



Parish of St. Vincent de Paul

Newsletter

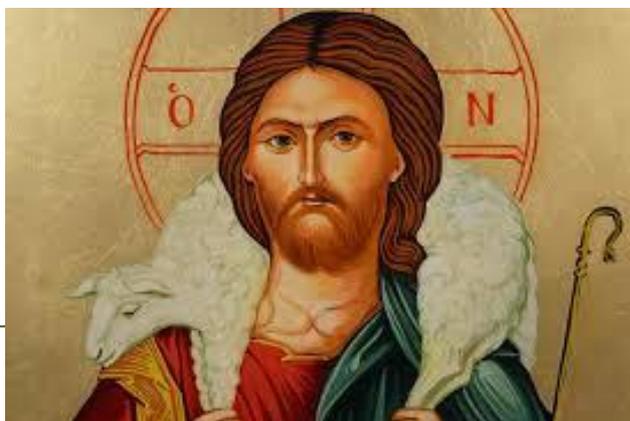
25th April 2021

4th Sunday of Easter

13 Hardy Street,
Liverpool L1 5JN
Tel: 0151 709 8589
stvincent@rcaolp.co.uk
FB: Vincent De Paul Church
Web: www.stvincentsparish.org.uk

Mass Times

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



Mass Intentions

Sat 24: Rose Healy
 Sun 25: Irene Wilcock
 Mon 26: Angela Morrissey
 Tue 27: Fr. George Russel
 Wed 28: Tony Keatley
 Thu 29: Kenny Alcock
 Fri 30: Kenny Kelbrick

Gospel Reflection

“I am the Good Shepherd”:

the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

In today's Gospel passage (John 10:11-18) Jesus uses five times the same verb: to lay down his life. Jesus laid down his life not just by dying on the cross; he laid down his life day after day after day. He did this by healing the sick, by being present to the needy, by making present God's Kingdom. Jesus saved us by serving us.

I was reflecting on Jesus' words on Friday during adoration in St Joseph's Chapel, before the Good Shepherd present in the Blessed Sacrament. Next to the Blessed Sacrament a candle was burning. It dawned on me that the candle is a symbol of 'laying down its life'. A candle gives light and brightness and thus serves people in its surroundings. But in the process of giving itself, it grows smaller until it dies. Has its existence been meaningless? No, it has brought light and brightness!

So also are we called to 'lay down our lives' day after day after day. We are called to be of humble service to each other and to bring life, in the spirit of Jesus. And each person does that according to his or her own vocation: as parent, spouse, neighbour, teacher, priest, religious, volunteer etc...

And just like the candle, while we are giving ourselves, we grow smaller until we die. Our lives are full of meaning because of the service we render, the life and light that we spread.

Aware of our weaknesses and human limitations, we ask Jesus, the Good Shepherd *par excellence*, to help us to grow in his likeness in 'laying down our lives'.

Ferdinand

Racism in the Church

Ethnic minorities have suffered disproportionately from the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating a systemic problem with racial injustice in our society.

This was dramatically brought home with the brutal killing of George Floyd and the reaction it provoked. As Pope Francis reflects: *“instances of racism continue to shame us, for they show that our supposed social progress is not as real or definitive as we think.”*

Dismantle structures of injustice

These shameful reminders of racism demand meaningful action to confront and dismantle sinful structures of injustice. Our brother Bishops in the USA remind us that: *“all of us are in need of personal, ongoing conversion. Our churches and our civic and social institutions are in need of ongoing reform. If racism is confronted by addressing its causes and the injustice it produces, then healing can occur.”*

Racism is a sin and a violation of human dignity in which we are all complicit. As Catholics we need to acknowledge and confront our own failings, as individuals and as a Church.

Every single one of our parishes, schools and organisations has a responsibility to actively practise anti-racism in all aspects of our mission.

We need to address the lack of visible diversity at every level, so that people can see themselves, their race, their culture and their history in the Church's life.

We need to engage suppliers and businesses from all parts of the community, seeking out those which promote diversity and inclusivity.

Most importantly we need to actively invite people from different ethnic communities to share their experiences and genuinely listen to their voices, however challenging this may be.

A Time to Act

It is not enough to simply denounce racism. This is a time to act. In the words of the Holy Father: *“This is a moment to dream big, to rethink our priorities — what we value, what we want, what we seek — and to commit to act in our daily life on what we have dreamed of. God asks us to dare to create something new.”*

Bishop Paul McAleenan Lead Bishop for Racial Justice

Parish Notice Board

MASS SERVERS

PRAISE THE LORD

We are happy to welcome back our Mass Servers this weekend and hope they remember their moves!!!

