

Refreshments are available after 9am Sunday Mass in the St Bernard's hall. Thank you to the volunteers who facilitate this.



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Waterside Parish NEWSLETTER

Sunday 23rd July 2023: 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday Mass: 9am at St Bernard's and 11am at St Michael's

Weekday Masses: Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday - 9am at St Michael's

Wednesday – 9am at St Bernard's followed by Adoration and Grandparents' Group

Confessions: Saturday after 9am Mass (St Michael's) "When you approach the confessional, know this, that I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest, but I Myself act in your soul. Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy. Tell souls that from this fount of mercy souls draw graces solely with the vessel of trust. If their trust is great, there is no limit to My generosity." **Jesus to St Faustina**

As the school summer holidays approach, the start of sacramental programmes in the Autumn seems a long way off but to assist with planning please will any parents of a child or children who they wish to register for the next First Holy Communion programme (school Year 3 or above) please collect a form from the back of either church or from the parish office and return this to the office for registration.

If any of our teenage parishioners wish to register for the Confirmation programme, please also collect a form from the back of either church or from the parish office and return this to the office for registration. We can then assess the current situation and determine whether a Confirmation programme can be run this year.

David Dethick has kindly offered to deliver any petitions which we wish to offer to Our Lady at Lourdes when he joins the pilgrimage, departing on 28th July. If you have any intentions for delivery, please leave these in a sealed envelope. Identified as petitions for Lourdes, at the back of either church.

Synod Working Document Released

Last week, the Vatican published the *Instrumentum Laboris*, the working document for the October Synod on Synodality. Sixty pages long, it incorporates the experiences of local churches in every region of the world and will form the basis for the work of the participants in the Synod, which begins this October and concludes with a second Assembly next year, 2024. Here is a link to the document: ["Instrumentum laboris" della XVI Assemblea Generale Ordinaria del Sinodo dei Vescovi \(vatican.va\)](https://www.vatican.va/press-releases/2023/07/2023-07-26-instrumentum-laboris-synodality_en.html)

Collections 16th July 2023:

St Michael's £63.00

St Bernard's £56.20

Envelopes £143.00

Direct payments to the parish bank account in June amounted to £1,340.

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY FOR FLOWERS

It is entirely possible that many of our parishioners are unaware that we rely on the generosity of our skilled flower arrangers not only to prepare the beautiful arrangements we enjoy in church, but also to buy the flowers.

No doubt you will agree that this is unfair, hence the decision to reinstate second collections for contributions to the cost of flowers. Please give generously to show your appreciation for the work of our dedicated flower arrangers (each church collection will be paid to that church's flower arrangers).

We keep in our prayers the sick and housebound members of the parish:

John Allen, Pauline Moore, Kathleen Ketley, Mike Slipper and Paola McCarthy

Please note that a GDPR issue has been drawn to our attention. We must now have express permission from the sick person to name him or her in this section of the parish newsletter. If we don't have a signed Parish Registration Form, it will be very difficult to include the sick in this section of the newsletter.

We pray for the dear departed of the parish and for those whose anniversaries occur this week:

23rd: Harry Pike (1980) Patrick Broderick (1985) Samuel Taylor (1993) John Cocker (2013)

24th: Peter McEvevey (1993) Marie McEvevey (1968)

25th: Frances Gilmour (1962)

26th: Winifred Lee (1994) Margaret Stapleton (2015) Catherine Heron (2018)

27th: Mildred de Gaies (1983) Winifred Lis (2001)

28th: Leo Snell (1983) Charles Allen (1985)

29th: Jane Harrison (1987)

Pious tradition holds that Jesus promised St. Gertrude that a thousand souls would be released from purgatory each time the following prayer is said devoutly: "Eternal Father, I offer You the Most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen."

Can you help your parish?

We need someone to coordinate the Health & Safety requirements of keeping the parish running. A list of the requirements can be found at the back of both churches today, but in brief this involves:

- ❖ liaising with the Parish Priest, Deacon Ian and the service providers in arranging our annual and five-yearly inspections;
- ❖ coordinating works arising from the inspections;
- ❖ lodging certificates with the parish secretary and
- ❖ overseeing the requisite risk assessments for hall hire licences.

None of this is challenging in itself, it just takes time to organise and attend both sites when inspections or works are arranged and ensuring that the paperwork is up to date.

