



4th Sunday of Easter

22nd April 2018

Newsletter

Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Patrick

I am the good shepherd;
I know my own
and my own know me.

John 10:14

We don't follow Jesus because we feel he has some good ideas that will help us get through hard times. We don't follow Jesus because he has a philosophy that makes us feel good and improves our self-image. We don't follow Jesus because we're just like sheep that would follow anyone who promised grass and water. We follow Jesus the Good Shepherd, because we believe that Jesus is the Son of God and because the pastures that he offers us do not simply promise a better life but life itself.

This Sunday

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

to the priesthood and religious life.



World Day of Prayer for Vocations **IT'S YOUR CALL**

The Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, traditionally the 4th Sunday of Easter, flows from the broader culture of vocation and when the universal Church asks the Lord to send more labourers to the harvest as priests and religious.

There is a universal call to holiness. God the Father calls all people to listen to his Son, to be baptised in the Holy Spirit and to live as disciples of Christ. As Pope Francis says:

The Lord's call – let it be said at the outset – is not as clear-cut as any of those things we can hear, see or touch in our daily experience. God comes silently and discreetly, without imposing on our freedom. Thus it can happen that his voice is drowned out by the many worries and concerns that fill our minds and hearts.

We need, then, to learn how to listen carefully to his word and the story of his life, but also to be attentive to the details of our own daily lives, in order to learn how to view things with the eyes of faith, and to keep ourselves open to the surprises of the Spirit.

Pope Francis

There are prayer cards available at the back of church encouraging all of us to pray for vocations.

There will be a retiring collection for the Priests' Training Fund. The fund will be open until Pentecost.

FAITH IN FOCUS: A BETTER OFFER?

A well-known American preacher, Eugene Walsh, once finished off his sermon with the remarkable words, "Jesus only promises you two things: Your life has a meaning. And you're going to live forever. If you get a better offer, take it!"

Much copied by other preachers who disguise them to try and make them their own, these few sentences seem to sum up the whole business of faith in Jesus. They encapsulate the Easter message in a simple and direct way.

So what was Jesus's body like after the resurrection and what is the afterlife like? What will happen to us and will we meet those loved ones who have died before us? Will we see God or will it be total blackout?

People with no faith ask the same questions and they often are left with the desperate trek to mediums and spiritualists who claim to contact the dead and to offer comfort and solace to the bereaved. No matter how many times this practice is exposed as a sham, people still turn up in the hope of "getting through" to the other side.

St John was aware of all these questions that people ask. The difference for him was that he had an unshakeable faith that Jesus had conquered death and had offered that same glorious post-resurrection life to those who believe in him. He says that what we are to become in the future has not yet been revealed.

So if your life has a meaning, then it is that you were made for love. Made to be loved by God who like a shepherd guides you into a life that will reap benefits. You are made to love others and to have that love returned. Your life's purpose is to grow in knowledge of God and the wonderful universe created for our delectation. You are here to learn how to serve God by serving others, to enjoy life to the full and at the end to join God in the unfathomable happiness that no ear has heard nor eye seen.

This is the promise that the Easter season brings. So, as the man said, if you get a better offer.....

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With You Always Over the next four Sundays first Holy Communion will be celebrated: 29th April and 6th May at St Patrick's for St Patrick's children; 29th April for Holy Family children at OLMC; 13th May for children who attend other schools and 20th May for St Finbar's children, both at OLMC.



Adoremus: Evening Prayer and Talk at Carmel From Sunday 29th April a series of encouraging stories, personal reflection and practical ideas in preparation for the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress 2018. Carmelite Monastery, Allerton, 3.30-5pm.

Syrian Refugees Resettlement Programme/Community Sponsorship Programme Are you interested in welcoming a Syrian refugee family resettle in a new home and begin a new life here? If you could offer help or are familiar with the working in any of the following areas we would appreciate your help: Fundraising, Housing, Working with the Local Authority, Finance, Education, Welfare and Benefits, Skills in Arabic. It would involve meeting, greeting and working with a family until they became independent. Come along and find out more: This Tuesday 24th April at 7.30-8.30 at St Charles 224 Aigburth Road, Liverpool L17 7PG. Everybody welcome.

OLMC - Repairs to the porch The work will begin this week, and will take about 4 weeks. Masses and services as usual.

Statement on the case of Alfie Evans

from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Our hearts go out to the parents of Alfie Evans and our prayers are for him and with them as they try to do all they can to care for their son.

We affirm our conviction that all those who are and have been taking the agonising decisions regarding the care of Alfie Evans act with integrity and for Alfie's good as they see it.

The professionalism and care for severely ill children shown at Alder Hey Hospital is to be recognised and affirmed. We know that recently reported public criticism of their work is unfounded as our chaplaincy care for the staff, and indeed offered to the family, has been consistently provided.

We note the offer of the Bambino Gesu Hospital in Rome to care for Alfie Evans. It is for that hospital to present to the British Courts, where crucial decisions in conflicts of opinion have to be taken, the medical reasons for an exception to be made in this tragic case.

With the Holy Father, we pray that, with love and realism, everything will be done to accompany Alfie and his parents in their deep suffering.

John Southworth



Feast of the Week - St George

**This Monday
Mass at 9am OLMC**

MODERN-DAY DRAGONS

This simple story of George and the dragon is really the story of Easter, the triumph of good over evil, the victory of life over death.

George's importance is perennial. What are the dragons of our day? Maybe our children are being sacrificed to drugs, to alcohol, to people-trafficking, to exploitation etc. Each generation needs a George to lance its modern-day dragon.

MASSES AND SERVICES

In Church this week

- **Feast of St George** on Monday, Mass at 9am.
- Funeral Service on Tuesday
- No Masses during the rest of the week.

4th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday 22nd April

Sat 5pm	Ann & Owen Barrie	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Michael Cairns	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Parishioners	OLMC

Mon 23rd April

FEAST OF ST GEORGE—Patron of England

9am	Sammy McShane	OLMC
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Tue 24th April

12 noon	Funeral Service: Frances Minton	St Patrick
7pm	No Mass	OLMC

Wed 25th April

10am	No Mass	St Patrick
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Thu 26th April

10am	No Mass	St Patrick
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Fri 27th April

10am	No Mass	OLMC
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5th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday 29th April

Sat 5pm	Bridget Collins Joyce	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Karen Bell	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Parishioners	OLMC

Evening Service: Thursday 7pm

Short Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4-4.30pm

Bonus Ball

Mount Carmel and St Patrick

The bonus ball for Wednesday 18th April: No 58 .

Collections

OLMC Sat Loose £58.58 Sun Loose £100.48
Envelopes £92.39

St Patrick Envelopes £0 Loose £137.48
Total £388.93

.....Many thanks

Please Pray For.... Those who have died: Frances Minton, Rita Harris, Joan Linney,

The sick: Irene Maloney, Betty Flannery, Tony Robinson, Carol Pickford, Betty Billingsley, Tommy Duffy, Mary Frances, Audrey McKenna, Ian McCafferty, Betty Christian, Bernard Duffy, Helen Melarange, Jack Davies, Joan Higgins, Michael McNicholas, Billy Thompson, Freya Matheson, 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, Kathleen Devine, Joseph Baxendale, Ann Chapman, Nadia Kent, Susan Roberts, Alex Sielski, Lee Foster, Denise King, John Dunning, 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, Maureen Ryan, Mary Ryan, Regna Lewis, David Shea, Steven Binks.