



7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Newsletter

Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Patrick

You must therefore
be perfect just as
your heavenly Father
is perfect.

(Matthew 5:48)

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Jesus' words in this Sunday's passage from the **Sermon on the Mount** echo the words of God to Moses in the first reading:

- **Love your neighbour as yourself.**



Jesus's exhortation to be perfect echoes God's command to Moses, also in the first reading:

- **Be holy, for I, the Lord your God am holy.**

What a challenging goal Jesus gives us in today's Gospel. Surely it is one of the most seemingly unattainable sayings in the all the Gospels.

This week's gospel is full of sayings which surprise us today; when they were first heard the people to whom Jesus was speaking probably thought he was mad.

- **Offer the wicked man no resistance.**
- **If anyone hits you on the right cheek**
- offer him the other as well.
- **If someone wants your tunic**
- give him your cloak as well.



And perhaps the most outrageous by the standards of many in today's world:

- **Love your enemies.**

And yet there are prophets at times throughout history that show how these sayings of Jesus not only make sense but are the key to the peaceful order and healing of any society:

'I knew that people expected me to harbour anger against whites. But I had none. In prison my anger towards whites decreased but my hatred for the system grew. I wanted South Africa to see that I loved my enemies while I hated the system that turned us against one another. I saw my mission as one of preaching reconciliation, of healing old wounds and building a new South Africa.

Nelson Mandela, Long Walk to Freedom.

FAITH IN FOCUS: GET YOUR OWN BACK?

One of the most misquoted phrases from the bible is "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth". People use it to justify revenge. They think that it means you can get your own back on those who do wrong to you.

What they don't understand is that this phrase in the Old Testament was used to ensure that people did not retaliate wildly against each other. It was intended to set the limits, to stop people looking for a payback that was out of proportion to the offence. So if someone cheats you out of your car, you shouldn't try and have their home taken away from them. If someone defrauds you of a thousand pounds you shouldn't try and sue them for a million. Our response should be proportionate. This is not a response favoured by the "no-win-no-fee" lawyers!

Christianity invites us always to be more generous in our response than we need to be. A Roman soldier could demand by law that a Jew must carry his load for approximately one mile. Carry it two, says Jesus.

You must forgive your enemies, says the law.
Don't just forgive them, says Jesus:
love them and pray for them.

Of course, Christians are mocked for following this teaching of Jesus. It doesn't rank among the streetwise skills. In fact it runs contrary to a society that prizes assertion, aggressiveness and getting a "piece of the action". But there's one obvious ingredient missing from the commonly agreed way of behaving: God.

When it comes to loving your enemies, the idea that Christianity is simply nothing more than good manners breaks down. For the teaching of Jesus is not only revolutionary but also subversive.

It challenges society's commonly accepted ideas about how we should deal with those who break the law, those who threaten our security or those who offer us the chance of making a fortune at the expense of others. This is because if we model ourselves on God then we are signing up to values that put others first, especially the weak and vulnerable. And if God, who created us in his own image of goodness and holiness, chooses not to obliterate us when we deface his image in our world, then how can we possibly claim vengeance for the paltry complaints that we have against others?

Anyone can love those who are good to them. It takes a special kind of person to be able to love their enemies. And it's the minimum requirement for a Christian.

Parish Priest: Fr John Southworth

Parish Office: 27 High Park St, Liverpool L8 8DX Phone: 0151 727 1463
www.mountcarmel-stpatrick.org.uk • Email: olmc@rcaolp.co.uk • stpatrick@rcaolp.co.uk

Liverpool Roman Catholic Archdiocesan Trustees Inc Registered Charity No 232709

50th Anniversary of the Cathedral

The opening Mass at our Cathedral was celebrated on Pentecost Sunday, 13th May 1967. The Golden Jubilee celebrations will take place at Pentecost which this year is on 4th June. Celebration will continue for the remainder of the year until the feast of Christ the King.



Canon O'Brien, the Cathedral dean, said: *"This will be a very special year in the life of our Cathedral as we mark this golden milestone of our history in a building that means so much to so many people."*

There are posters on the notice board detailing some of the events. If you wish to see the full list of events go to the Cathedral website or subscribe to their newsletter to be kept up to date with everything; www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org/signup

The celebrations will also be in the Catholic Pictorial which is now a free publication every month. The February issue is available now at the back of church and which has an article on the Cathedral.

