



11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

What can we say
the kingdom of God
is like?

Mark 4:24-27

Jesus uses several parables to describe the Kingdom of God:

- The Kingdom of God is like seed thrown on the ground which grows, how we do not know.
- The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, the smallest seed of all but which grows into one of the largest.

Day for Life

This Sunday the Day for Life is focussing on

Human trafficking and modern slavery.

Human Trafficking is in communities across our country: in nail bars, in car washes, on farms, building sites and factories as well. Nor is this a problem confined to immigrant communities, it is affecting our own citizens too.

Trafficking is a growing problem and the UN estimates that over 40 million people worldwide are in slavery. In the UK alone, it is estimated that every year there are over 13,000 victims of trafficking from all countries.

Criminals exploit some of the most vulnerable and desperate people. We can act together to stop this. It is a crime hidden in plain sight, it's difficult to investigate, and the police need our help to identify and stop the traffickers and rescue and support the victims.

This week's **retiring collection** goes to the relevant charities that address these issues and which give help for the victims. For example, the Catholic Church, together with the Anglican Church, has launched an app to help identify the problem at car washes. See next page.



Next Sunday the Feast of The Birthday of John the Baptist

This feast replaces the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time. It is unusual for a feast, which is not a feast of the Lord, to replace the Sunday.



FAITH IN FOCUS: THE INVISIBLE FORCE

Christians sometimes focus so much on the Church that they lose sight of the kingdom. They tend to think that the Church is the be-all and end-all of religious activity and they can become blind to the kingdom of God.

Yet the kingdom and the Church are not the same things. The Church is the bearer of the kingdom but not the exclusive owner. The kingdom, which Jesus today speaks about in his parables, is wider than the Church and is not so visible and tangible.

Jesus taught his disciples that the kingdom is already with us, though it can seem to be hidden. It has already been inaugurated, though it is yet to reach its fulfilment. Day after day it is unfurled, little by little in an almost unnoticeable way.

The ideals of the kingdom clash with the values of the world. That's because the kingdom is eternal and universal whereas the world is about fads and fashion, about exclusivity and partiality. The kingdom is about truth and life, whereas the world happily lies and trades in destruction of all types.

The kingdom espouses holiness and grace, concepts which the secular world considers laudable but outmoded. And the kingdom's principles of justice, love and peace are more likely to be echoed in the world's pop songs than in its strategies. Does this mean that we've nothing to hope for? That injustice, violence, corruption and oppression will always be with us?
Is it just par for the course?

Jesus says not. With his arrival on earth the kingdom of God has begun to embed itself in all aspects of our world. There are invincible forces already at work as the world matures and the kingdom silently grows. Like a seed planted in a field it grows unobtrusively, by day and by night. Like a mustard seed it starts off tiny but becomes a force to be reckoned with. And even now we sometimes catch a glimpse of the power of the kingdom when world events are confounded and when men and women, even just for a moment, unite in a shared vision that reflects the will of God.

The kingdom is here now. The way we behave will help or hinder it. But it's bigger than all of us put together. That's why we pray:
Thy kingdom come.

Day for Life: App - Safe Car Wash

The app, Safe Car Wash, was launched on June 4 by two faith-based anti-slavery groups: the Church of England's *Clewer Initiative* and the Catholic Church's *Santa Marta Group*.



Backed by UK anti-crime authorities, the goal of the app is to help fight the problem of human trafficking at car washes throughout Britain. Users are able to locate hand car washes via GPS and then provide a quick survey of the employees' environments.

Safe Car Wash will note possible indicators of modern slavery, such as a lack of safety attire, unsafe environment, poor relationships with management, and signs of employee oppression. The data will be shared with the National Crime Agency and the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority. Users may also be directed to the Modern Slavery Helpline

Fundraising Meeting Meeting for the fundraising team on Thursday 5th July at 7.30pm after the 7pm service. New members to the team welcome.

Sponsored Walk *Well done Bella!* Last Monday Bella walked from Southport to OLMC, about 23 miles, together with 2 of her family. She began walking at Southport at 11.05am and arrived in Liverpool at 11pm! Our thanks are due to her—she has raised about £300. Some monies still to come in, the actual total will be given next weekend.

St Patrick: Summer Programme for Children The Missionaries of Charity are holding the usual Summer event for children from 30th July to 14 August, Monday to Friday 2-5pm. Contact the sisters in Seel St for more information.

Walsingham: The Slipper Chapel Statue will visit every English Catholic Cathedral between 2018-2020. First visit will be at our Cathedral 21-23 June 2018. For more details see leaflets at the back of our churches or www.dowrytour.org.uk

Collections There are a number of extra collections in the next few weeks:

- 29th June: **Feast of Ss Peter and Paul:** *Peter's Pence*, for charitable work distributed at the discretion of Pope Francis.
- 8th July: **Sea Sunday**, a collection for the *Apostleship of the Sea*, supporting Seafarers.

John Southworth

MASSES AND SERVICES

IN CHURCH THIS WEEK

- Mass on Monday at 9am.
- Funeral Service on Thursday.

Sunday 17th June

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 5pm	Parishioners	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Joe Roberts	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Maria McNamee	OLMC

Monday 18th June

St John Rigby

9am	Lenny Lythgoe	OLMC
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Tuesday 19th June

7pm	Barbara Hyland	OLMC
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Wednesday 20th June

10am	Margaret Hogan	St Patrick
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Thursday 21st June

10am	James Kennedy	St Patrick
1.30pm	Funeral Service: George Atherton	St Patrick

Friday 22nd June

Saints John Fisher and Thomas More

10am	Mary Bailey	OLMC
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Sunday 24th June

Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist

Sat 5pm	Thomas (Snr) & Thomas (Jnr) Flannery	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Parishioners	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Bernadette Morgan	OLMC

Thursday Evening Service

7pm	Short Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	OLMC
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Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday 4-4.30pm		OLMC
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Feasts of the Week Friday: St John Fisher and St Thomas More

Two Englishmen who were put to death in 1535 for their faith for defying the wishes of King Henry VIII. Both were influential men of their time, St Thomas More was Chancellor of England, one of the highest political posts of the country. St John Fisher was Bishop of Rochester.

Monday: Another Englishman who was martyred for his faith on 21 June 1600 was a Lancashire man, **John Rigby**. He was only 30 years of age. He came from Eccleston, near Chorley (There is a pub in nearby Wroughtington called The Rigby Arms).

Bonus Ball / Mount Carmel and St Patrick

The bonus ball for Wednesday 13th June was no 11
Winners won £30 each

Collections

Many Thanks

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Envelopes £120.29 Loose £167.81 £288.10

St Patrick Envelopes £0 Loose £102.73

Box £47 Brick £20 Tea/Coffee £108.55

Please Pray For.... Those who have died: George Atherton

The sick: Irene Maloney, Betty Flannery, Tony Robinson, Carol Pickford, Betty Billingsley, Tommy Duffy, 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.