



22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

What great nation is there
that has laws and customs
to match this whole Law
that I put before you today?

Deuteronomy 4:8

Moses, in the first reading, stresses the importance of following the law as it is given by God and is not merely a human construction. Keeping the commandments will not save us, for the law is only there to prevent us from doing wrong. It cannot make us good. Today Jesus challenges us to examine what our real motives are when we gather for our worship and when we live our Christian lives.

Ordinary Time Weeks 22-34

Back to Mark!

During this year we usually read the Gospel of St Mark during the Sundays of Ordinary Time. However for the past five weeks the Gospel of the Sunday has been from St John's Gospel.



ORDINARY
TIME

This Sunday we return to a, more or less, continuous reading from St Mark's gospel as we have been during most of this cycle B of our Sunday readings. We are almost half way through (chapter 7) the entire Gospel which, at only 16 chapters is the shortest of all the Gospels and was the first Gospel to be written.

Next Weekend National Eucharistic Congress

Adoremus



Liverpool 7-9th September

FAITH IN FOCUS: LOOPHOLE RELIGION

Cardinal Richlieu lived in 17th century France. Like all priests he had made a promise to say the prayers of the Breviary every day. These prayers probably took between 30 minutes and an hour, and in order to get through them he would start at 11.30pm and then at midnight he would say the next day's prayers. This meant he only had to say the prayers three and a half times a week instead of seven. He fulfilled the religious requirements with the minimum of effort because he'd found the loophole.

The Pharisees in today's gospel had similar ideas and Jesus detested what they did. They knew how to get away with the minimum because they knew the Law backwards. But perhaps they didn't know God. They could find all the legal loopholes that made them look good without coming closer to God. And yet they were critical of other ordinary people who struggled to keep the rules. Oddly enough they were not mainly priests. They were largely lay people, illiterate merchants, country people and artisans. At the time of Jesus there were about 6,000 of them.

Jesus called them "hypocrites", a word that simply means "play actors". They gave a good performance but their hearts were not in it. And Jesus tells the crowd that God is not interested in the external rituals and practices but in a person's motives. It's not what you do but the reason you do it. The "why" is all important.

We sometimes say that a person is a "devout Catholic" or a "staunch Protestant" and we mean it as a compliment. But what does it really mean? What do we have to do in order to qualify for such a reputation? Too often we really mean that these people are always seen in church or are known for their strong beliefs.

Today St. James reminds us that all the laws and customs of religion are of no use if we are not really listening to what God wants of us. And he gives us an acid test that is found throughout the bible. How do we treat people who can give us nothing in return (for him these were the widows and orphans of society)? Is our religion about seeing the face of God in the lives of ordinary people and acting on their behalf or is it simply about keeping the rules and safeguarding our traditions? Do we honour God with our hearts or just our lips?

Adoremus

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage & Congress

This Friday 7th-9th September

Next weekend will see one of the largest gatherings of Catholics from all over the country here in Liverpool. Some will spend the weekend here, others just a day.

Pilgrims will meet at the ACC Convention Centre on Friday 7 and Saturday 8 September before two Pilgrim Masses are celebrated at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on Sunday 9 September, followed by a Eucharistic Procession through the streets surrounding the Cathedral.

A Eucharistic Congress is a gathering of clergy, religious and laity to promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Church. This Friday the pilgrims will be welcomed to the city by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon and by His Excellency Archbishop Edward Adams, the representative of the Holy See in the United Kingdom. During the day they will hear presentations on the Eucharist in the life of the Church and how this is seen in various situations including in hospitals and prisons, through social justice and ecumenical relations and in education and music.

On Saturday 8 September the main speaker will be Bishop Robert Barron, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Parallel Programme

There will also be a large number of fringe events in churches around Liverpool including St Patrick's (see below).

A list of these events is available in the pamphlet which includes a map of the various venues.



Two local fringe events:

- **St Patrick: Living Joyfully** A rolling programme of workshops, talks and discussion. Come, meet and prayer with consecrated religious. The full programme is available at the back of church.
- **Messy Church** This is a regular feature of St Anne's, Overbury St and is one of the fringe events. It consists of crafts, celebration time & food. Everyone is invited – young & old alike, adults, children, teenagers, carers, grandparents. with you. Saturday 8th Sept 2.00pm – 4.00pm St Anne's Parish Rooms L7 3HJ.

John Southworth

Thank You!

...Father Lambert!

...who leaves us on Monday. We hope that he has enjoyed his time with us in Liverpool this month and we thank him for all that he has done for us in our parish. We wish him a safe journey as he returns to his studies in the seminary in Poland.

MASSES AND SERVICES

IN CHURCH THIS WEEK

All Masses and services are at their usual times.

Sunday 2nd September

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 5pm	Carol Woodruff	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Patsy Crane	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Parishioners	OLMC

Monday 3rd September

Pope St Gregory the Great

9am	Pat Smedley	OLMC
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Tuesday 4th September

7pm	Joe Roberts	OLMC
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Wednesday 5th September

10am	Bernadette Morgan	St Patrick
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Thursday 6th September

10am	John Doyle	St Patrick
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Friday 7th September

10am	Charles Davies	OLMC
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Sunday 9th September

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 5pm	Frank Grant	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Parishioners	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	George Hussey (50th Ann)	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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Bonus Ball / Mount Carmel and St Patrick

The bonus ball for Wednesday 29th August was no 55
Winners won £30 each

Collections

Many Thanks

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Envelopes £74.01 Loose £143.76

St Patrick Envelopes £0 Loose £136.33

Box £5 Brick £29.23

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

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 Crownly, 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.