All of the hard work has already been done in establishing reliable and cost-effective contacts for the services required to ensure that the parish complies with all diocesan obligations.

Now that positive signs of recovery are showing after the covid disruption, the time has come for us all to ask ourselves if we value our parish. The woeful lack of volunteers suggests that parish life is immaterial to many of our Sunday congregation, but it will be sad for those who contribute what they can if we must close a church this year simply because nobody else is willing to share the workload of running the parish.

There is no reason why the Health & Safety role cannot be shared; teamwork has kept the parish running to date! Scripture is rich in referencing the need for us to act, for example: "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." (James 2:26); "Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth." (1 John 3:18) "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?" (James 2:14) "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ." (Colossians 3:23-24)

Please feel free to speak with Deacon Ian or Louise Blacker if you have any questions or wish to register your interest in reducing the parish secretary's workload in person. Obviously the post is a voluntary one; our parish has no salaried staff which is testament to the wonderful community which we enjoy here.

Alternatively, you can send an email to office@watersideparish.org.uk, leave a telephone message on 02380 891866 or deliver a note to the parish office.

A note from your parish secretary

It is with sadness that I have now decided to step down from my role as parish secretary at the end of the summer holidays.

You will have noted last week the proposal to separate the health and safety responsibilities which I have been undertaking within the parish secretary's role; hopefully this will assist in recruiting some new volunteers! The decision to distribute some of the secretary's workload was made ahead of my resignation, but it may now be an encouragement for new volunteers to step forward since the role has been halved.

The newsletter will be abbreviated during the school holidays whilst I make comprehensive notes for my successor; you won't have to learn as you go along, as I have done!

The role of parish secretary is a privileged one, it can be undertaken as a distinct job of work within set parameters, or it can become a part of one's daily life – I have followed the latter path, with the parish seeming to be an extra member of my family! That is something for the successful applicant to decide and, with a new parish priest arriving, it will be an excellent opportunity for you to determine with Father Innaiah how you will fulfil the role.

Ideally, you will be able to spend a fixed number of hours in the office once or more each week. No specific experience is necessary, but clearly it is essential to respect confidential information and to recognise sensitive situations as they arise. I have made a brief list of the key elements of this role which is available at the back of both churches today for anyone who would like to consider taking over from me.

For the most part, I anticipate that this role can be competently fulfilled in approximately 8 hours per week. There is always scope to undertake more work if you are willing and at certain times of year (such as Advent and Lent) there will be additional tasks to complete.

This is of course a voluntary role, but God sees everything that we do and what greater use of our skills is there than serving Him in attending to the essential administration which is part of modern parish life?

Some extracts from the Catechism, as recently covered in the Catechism in a Year series with Fr Mike Schmitz, which are worthy of reflection and prioritising as we strive to become the Christians God wants us to be:

1420 Through the sacraments of Christian initiation, man receives the new life of Christ. Now we carry this life "in earthen vessels," and it remains "hidden with Christ in God." We are still in our "earthly tent," subject to suffering, illness, and death. This new life as a child of God can be weakened and even lost by sin.

1422 "Those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from God's mercy for the offense committed against him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by their sins and which by charity, by example, and by prayer labours for their conversion."

1424 It is called the sacrament of confession, since the disclosure or confession of sins to a priest is an essential element of this sacrament. In a profound sense it is also a "confession" - acknowledgment and praise - of the holiness of God and of his mercy toward sinful man.

It is called the sacrament of forgiveness, since by the priest's sacramental absolution God grants the penitent "pardon and peace."

It is called the sacrament of Reconciliation, because it imparts to the sinner the love of God who reconciles: "Be reconciled to God." He who lives by God's merciful love is ready to respond to the Lord's call: "Go; first be reconciled to your brother."

1432 The human heart is heavy and hardened. God must give man a new heart.²⁵ Conversion is first of all a work of the grace of God who makes our hearts return to him: "Restore us to thyself, O LORD, that we may be restored!"²⁶ God gives us the strength to begin anew. It is in discovering the greatness of God's love that our heart is shaken by the horror and weight of sin and begins to fear offending God by sin and being separated from him. The human heart is converted by looking upon him whom our sins have pierced".

MASS READINGS FOR THE 16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: Wisdom 12:13,16-1

There is no god, other than you, who cares for every thing, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.

You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 85(86) O Lord, you are good and forgiving

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

Jesus put another parable before the crowds: 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

He put another parable before them: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'