, this is true of the whole question of Human Sexuality, especially since the misunderstood document, *Humanae Vitae*, shook the confidence of the Catholic Church in 1968.

(The Tablet is available each week at St. Paul's Book Shop and on line at www.thetablet.co.uk)

Natural Law is not immutable

The Tablet Editorial. 20/27 August 2022

Forty-two years ago, the National Pastoral Congress in Liverpool called for "development" in the Catholic Church's teaching on sexual morality, largely resulting from dissatisfaction with the encyclical *Humanae Vitae* published 12 years earlier. The encyclical had repeated the Church's teaching that the use of contraceptives in marriage was gravely sinful; the congress did not think this should be left as the last word on the matter. There is a parallel here with what the German "synodal pathway" process has been calling for – a review of Catholic teaching on sexual morality. The German emphasis has been on homosexuality, and on the harmful effect the declaration in the Catechism that "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered" has had on gay Catholics.

The two issues are related, as both arise from a particular reading of natural law. In essence this states that the procreative and unitive ends of sexual intercourse must not be separated, and to do so is "unnatural" and therefore always wrong. Contraception separates them, and homosexual acts have no reproductive function and are therefore wrong likewise. But natural law is not beyond evolution and may even be a product of it, and how it is understood may be different in different contexts.

The International Theological Commission, in a paper published by the Vatican in 2009, called natural law "the moral law inscribed in the heart of human beings and of which humanity becomes ever more aware as it advances in history. This natural law ... does not consist of definitive and immutable precepts. It is a spring of inspiration flowing forth for the search for an objective foundation for a universal ethic" (*In Search of a Universal Ethic: A New Look at Natural Law*).

That is justification enough for the German Church to ask for a review of the Church's teaching on sexual morality. It ought to be borne in mind, furthermore, that when the Birth Control Commission set up by Pope John XXIII looked for a clear argument against contraception based on natural law, it failed to find one. Would a similar commission say the same about homosexuality, seeing how the relevant natural law principles are the same?

Indeed, there has been a significant shift in the understanding of homosexuality: that it is hard-wired rather than a free choice, for example. Thankfully, words like "perversion" have dropped out of the vocabulary: for someone who is gay, it is natural to be gay, just as for someone who is straight, it is natural to be straight. Gay people and straight people are equally capable of forming committed relationships which become an "intimate partnership of life and love" (Vatican II; *Gaudium et Spes*), and equally capable of being predatory or disordered in their sex lives. Could these be the reasons why the application of natural law reasoning to produce absolute prohibitions, depending neither on the good intentions of the actor nor on beneficial outcomes, is no longer regarded as a binding moral intuition by many Catholic faithful?

These questions need addressing – and better late than never.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

With availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation
Friday 11.00am to Noon

Wednesday 24 August: **UKRAINE INDEPENDENCE DAY.**
Ecumenical Prayer Service in Metropolitan Cathedral at 3pm
with Bishop Tom Neylan and Fr. Taras

Lottery Results 14th August

03 05 07 10 13 14

(No winner) Jackpot £1,650

OFFERINGS 14th August

Envelopes £20.00

Plate £187.03

Many thanks for all your contributions

SVP Justice and Peace Group

Our next meeting will be on
Tuesday 30th August at 6pm in the
church.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Our Prayers are asked for the following who are sick: Annabel, Sheila & Mike, Lorraine ALLEN, Natasha BAKER, Kitty BAXTER, John BRAGGER, Christopher BROWNE, Lloyd CHUNG, Emma DLAN, Baby Daisy Marcia DUNN, June DUNNE, Joe EDIE, Jean ENNIS, Baby FRANKIE, Irene GREEN, Mary HOWARD, Raymond JOYCE, Helen MARTLEY, Eddie McKENNA, Mary MELODY, Margaret MUCHMORE Cathy MURRAY, Ava RUDZINSKI, Eileen SALTERS, Jean TAYLOR, Camila WILD, John TAGUE, Mary THOMPSON

Also, for the intentions of: Ary, Anne BAXTER, Ryan EDWARDS, Rita & Jimmy FLATLEY, Germaine, Beverley HARPER, Joan HART, Helen HARTLEY, Theresa HASTIE, Sarah Jane, Frances KERWIN, Madeleine McCANN & Family, Ian McNICHOLAS, Ann MOORE, Teresa SWIFT, Martha TAGUE, David THOMAS, Cath WILSON

And for those who have died recently: Mary HASTIE,