



Parish of St. Vincent de Paul

# Newsletter

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

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### 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

Do you know that the vine is naturally a ground creeper?

For it to stand up and bear fruit, it needs a carer, who will tie it to a support; who will prune it every year, cutting off the less productive branches, so that its fruit will be full of juice and goodness.

The older a well-tended vine becomes, the better its fruit.

The vine itself, the plant that is rooted in the ground, is, to an untrained eye, a gnarled, dry piece of wood, that would be better dug up and thrown on the fire. But every year, that dry wood gives birth to beautiful green tendrils that produce the branches that in turn produce the fruit. And as we read in the book of Genesis, by staying connected and with careful pruning, the fruit itself is

*“pleasant to the sight and good for food”* (Gen2:9). No need to mention the wine!

Jesus compares himself to this ancient fruit that grew so well in the arid hills of Israel. About to go to his death, he says that he is to become the seemingly dead piece of wood that others would reject and destroy: he is the vine. And, though he will die on the cross, through him, the branches will have life and will bear much fruit. Remain attached to me, he tells them, and the sap that runs through my veins will run through yours, too. This sap is my love for you and for the Father.

It is through us and in us, we who are the branches of the vine, that Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, still bears fruit. Our wine is the faith we have in the Risen One, which will give JOY and HOPE to the world. To produce that wine, we accept to be pruned of all that inhibits new growth. And we remain adamantly attached to Jesus Christ, the Vine.

*Terry*

### Mass Intentions

- Sat 01: Robbie O’Gorman
- Sun 02: Richard Chandler
- Mon 03: Robert Brown
- Tue 04: Kenny & Floyd Alcock
- Wed 05: John Cook
- Thu 06: Lindsay Rolph
- Fri 07: Sr. Johanna
- Sat 08: Joyce Dunne
- Sun 09: Sarah Benjamin &

### Our Duty as Citizens

You won’t find anything about voting in the Gospels. Jesus says nothing on this topic. He tells us “Give back to Caesar what

belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God” (Mt 22:21).

Does this mean that Christians are not to be involved in politics? In Scripture we read: “For the sake of the Lord, accept the authority of every social institution...God wants you to be good citizens” (1 P 2:13.15). The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* expresses this in the following way: “It is the duty of citizens to work with civil authority for building up society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity and freedom” (CCC 2255).

If it is the duty of Christians as citizens “to work with civil authority” it is surely first of all their right and duty to take part in choosing political leaders who will act “in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity and freedom”.

In some countries voting is obligatory; a fine is imposed on those who do not go to the polls. In this country, no fine is foreseen for anyone who does not exercise their right to vote. This does not mean that we should just sit back as observers, and sufferers, if our political leaders are not satisfactory. As Pope Francis has written in his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*:

“Political propaganda, the media and the shapers of public opinion will continue to promote an individualistic and uncritical culture subservient to unregulated economic interests and societal institutions at the service of those who already enjoy too much power” (FT 166).

We should go against this tendency and make sure that we have political leaders who are not concerned merely with their own interests, but who are genuinely seeking the common good.

To return to Jesus, we should remember that he said that he “did not come to be served but to serve” (Mk 10:45). Should we not vote for people who show this spirit, even if they are not Christians?

*Michael*

# Parish Notice Board

## 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!

## Month of May

### A special month for Praying the Rosary.

Let us make it more special this year and join Pope Francis in prayer for the end of the pandemic in all countries. For details, see the extra page.

## TO OUR CATHOLIC UNIVERSE AND CATHOLIC TIMES READERS:

If you are unable to collect your paper at Mass it can be delivered direct to your home every week POST FREE (IT'S QUICK AND IT'S SIMPLE) just go to [www.thecatholicuniverse.com](http://www.thecatholicuniverse.com) or call us on 0161 820 5722 and we will arrange delivery for you.

### SPECIAL OFFER:

3 MONTHS: £25.00

12 Months: £99.00

DIGITAL COPY:

12 Months: £55.00

DIGITAL COPY/AND HARD

COPY FOR: - £115.00

*All papers are Covid safe and packed in a sterile component.*

## Lottery Results

For Draw on 25<sup>th</sup> April

**02 03 04 08 10 12**

No Winner again!!

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Friday 11.00 – 13.00

## ZOOM CONFERENCE BY CARDINAL MICHAEL

on the Pope's visit to Iraq.  
What are its lasting effects?

See our Facebook Page and our Website for details.

## I am the Vine; a sonnet

by Malcolm Guite

How might it feel to be part of the vine?

Not just to see the vineyard from afar

Or even pluck the clusters, press the wine,

But to be grafted in, to feel the stir

Of inward sap that rises from our root,

Himself deep planted in the ground of

Love,

To feel a leaf unfold a tender shoot,

As tendrils curled unfurl, as branches

give

A little to the swelling of the grape,

In gradual perfection, round and full,

To bear within oneself the joy and hope

Of God's good vintage, till it's ripe and

whole.

What might it mean to bide and to abide

In such rich love as makes the poor heart

glad?

*Thanks to Moira Potier for sharing this beautiful poem by her poet-friend, Malcolm Guite from his book, "Parable and Paradox"* Terry

## Pastoral Associate Update:

As we continue enjoying the redemptive light of Easter with a bank holiday and two feast days in the coming week, we perhaps hope for a temperature rise: the fate of my tomato plants may hang in the balance!

I've been privileged to be part of the ongoing Synod Pastoral Plan group and the energy from our last meeting has been invigorating. It's been a long journey for sure, with COVID threatening the Synod, but the common aim to move forward together is strong, tangible and hope filled. Synod voting is on 19 June and we invite you to help the synod members in their discernment by giving your opinions, providing an alternative view, highlighting a new perspective, commenting on the recommendations ([synod2020.org.uk](http://synod2020.org.uk)).

Do consider attending and help shape the future of our Church in Liverpool Archdiocese.

Register for zoom link :

[h.jones@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:h.jones@rcaol.org.uk) .

The quote is from Catherine of Siena whose feast was celebrated last week:

*"Nothing great is ever achieved without much enduring"*

God Bless,

*Helen*

## Offerings on 25<sup>th</sup> April

Envelopes £77.00

Plate £117.00

Priests' Training Fund £111.30

*Many thanks for all contributions*

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

**Our Prayers are asked for the following who are sick:** Sarah ALLEN, Tommy & Kitty BAXTER, Catherine BOWLES, Dawn BRANIGAN, Michelle BRISCOE, Doreen BUTLER, Josie CALVEY, Vera CARTLEDGE, Baby Daisy Marcia DUNN, Ryan EDWARDS, Tony EDWARDS, Jean ENNIS, Rita FLATLEY, Joan FORD, Darren KELLY, Sonny MACKLIN, Anthony M<sup>c</sup>CARTY, Molly M<sup>e</sup>VOY, Kathleen M<sup>e</sup>GOVERN, Mary MELODY, Alan MERRILL, Alfie MONTGOMERY, May MURRAY, Teresa NALL, Sarah PAUL, Mary RICE, Mike RICHARDS, Ava RUDZINSKI, Elizabeth STABRAWA

**Also, for the intentions of:** Joe ANDERSON, Anne & Joan BAXTER, Sean CONNEELY, Jimmy FLATLEY, Germaine, Beverly HARPER, Joan HART, Theresa HASTIE, Madeleine M<sup>c</sup>CANN & Family, Anthony M<sup>c</sup>CARTHY, Kristine STABRAWA, Teresa SWIFT, David THOMAS, Terri VALIANT, A Private Intention,

**And for those who have died:** Floyd ALCOCK, Joan Cook (1yr anniversary)