



22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The greater you are,
the more you should behave humbly,
and then you will find favour
with the Lord.

Ecclesiasticus 3:18

Humility

Today's first reading says that the greater you are the more humble you should be.

In the Gospel Jesus tells a story about a banquet and about taking the lowest place rather than the highest. He also speaks about inviting all and sundry to any meal and not just the great and the good.



It is a reminder that humility is not doing yourself down but remembering that all that is important in life, family, health, talents...., is gift—something we can never earn, much less deserve. In thanking God for this we should also remember to share such things with others. The Gospel passage contains one of Jesus' significant sayings:

*For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,
and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.*

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: SECOND FIDDLE

One day, a woman came up to Leonard Bernstein, the famous composer and conductor, and asked him, "Mr. Bernstein, of all the instruments in the orchestra which is the most difficult to play?" He told her, "Second fiddle is the hardest. You see, I can get plenty of first violinists, but to find someone who plays second violin with enthusiasm, or even second horn, or second flute, now that's a real problem. And if no one plays second, then we have no harmony."

The thing about second fiddle, second flute and other 'seconds' is that it never gets the tune to play. It's always a support line to the main melody and so the audience always applaud the instruments that they recognise for having provided the beautiful tune but they rarely are aware of the supporting sections. Yet without these "second fiddles" these solo instruments would sound very thin indeed.

In our society today no one wants to be second fiddle. All politicians want to be Cabinet ministers; all actors want the leading roles and all weather forecasters want to be celebrities. No one wants to be last; everyone wants to be first.

Being a disciple of Christ means being humble. Rather than putting yourself in first place it means accepting that last can be just as good. This topsy-turvy way of thinking and behaving seems alien to many people. We are taught from a young age to strive to come first, and yet Christ tells us that the Christian's favourite number should be "two". Of course, to try always to come second means that we come first in humility!

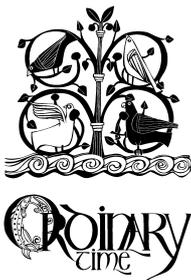
There is nothing fake about humility. It does not involve denying our gifts and talents; it's not about hanging back and not helping just in case our true skills become apparent. But what it does mean is that we recognise where our talents have come from.

We can claim no merit for ourselves; every good thing we have comes from God. So, humility allows us to do everything within our power to display our gifts, while at the same time giving the glory to God rather than claiming the limelight ourselves.



HYMNS THIS WEEK

Entrance: 449
Offertory: 243
Communion: 506
Recessional: 404



Pastoral Team: Pope Francis asks each one of us to go to the margins, to bring the good news that we so faithfully live within our community here at OLMC and St Patrick's, to others. In doing this we maintain that rich heritage that has shaped our parishes. To that end we ask you to participate in sharing a higher faith with others and Fr Silviu invites any parishioners wishing to join this great mission of the Church in helping him to go out to visit those who live near our churches and invite them to return to Mass and experience the joy of Christ. To be part of this reenergising and reinvigoration of our Parish community here in the heart of Liverpool you can attend a meeting on Wednesday 9th October at OLMC. Please let Anne in the Parish Office know if you are intending to join us.

Eucharistic Ministry: training for new Eucharistic Ministers will be on Saturday 7 September from 9:15am – 4:30pm at St Clare's Hall, Arundel Avenue, Sefton Park. Participating in our celebrations in any way, large or small, enables us as a community to grow together in understanding and love as we all are part of the body of Christ. We need your help in serving our parish communities as Eucharistic Ministers - to live our faith with others in bringing Christ to others. As Teresa of Avila prays "Christ has no body but yours, No hands, no feet on earth but yours." None of us are truly 'worthy' – could you reach out and help? Please do see Fr Silviu if you are interested.

Pastoral Associate Update: The transition from 'holiday mode' back to the 'usual' routine or, for some, a fresh start, can be a bit "wobbly". However a break can afford a new perspective and invigorate us, especially as our faith gives us the assurance that we are always accompanied by our ever present, never failing God. We will be introducing the Liverpool South Ministry Team (LSMT) website - details next week – to the pastoral area. The aim is for the site to pool information from our deanery parishes with links to newsletters, websites and includes an events section which can be populated with parish, pastoral area and diocesan events. Eucharistic Minister training details are below – do contact me if you wish to take part, but check with your parish priest if you are a new Eucharistic Minister. A Reader Formation day for new (or newer) readers will be on Saturday 2 November from 9:15am (for 9:30 start) – 4pm and for more established readers on Sunday from 2- 5pm: do make a note of the dates. Meister Eckhart gives us a maxim: "Be willing to be a beginner every single morning." God Bless, Helen.

Please Pray For...
The lately dead.

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, Susie Bell, Carol Flannery.

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

MASSES AND SERVICES

In Church this week

Sunday 1st September

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 5pm	Frank Grant	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Irene McGowan (nee McEveley)	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Parishioners	OLMC

Monday 2nd September

9am	Stephen Rice	OLMC
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Tuesday 3rd September

7pm	No Mass	OLMC
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Wednesday 4th September

10am	No Mass	St Patrick
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Thursday 5th September

10am	No Mass	St Patrick
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Friday 6th September

10am	No Mass	OLMC
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Sunday 8th September

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 5pm	The Larkin Family	OLMC
Sun 9.45am	Parishioners	St Patrick
Sun 11.15am	Annie Bourke	OLMC

Evening Service 6.30pm Thursday
 Short Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament OLMC

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Bonus Ball / Mount Carmel and St Patrick

The bonus ball for Wednesday 28th August was no 43
 Winners won £30 each

Collections

Many Thanks

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
 Loose £218.72

St Patrick
 Loose £174.34

Total Envelopes £126.16

Refreshments served in both our churches after Sunday Mass. Please feel free to join us. Everyone welcome.