



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

So the Lord relented
and did not bring on his people
the disaster
he had threatened.

(Exodus 32: 14)

The Golden Calf

The first reading and the quotation above refers to the story of the people of Israel who have been freed recently from slavery in Egypt. As God is giving Moses the 10 Commandments on Mount Sinai, the people decide that they want their own god whom they fashion out gold.



When God shows his anger at the these Moses pleads with God for mercy. Because God is just he has every right to punish our wrongdoing. If this were to happen then none of us could ever claim exemption for we are all sinners.

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: FIVE STEPS BACK HOME

What was it about the prodigal son that took him back home when everything had gone wrong? He took five steps to get back to the family atmosphere of his father's house.

First, he recognised the senselessness of his sinful condition. This can be hard. We fool ourselves that our sin is really quite harmless or maybe even just a bit of fun. Yet eventually the realisation comes upon us that what we are doing is not making us fuller people but simply stunting our development. We are brought short and forced to face the truth that the grass is in fact greener where we used to be.

Repentance is the second step. The awakening brought about by the hopelessness of our situation leads us to accept that we've been going in the wrong direction long enough and it's time to turn around and go back.

It forces us to admit that we alone are responsible for the mess we are in; sin is our choice and nobody forces us. And what the prodigal son really wanted was not just some food but the restoration of his relationship with his father.

Repentance must always be accompanied by honesty. There's no point in making excuses for what we have done. The son could have blamed the home situation, his father or his brother, the farmer who gave him a job with the pigs, etc. But the less we are found making excuses the more likely we are to be serious about changing our way of life.

When he repented the son displayed humility. He simply acknowledged that he had sinned, was sorry and did not deserve to be called a son any more. He knew he had disgraced his family and friends, accepted it and was determined to do something about it. He set no conditions to his confession.

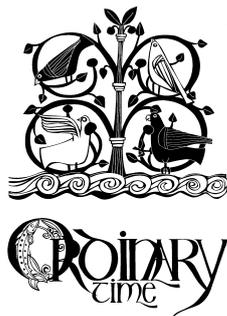
Then he made his resolution to go back home. He didn't ask for time to consider things, procrastinate and put things off. He did something about it, left his sorry situation and determined to start things afresh.

Five steps.
But the only ones that would take him back to the feast. And us?



HYMNS THIS WEEK

Entrance: 36
 Offertory: 243
 Communion: 430
 Recessional: 180



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

This weekend we welcome to God's family and our parish community Beau Gildea and Anthony John Lynch. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

Next Saturday in St Patrick's Church.....

Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture, bringing together over 2,000 organisations, 5,000 events and 40,000 volunteers. Every year in September, places across the country throw open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history. This year St Patrick's Church is taking part and will be open on Saturday 21st September between 2pm and 5pm. Why not come along and find out about the history of our church.

All welcome.

Pastoral Associate Update: It was heartening to meet 16 new Eucharistic Ministers from across the Pastoral Area who attended the formation session run by Iranaeus at St Clare's last weekend – may their ministry bring them and their parish communities great fulfilment. Our enrichment day for current Eucharistic Ministers is this Sunday afternoon and repeated next Sunday 22 Sep from 2:15pm focusing on taking communion to the sick, housebound and dying. Do text, email or call if you wish to attend either. Our website at liverpoolsouthpastoralarea.org.uk has more details of events in our area: it's going to be a busy few months ahead! This insight from Henri Nouwen touched me this week: *"In the context of a compassionate embrace, our brokenness may appear beautiful, but our brokenness has no other beauty but the beauty that comes from the compassion that surrounds it."* God Bless, Helen

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.

Micah Liverpool: If you would like to support the Micah's food banks please see the poster at the back of church which gives an idea of items you can donate. There is a box at the back of church that donations can be left in.

OLMC Parish Centre
 Bingo every Thursday evening at 8pm.
 For more information or to book our parish centre for your event ring 0151 727 1695.

MASSES AND SERVICES

In Church this week

- Friday Funeral Service

Sunday 15th September
 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Sat 5pm Parishioners OLMC
 Sun 9.45am Maureen Allen St Patrick
 Sun 11.15am Leonard Marnell OLMC

Monday 16th September
 9am No Mass OLMC

Tuesday 17th September
 7pm No Mass OLMC

Wednesday 18th September
 10am No Mass St Patrick

Thursday 19th September
 10am No Mass St Patrick

Friday 20th September
 10am No Mass OLMC
 2pm Funeral Service: John Cairns St Patrick

Sunday 22nd September
 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Sat 5pm Alex Wall OLMC
 Sun 9.45am Parishioners St Patrick
 Sun 11.15am Ellen Putt OLMC

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

Bonus Ball / Mount Carmel and St Patrick

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

Collections

Many Thanks

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
 Loose £204.10
 St Patrick
 Loose £153.81

Total Envelopes £117.12
 Education Sunday £51.71

This Sunday's retiring collection is for Home Missions.

Please Pray For....

The lately dead. John Cairns.

The sick: Mary O'Toole, Michelle Baxendale, Chris Bates, John Cairns, 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.