



5th Sunday of Easter

29th April 2018

Newsletter

Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Patrick

I am the vine,
you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty;
for cut off from me
you can do nothing.

John 15:5

Any good that is achieved in the world comes about through God's action and grace. We are simply co-operators. We are not the vine itself, just the branches. And Jesus points out that we will keep ourselves fruitful if we are pruned. And we are pruned by listening to the word that he has spoken. So each of us has to consider how we are joined to Jesus through faith, prayer and keeping his word.

Pope Francis: Rejoice and Exult

One of the features of the papacy of Pope Francis has been his writings known as Apostolic Exhortations. His first two are entitled, *The Joy of the Gospel* and *The Joy of Love*. At the beginning of this month he published his third: *Rejoice and Exult (Gaudete et Exsultate)*,



Pope Francis reflects on the call to holiness, and how we can respond to that call in the modern world. "My modest goal" in the Exhortation, Pope Francis says, "is to repropose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time."

The heart of *Gaudete et Exsultate* is dedicated to the idea that holiness means following Jesus. In this third chapter, Pope Francis considers each of the Beatitudes as embodying what it means to be holy. But if the Beatitudes show us what holiness means, the Gospel also shows us the criterion by which we will be judged: "I was hungry and you gave me food... thirsty and you gave me drink... a stranger and you welcomed me... naked and you clothed me... sick and you took care of me... in prison and you visited me."

Finally, the Exhortation makes practical suggestions for living out the call to holiness. "The Christian life is a constant battle," the Pope says. "We need strength and courage to withstand the temptations of the devil and to proclaim the Gospel." In the fifth chapter, he speaks about the need for "combat" and vigilance, and calls us to exercise the gift of discernment, "which is all the more necessary today," in a world with so many distractions that keep us from hearing the Lord's voice.

Gaudete et Exsultate can be read on the Vatican website (www.vatican.va) or copies can be obtained at St Paul's bookshop on Bold St.

FAITH IN FOCUS: SAP RISING

Jesus has just told his disciples that he is to undergo suffering and death and that he will be taken from them. He encourages them not to get downcast and says that he will remain with them. Then he says, "Come, let us go". It's time to carry on.

If we were one of the disciples our natural inclination would be to panic. What are we going to do without him? How will disciples be able to challenge the political and religious authorities with the message of Christ if he is nowhere to be found? How will we be able to bring his message to the world? So Jesus teaches them about the vine and the branches.

We cannot be effective Christians if we rely only on our human effort. Our strengths may be outstanding but they're not even close to the mark when it comes to communicating to the world who God is and what God wants for us.

That's why part of Jesus' reassurance to them was about sending a helper, the Holy Spirit. It is only in the power of the Holy Spirit that our lives can witness to God's power and presence. Anything else is mere altruism, pure natural philanthropy.

It is our union with Christ that allows us to share in his continued mission on earth. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit if it is not attached to the trunk of the tree, so to we have to be united in Christ through the Holy Spirit. This is the way that Christ remains with us here on earth even though he has ascended to heaven. And, of course, we have to remember that we are not intended to be the vine, just the branches. It's the vine that gives us the sap to produce fruit on our branches.

God is very close to us, closer than we could ever imagine. Our work will bear fruit if we realise our dependence on God and allow God to work through us. This naturally involves knowing God, talking to God and listening to what God has in mind for us.

All of this takes place if we let the Holy Spirit into our lives. When did you last have a word with him?

Parish Priest: Fr John Southworth

Easter 2018 - Feast of the Ascension

In recent years most of our Holydays have been celebrated on the nearest Sunday. This included the feast of the Ascension which was transferred to, what would have been, the 7th Sunday of Easter. This year the feast of the Ascension is on Thursday 10 May - 40 days after Easter Sunday and the 7th Sunday of Easter returns.



Because of this the next Holy Hour will not be on a Thursday but, instead the following Sunday:

Adoremus—Holy Hours:

The next Pastoral Area Holy Hour will be on Sunday 13th May at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church at 3pm.

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

First talk this Sunday given by Maurus O’Donnell. 2018. Carmelite Monastery, Allerton, 3.30-5pm.



With You Always Welcome to the families of our first Holy Communion children today in both St Patrick’s and OLMC.

These celebration will continue over the next three Sundays as well: 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.

Dementia Action Week begins 21 May

In our diocese Dementia Action Week begins with a Dementia Friendly Mass for Pentecost Sunday 20 May at 3pm, Holy Rosary Church, Old Roan L10 2LG. For those living with dementia, carers, family, friends & parishioners. Followed by refreshments.

Liverpool Bach Collective 13th May at 6.30pm at St Matthew’s

Church Queen’s Drive. The next in a series of monthly services when a short service of Evening Prayer or Evensong is celebrated, during which there is a performance of a Bach Cantata, written for the particular liturgical occasion, in this case for the feast of the Ascension.

Living Christ Retreats

These have been a feature of our Pastoral Area for some years now and some have been held at St Patrick’s.

The short retreat is an opportunity for spiritual reflection and faith renewal over two mornings. This reflection will take place in **St Anne’s Parish Hall, Overbury Street, Liverpool L7 3HJ on Tuesday 22nd May and Wednesday 23rd May** from 10 -2pm each session. This shortened version of the “Living Christ” Retreat is aimed at those people who are unable to attend a full day of Retreat, particularly the elderly or housebound. Lifts can be arranged for those who require transport to and from St. Anne’s and all refreshments, including lunch, are provided.

John Southworth

MASSES AND SERVICES

In Church this week

- Requiem Masses on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday replace the usual Masses.

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

Mon 30th April

9am	Mary T Kane	OLMC
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Tue 1st May

12 noon	Requiem: Joan Linney	OLMC
7pm	No Mass	OLMC

Wed 2nd May

10am	No Mass	St Patrick
12noon	Requiem: Rita Harris	OLMC

Thu 3rd May

10am	No Mass	St Patrick
12noon	Requiem: Ann McConville	OLMC

Fri 4th May

10am	Robert Mood	OLMC
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6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

Sunday 6th May

Sat 5pm	Charles Davies	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Dolly Surgison	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 .

Collections

OLMC Sat Loose £ Sun Loose £
Envelopes £

St Patrick Envelopes £0 Loose £
Total £

.....*Many thanks*

Please Pray For.... Those who have died: Rita Harris, Joan Linney, Ann McConville

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.