



18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Vanity of vanities,
the Preacher says.
Vanity of vanities.
All is vanity!

Ecclesiastes 1:2

Do you ever feel that there's got to be more to life than meets the eye? Living, working, earning, saving, spending...is this what it's all about? Or is there some deeper meaning and purpose to our time on earth? That's the question which Ecclesiastes asks us today.

Today's Readings

In Ordinary Time, the Gospel and first reading have a common theme; the second reading is a systematic reading, usually from a letter of St Paul. This week his letter to the Colossians fits in with the other two.



SYNOD PRAYER

Father, we thank you
for the love you have shown us
in the gift of Jesus, your Son.
We thank you for the gift of the Church,
through which you show us
that you are always with us
and are always at work in our lives.

As we journey together to Synod 2020
help us become the Church
That you are calling us to be.
May your Holy Spirit
be powerfully at work among us.
Strengthen each of us and guide Francis,
our Pope and Malcolm, our Archbishop.

Help us to respond
to the challenges of our times in new ways
to bring your love
to all our sisters and brothers.
We make this prayer
through Jesus Christ Our Lord
AMEN

FAITH IN FOCUS: WHAT'S THE POINT?

"Vanity of vanities!" is a famous quotation from the bible, but what does it mean? It's the preacher's way in the Book of Ecclesiastes of saying that life seems "meaningless" or "pointless". What's it all about? It's certainly not fair and it seems to take all my time and energy and keep me to the grindstone.

A radio pundit the other day said that there should be more love shown in the work place, because love makes us more productive and that way we will earn more money. Is that the point of life, money? And what's the point of stashing money away when your children and grandchildren will only fritter it away after you've gone? Is it worth the hard work and the restless nights worrying about it, asks our reading today?

There's nothing fundamentally wrong with our world; God made it and it's good. But if we limit our sights only to the things of this world then we won't see very far. We'll get bogged down in its limitations; our lives will not reflect anything other than our career prospects, our bank balances, our reputations and our comfort. Our cultural horizons will hit the buffers at celebrity, gossip, fashion and trivia, while our significant relationships will be virtually found on Facebook and Twitter.

What makes us tick? What are our values and are any of them transcendent? Do they go beyond the make-up and greasepaint, beyond simply following the crowd in its dream of success?

The preacher in today's scripture obviously feels that life can be meaningless unless we have a clear idea about the reason we are on this earth. Without such a spiritual compass we are at the whim of a pointless merry-go-round that seems to take more out of us than it gives.

So what's the driving force in your life? What makes you want to jump out of bed in the morning and confront the world and all its challenges? What motivates you to keep on going and to make your mark? Given that life is short, what makes it worth living? When today's psalmist came to answer these questions, he put it very simply:

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart,
O Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to the next.

For life to be meaningful we all need a goal.
What's yours?

Hymns this week.....
 Entrance : 329
 Offertory: 355
 Communion: 326



St Patrick's are having a Summer Fair on August 17th. If you would like to help in any way please speak to Joan or Angela.



Missionaries of Charity —Summer Project The Mother Teresa Sisters will be holding their annual summer project for Primary School children in St Patrick's Church from 29th July -16th August, Monday to Friday from 2.30pm -5.30pm.

OLMC Parish Club are having a 'Happy Memories' entertainment afternoon on Monday 19th August 12noon till 4pm. Food, Bingo and live entertainment all for the price of £5. Tickets are available behind the bar. These afternoons have proved very popular in the past so please get your tickets early.

Pastoral Associate Update: In celebrating the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord this week, I am reminded to see people, especially those whom I often take for granted, with the eyes of God. My prayer is that through grace I am able to connect to God within them with a transfigured heart. "God enters through the wound" Carl Jung. God Bless, Helen

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 7 September Training for New Eucharistic Ministers, St Clare's Hall, Arundel Avenue 9:15am (for 9:30 start) – 4:30pm: bring lunch – book through the parish!

Saturday 15 and 22 September Reflection for current Eucharistic Ministers, Carmel Monastery, Maryton 2:15pm (for 2:30 start) – 4:15pm (ending with Evening Prayer) led by Fr Peter Fleetwood. Register with Helen Jones (h.jones@rcaolp.co.uk 07449 633977 - sessions are identical.

Wednesday 25 September Liverpool Romero Lecture *Prophetic Trajectories of Hope from San Salvador to Liverpool*, David McLoughlin of Newman University at 001 Theatre, Cornerstone, Hope University, Everton Campus L3 8DR. Bookings: d.reynolds@sfxchurchliverpool.com or 0151 298 1911

Monday 7 October Synod Talks *The Quiet Revolution of Pope Francis: A Synodal Catholic Church*,

Fr Gerry O'Hanlon SJ, at Liverpool Hope University, Hope Chapel monthly 7:00 for 7:30pm

Sunday 3 November Training for Leaders of Children's Liturgy of the Word 2pm – 4.30pm at LACE. Register: formation@rcaol.co.uk or 0151 522 1040 Cost £10 includes refreshments.

Please Pray For...

The lately dead: Francis George Brown and Pauline Grice.

The sick Anne McCourt, Lisa Balshaw, Mary Kewley, Freya Matheson, Bernard Duffy, Wally Williams, Marie Simpson, Tony Robinson and Tommy Fletcher, Erin Caulfield.

If you would like a loved one to be added to the sick list please ring the parish office. 0151 727 1463.

MASSES AND SERVICES

In Church this week

No Mass on Monday Tuesday or Wednesday.
 Funeral Service on Monday.
 Requiem on Friday.

Sunday 4th August

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Sat 5pm	Agnes & James McNulty	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Private Intention (BH)	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Parishioners	OLMC

Monday 5th August

12.15pm **Funeral Service:** Francis George Brown OLMC

Tuesday 6th August

7pm No Mass OLMC

Wednesday 7th August

10am No Mass St Patrick

Thursday 8th August

10am May Robinson St Patrick

Friday 9th August

12noon **Requiem:** Pauline Grice St Patrick

Sunday 11th August

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 5pm	Parishioners	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Zonia Morgan	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Nancy Bourke	OLMC

Evening Service 6.30pm Thursday

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 31st July was no 30
 Winners won £30 each

Collections

Many Thanks

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
 Envelopes £122.69 Loose 248.10 £Total £370.79

St Patrick
 Envelopes £0 Loose £138.52 Total £138.52