Lourdes - A Place for All

The Lourdes Archdiocesan Pilgrimage Association has published a leaflet explaining the different areas of support to all who wish to go to Lourdes.

Our aim is simple... We will do all we can to make it possible. Each year our dedicated team of healthcare professionals and Hospitalité team of volunteers help people realise their hope of time spent at Our Lady's Shrine. Whatever your needs, our expert team will do all they can to try and ensure that no physical, mental, personal or social needs hold anyone back from this life changing experience.

The leaflets are available at the back of church.

Stations of the Cross

It would be good to form a team of people in each church to organise and lead the Stations each week. They would be responsible for choosing the form of the service and reading the prayers and scripture passages. There is a sheet at the back of church for volunteers to sign their names.

Charity Social Evening

The Knights of St Columba, OLMC Parish Centre, Saturday 11th March at 8.30. Featuring Michael Coyne, Bingo, Raffle.....Tickets £5 from the parish centre or pay on the door. Prizes for the raffle appreciated.

RIP: Canon Gerry Wharton Some of you will remember Fr Gerry Wharton who died last week. He was curate in St Patrick from 1963 to 1968. He retired in 2004 and spent the last few year in James Nugent Court in Ullett Rd. May he rest in peace.

John Southworth

MASSES AND SERVICES

IN CHURCH THIS WEEK

- No Mass on Monday
- Requiem on Friday at 10am in OLMC

Sunday 19th February

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 5.00pm	Bridie Thompson	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Parishioners	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Gerard Lennard	OLMC

Mon 20th February

9am NO MASS OLMC

Tues 21st February

7pm Mary Hunter OLMC

Wed 22nd February

10am Patricia Newby St Patrick

Thu 23rd February

10am Ronald Knox St Patrick

Fri 24th February

10am **Requiem:** John (Jack) Atkinson OLMC

Sunday 25th February

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 5.00pm	Parishioners	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Victoria Perry	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Thomas Flannery Snr & Thomas Flannery Jnr	OLMC

Evening Service

Short Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament OLMC

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4-4.30pm OLMC

Bonus Ball / Mount Carmel and St Patrick

The bonus ball for Wednesday No 31

Collections

Mount Carmel

Sat Envelopes £85.50 Loose £136.93
Sun Envelopes £74.00 Loose £100.56 Total £396.99

St Patrick

Envelopes £0 Loose £114.31 Total £114.31

Many thanks

One more Sunday then Lent - Ash Wednesday 1st March

Please Pray For.... Those who have died: John (Jack) Atkinson, Patsy Walls, Canon Gerry Wharton, Fr Kevin Snape

The sick: Freya Matheson, Pat & Brian Smedley, Bernadette Morgan, Rene Humphreys, Clifford Browne, Gary Hollinson, Jackie Heath-Anderson, Ted Cunningham, Anne Deuchar, Charlotte Rice, Irene Finneran, Lisa Balshaw, Mary Kewley, Claire Kearney, Lyn Barton, Betty Devine, Tony Jones, Kathleen Devine, Joseph Baxendale, Ann Chapman, Nadia Kent, Susan Roberts, Alex Sielski, Lee Foster, Paula Lacey, Denise King, John Dunning, Tommy Huyton, Emily Rolands, Angela Kent, David Majoury, Donald Smith, Pius Laizer, Maria Jones, Mary O'Toole, Sally Wilkins, Michael Murphy, Margaret Chung, David Stevenson, Thomas & John Paul Conroy, Keith Holden, Kathleen Crown, Joanne Fairbrother, Eileen Edwards, Erin Caulfield, Lisa Ginley, Lillian O'Connor, Owen Hall, Anne Brannigan, Thelma Mainwaring, Cheryl and Lenny Hart, Sheila Chapman, Elaine Gorry, Alexandra Reid, Winifred Williamson, Kathryn Reid, Wally Williams, Chrissy White, Nicholas Maher, John Hodson, Terry Macklin, Muriel Minshull, Peter Bengler, Maureen Ryan, Mary Ryan, Regna Lewis, David Shea, Steven Binks, Teresa Koo, Holly and Lucy Brown.