



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord
is no respecter of personages...
...he does not ignore
the orphan's supplication,
nor the widow's
as she pours out her story.

Ecclesiasticus 35: 13-14

Only humble prayer works. We have to admit our true condition before we can stand before God and request a hearing. Humility in prayer means stripping ourselves of all pretension and waiting to receive what God knows we need.

This is the message of the first reading. The Gospel gives us an example of what that means with the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. Again like last week the point of the parable is given clearly:



'Jesus addressed this parable to those who prided themselves on being virtuous and despised everyone else'. The Pharisee boasts of his virtue while the tax collector prays to God quite simply:

**God, be merciful to me
a sinner.**

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: HOW TO IMPRESS GOD

The parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector is the classic "goodie" versus "baddie" tale. The Pharisee represented the pillar of Jewish society: a religious man who knew the Law backwards and observed it in all its minute details. The tax collector was the outcast of society: he collaborated with the pagan occupying army of the Romans, overcharged people for their taxes and kept a commission of the money for himself. Yet by the end of the story Jesus reverses their roles.

The story only makes two points. The first is that it is impossible to impress God. Maybe there are Pharisees in some of our churches today. Those who feel that they are pillars of society; they are well respected in the community; their family has always supported the parish and they live a moral existence - unlike some of the other members of the congregation that they could name!

Why would we want to "impress" God? Could it be that we can't actually face up to what we are really like? Could it be that we think God will only have time for us when we improve a bit?

Do we need to shape up before God will pay us any attention? Yet the reality is that God knows us even better than we know ourselves. For we can fool ourselves but we can't fool God. And the truth is that we can only gain access to God by being totally sincere. Anything else cuts us off.

The second point of the story is that we can do absolutely nothing to earn God's mercy. The tax collector's body language was the complete opposite of the Pharisee's: he beat his breast and didn't even dare to look up. He was open about two things: he was a sinner and he needed God's mercy. And he poured his heart out.

This total honesty before God frightens many people. That's because they believe God acts on a "Brownie points" system and they find it hard to accept that God loves people for what they are not what they should be. God's way of acting overturns any idea of merit, any thought of earning our salvation. God's love and forgiveness are indiscriminate and open to anyone who asks sincerely.

Of course, if you accepted your true condition and knew that only the free gift of grace could save you, then you'd really impress God.

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HYMNS

Entrance: 116
 Offertory: 158
 Communion: 556
 Recessional: 79

Bidding Prayers

Readers please note we are now using the new Prayers of the Faithful books in both churches.



Exciting News... The scaffolding has finally gone up in OLMC ready for the painters to start this week. It is expected to take around 6 weeks which would take us to 16th December if all goes to plan! All weekday masses and funerals (except Monday's funeral and the Vigil mass on Thursday this week) will be said at 10am in St Patrick's until the work is finished.. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause in the short term but all will be worth it in the end. We hope!

Remembrance Mass Saturday 2nd November: We are having a Mass to remember all our loved ones who died in the last year. Names of the deceased will be read out and votive candles lit for them . We have invited as many families as we had contact details for, but if for any reason we haven't contacted you please ring Anne in the office or speak to Margaret Putt. Everyone welcome.

November Pious Lists: As we specially pray for our deceased family and friends daily during mass each November, we also are remembering them during an eight day Octave this year, when their names will be read out each day from November 1 - 8. Please **print names clearly** on a piece of paper and place in envelopes provided along with any donation you would like to make. The envelopes can be put in the labelled box in church or handed into the Presbytery at Mount Carmel.

Synod 2020: Our parish has four opportunities to discuss proposals for our first theme "Called and Gifted" on **Monday 4 & 11 November** at 6:30pm in the meeting room at OLMC (use presbytery entrance) or on **Saturday 9 & 16 November** at St Patrick's (meeting room). Please do try and come along to one meeting- it's our chance to shape our future, so have your say! You can find out more on the Synod website www.synod202.co.uk . See you then!

Pastoral Associate Update: One of the great joys of pastoral ministry is meeting the families and children preparing for their first sacraments. As parish communities, we too can have a vital role to play by praying alongside them and in the welcome we all show during our Sunday celebrations. It's not always easy getting to church on time with youngsters and then keeping them engaged during Mass, so our friendly smiles can work wonders! A call out to Catechists - 'conversations' leading to a certificate to support your ministry starts in November (full details on the website). A quote from Rick Warren (author): "*Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but of yourself less.*" God Bless, Helen.

Forthcoming Events www.liverpoolsouthpastoralarea.org.uk
Sat 2 Nov* New Readers - Formation at St Clare's Parish Hall, on Rutland Avenue, L17 2AU 9:15 am (for 9:30pm)-4pm. Led by Dr Marian Tolley. Bring lunch! Introduction to Proclaiming the Word with practice. Register h.jones@rcaolp.co.uk or 07449 633977
Sun 3 Nov Training for Leaders of Children's Liturgy of the Word at LACE 2pm - 4.30pm. formation@rcaol.co.uk 0151 522 1040 Cost £10
Sun 3 Nov Christian Witness in North Africa at St Anne's Church, Overbury Street, L7 3HJ 6pm A talk by Fr Anselme Tarpaga, M.Afr.
Tuesday 5 & 19 November (7:15pm - 9pm, LACE) or Saturday 16 November (9:30am - 1pm St Joseph's, Wrightington) Part One of Continuing Conversations for Catechists Exploring the soil in which we are called to be sowers, the Church's vision for catechesis and the call to Accompaniment. Register 0151 522 1040 or formation@rcaol.co.uk .

Please Pray For....
The lately dead

The sick: Betty Kent, Mary O'Toole, Michelle Baxendale, Chris Bates, Tony McKean, Anne McCourt, Lisa Balshaw, Mary Kewley, Freya Matheson, Bernard Duffy, Wally Williams, Marie Simpson, Tony Robinson, 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

- Requiem on Monday.
- Feast of All Saints Vigil on Thursday in OLMC and 10am Mass on Friday in St Patrick.
- Remembrance Mass on Saturday in St Patrick's.

Sunday 27th October

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 5pm Kathleen Hogan OLMC
 Sun 9.45am Parishioners St Patrick
 Sun 11.15am Leonard Edward Marnell OLMC

Monday 28th October
 12noon Requiem: Daniel Rowan OLMC

Tuesday 29th October
 10am Tommy Fletcher St Patrick

Wednesday 30th October
 10am Cecilia & Joe Roberts St Patrick

Thursday 31st October
All Saints Vigil Mass
 7pm McCarthy Family OLMC

Friday 1st November
Feast of All Saints
 10am Arthur Taylor Lockwood St Patrick

Saturday 2nd November
 10am Remembrance Mass St Patrick

Sunday 3rd November

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat 5pm John, Eileen & Michael Hyland OLMC
 Sun 9.45am May Robinson St Patrick
 Sun 11.15am Parishioners OLMC

Bonus Ball / Mount Carmel and St Patrick

The bonus ball for Wednesday 23rd October was no 19
 Winners won £30 each

Collections

Many Thanks

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
 Loose £230.28

St Patrick
 Loose £135.57
 Envelopes £106.26