A few more young people would be welcome to share the joy of serving. The privilege is open to anyone in school year 5 and up!!

NEW READERS REQUIRED

If you wish to take part in this ministry, please contact Angela Everett on 07710 394635.

GOOD SINGER?

MUSICIAN? OR JUST A BUDDING BGT

CONTESTANT?

The Music Ministry is now holding regular meetings every

Tuesday at 7.30PM.

Why not join them?

You may be able to sing or play

at Mass too!!!

Check in with Paul or

Fernando or Barbara or Jovita.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

FOR YEAR 8s AND ABOVE.

If you wish to prepare your Confirmation this year, please contact **Fr. Ferdinand**. He will arrange the rest!

Lottery Results

For Draw on 18th April

05 08 11 12 13 14

No Winner!!

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:
Friday 11.00 – 13.00
Sacrament of Reconciliation available**

Letter of Bishop Paul McAleenan

On the first page, we publish the letter which Bishop Paul McAleenan, the lead Bishop in England on Racial Justice, wrote earlier this year, for **Racial Justice Sunday**.

To our shame, we failed to publish this at the time and failed to mark Racial Justice Day. However, 2 events of this week reminded us of our responsibilities in this matter: the end of the trial in the USA of Derek Chauvin, the police officer who killed George Floyd, and the report by the Church of England on racism in its own community.

I'm sure that many of us would think that we are not racist. However, I believe that this sin clings to most of us. I know that it touches me. It impacts my relationships. It influences my appreciation of others. It alters what I might say to or think of someone. Sometimes, it might be positive, often it is negative.

Here in St. Vincent's, we have to ask ourselves why there are no Chinese in our congregation, when we are in the middle of China Town. Equally, why are there no Middle Eastern refugees, and only few Africans or Caribbeans? Why do so many African Catholics say they do not find a welcome in the Roman Catholic Church when they arrive in the UK?

A Parish in White City, London, recently asked themselves the same question. They produced a booklet as a response, which you can read at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/01/Rooting-Out-Racism.pdf>. You might try these videos too: <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/being-black-and-catholic/>.
Terry

TODAY

Retiring Collection for the
"Priests' Training Fund"
Thank you for your generosity

Pastoral Associate Update:

To see us through the easing of lockdown, we invite you to go deeper into scripture with *Echoes of Isaiah!* Jo Wallace, Pastoral Associate in Upholland, and I are facilitating a multimedia zoom exploration of scripture using Isaiah 43 and its echoes in the New Testament. Basing the seven sessions on clips from the crowd funded *The Chosen* (available for free) you are welcome to join us in delving deeper into our faith, journeying together. If you have never discussed scripture before or are well versed in the bible, the discussion and sharing is open to all. You can sign up for the Zoom link through our website or at www.TheGodWhoSpeaks2020.org.uk. We will be starting Monday 26th April at 7pm on Zoom until 21 June.

The Way of Light (Stations of the Resurrection) for our Pastoral Area will be both a Zoom prayer on Sunday 16 May at 6:30pm and also online thereafter: details to follow.

"Sunshine is to flowers, what God's love is to the soul." Leila Grandemange, author.

God bless, keep safe and enjoy the beautiful weather! *Helen*

www.liverpoolsouthpastoralarea.or

Offerings on 18th April

Envelopes £72.00

Plate £92.50

Thank you, All

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Our Prayers are asked for the following who are sick: Tommy & Kitty BAXTER, Catherine BOWLES, Dawn BRANIGAN, Doreen BUTLER, Josie CALVEY, Vera CARTLEDGE, Baby Daisy Marcia DUNN, Ryan EDWARDS, Tony EDWARDS, Jean ENNIS, Joan FORD, Darren KELLY, Karl KIRWIN, Sonny MACKLIN, Anthony M^cCARTY, Molly M^eVOY, Kathleen M^cGOVERN, May MURRAY, Teresa NALL, Sarah PAUL, Mary RICE, Mike RICHARDS, Ava RUDZINSKI, Elizabeth STABRAWA

Also, for the intentions of: Joe ANDERSON, Anne & Joan BAXTER, Jimmy FLATLEY, Germaine, Beverly HARPER, Joan HART, Theresa HASTIE, Madeleine M^cCANN & Family, Anthony SILKER, Kristine STABRAWA, Teresa SWIFT, David THOMAS, Terri VALIANT

And for those who have died: Floyd ALCOCK, Richard Hill, Kathleen M^cKEOWN, Linda STOCKTON, Jimmy M^cDONOUGH (6yr Anniversary)