



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hebrews

The letter to the Hebrews was probably intended for the former Jews who had converted to Christianity and maybe even specifically for Jewish priests. They left Jerusalem for other cities and are looking back longingly at the Temple worship that they used to take part in and which seems attractive now that their new faith is being put under strain. So the letter uses all the terminology of Jewish worship to try to put across the truths of Christian faith and to show that in Jesus Christ we have a radically new relationship with God and therefore with the way we worship.

Jeremiah's preaching so angers the rulers that they throw him in a cistern. Psalm 40 rejoices that the Lord has saved us from the mud and put a new song into our mouths.



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

NOTHING BUT TROUBLE?

Maybe it's because most of us get our first impressions of Jesus while we are still young that we tend to think of him as a gentle person. After all, the meek and mild image seems to fit in well with what we want to say to small children.

But when we grow up it's a different matter. Do we still think of Jesus as the quiet, gentle mannered preacher who never spoke a word in anger? If we do, then we're in for a shock in today's gospel.

The Jesus whom we glimpse today is full of passion and single-minded about his mission. He's the activist from heaven, the zealous, fiery, frustrated messenger of change. Do you think I've come to bring peace? No, he says. If you listen to me then the trouble will really start. My message brings not peace but division.

To believe in Jesus is to accept a whole set of values that threatens many people, a life so radical that it looks down on what others deem success, an all-consuming dedication to fight for the downtrodden which makes more enemies than friends. Even your own family will be divided, says Jesus. That's because the message you bring and the life you live will prove too much for them.

The temptation of human frailty is constantly to downgrade the demands of the gospel. Our tendency is to pass off Christianity as if it were as domesticated as bingo, as socially acceptable as a round of golf and as unthreatening as a rubber cutlass.

Over the next five or six weeks St Luke will present us with some of the social implications of following Jesus, showing us that the values which society considers normal are often far from Christianity. We will see Jesus calling us to give our lives for others with no thought of reward. And we will be called upon to be so outspoken that it will stick in people's throats.

Not very comforting? Perhaps not, but that's what Jesus promises us in today's uncompromising gospel.

Do you suppose that I
am here to bring
peace on earth?
No, I tell you, but
rather division.

Luke 12: 51

HYMNS THIS WEEK

Entrance: 518
Offertory: 158
Communion: 381
Recessional: 190



Readers can find the bidding prayers in "The Prayers of the Faithful" book. Any queries please see Fr Silviu.

Apologies to anyone who has been trying to ring the Presbytery this week, we have had a fault on the line. Hopefully as you read this the problem will have been resolved.

OLMC Tea/Coffee and Cake every Sunday after 11.15am mass. All Welcome.

Pastoral Associate Update: What strikes me in this week's Gospel is the courage we sometimes need to stand firm in our conviction in following Jesus, despite those we love the most not always standing by us. Within our families, our schools and our parish communities there can be division and hurt, and yet the trust we place in God's hands surely will always lead to a merciful and just resolution - but in God's own time. St John XXIII had his own night time prayer as pope, which perhaps we can adapt to our own situations: "It's your Church, God. I'm going to bed." I'm on leave until the bank holiday and will keep you in my prayers during my time off. God Bless, Helen. (Please note that the reflection days for current Eucharistic ministers are on Sundays - my error!)

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!

SUNDAY 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

12 – 13 October Come and See Conference Christ the King High School, Southport, PR8 4EX. Information: www.iraneaus.co.uk 0151 949 1199

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: Josephine Crawley.

The sick: Tony McKean, 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

Requiem on Thursday

Sunday 18th August

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 5pm	Carol Woodruff	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Parishioners	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Patricia Foley	OLMC

Monday 19th August

9am	Joan Higgins	OLMC
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Tuesday 20th August

7pm	John Walsh	OLMC
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Wednesday 21st August

10am	Billy Kelly	St Patrick
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Thursday 22nd August

12noon	Requiem: Josephine Crawley	St Patrick
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Friday 23rd August

10am	Kevin McDonough	OLMC
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Sunday 25th August

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 5pm	Joe O'Toole	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Parishioners	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Michael 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 14th was no 23
 Winners won £30 each

Collections

Many Thanks

Details next week—Many thanks for your generous support.

