

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 30th July 2023: 17th 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**

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?

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 summer:

30th: Ian McCabe (1980)
31st: Edith Gregory (1999)
2nd: Matthew Ashe (1989)
3rd: Marthe Hancock (1989)
4th: Shelagh Warman (1978)
5th: Maureen Jones (2002) Margaret Hannon (2010)
6th: Elisabeth King (2010)
7th: Italia Di Carluccio (1970) Dominic Parr (1979) Anton Varton (1995)
8th: Rebecca Wrathall (1997) Winifred Hughes (2004) William Farrelly (2012)
9th: Katherine Coslett-Derby (1992) Lily Ricketts (2014) Pauline Taylor (2018)
11th: James Kilbride (1984) Philip Gray (1985) Gerald Greene (1991)
12th: Isabella Taggart (2014)
13th: Eileen de Lavigne (2000) Zeljko Candrl (2016)
14th: James Holt (1999) John Hand (2007)
15th: Colin Archer (2007) Anne Wyatt (2012) Bernard Hand (2016)
16th: Michael McDonnell (2011)
17th: Thomas Laville (1998)
18th: Albert Fusco (2005)
19th: John Wilson (1983) Dorothy Wiltshire (1987) William Fitzpatrick (2008) John Digby (2008) Penny Smith (2009)
20th: Florence Warrilow (2005)
21st: Marie Wiltshire (1991) Brian Stanfield (1997)
22nd: Margaret Heyworth (1994) Gareth Evans (1998)
23rd: Thomas Sylvester (1972) Margaret Ashton (2010)
24th: Francis Hitchcock (1987) Paul Barker (1996) Molly Bowler (1999) Elsie Horrill (2003)
25th: Ellen Kerr (2002) Henrietta Wood (2007) James Barnard (2014)
26th: Arthur Couch (1975)
27th: Betty Marek (2017)
28th: Delia McLaughlin (1975) 29th: Henrik Scott (1981) Jordan Haskell (1999)
30th: Norman Burgess (1997)
1st: Jeremiah Dineen (1986) Winifred Rowden (1995) Brenda Bowen (2014)
2nd: Charles Croucher (1986) Bernard Kenny (2008)
3rd: Johanna Bowd (1994)
4th: Aubrey O'Reilly (1995)
5th: Leslie Jones (1984)
6th: Jean O'Driscoll (1981)
7th: John Quinn (1977) Augustine Jones (2009)
8th: Paul Hollingberry (1980) Hilda Hand (1980)
9th: Teresa Slipper (2001)

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."

The next 100 club draw will take place after the 9.00 Mass at St Bernard's on 6th August.

Thank you for your generous donations towards the cost of flowers last Sunday. The collections raised £89.71 for St Michael's and £114.60 for St Bernard's.

Collections 23rd July 2023:

St Michael's £77.25

St Bernard's £39.00

Envelopes £195.00

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

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. **I doubt that this role will now take more than 4 hours a month over the course of a year, contractors are familiar with the buildings and they are generally flexible in dates of attendance so it should be very straightforward.**

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.

The Catechism in a Year series with Fr Mike Schmitz has recently focused on the sacrament of Penance. Who knew that the Catechism of the Catholic Church sets out so powerfully the benefits of this under-used sacrament?! Strongly recommended reading is the summary in paragraphs 1485 to 1498.

A key point which is significantly overlooked by the Catholic faithful of the 21st Century is:

"1487 The sinner wounds God's honour and love, his own human dignity as a man called to be a son of God, and the spiritual well being of the Church, of which each Christian ought to be a living stone."

The spiritual effects of the sacrament of Penance are sixfold and so wonderfully demonstrative of God's love and mercy; why would we not follow Our Lady's exhortations in apparitions of recent centuries to receive this sacrament monthly?

If you would like to listen, here is a link to day 204: [The Catechism in a Year \(with Fr. Mike Schmitz\) on Apple Podcasts](#)

MASS READINGS FOR THE 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5,7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its number cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 118(119):57,72,76-77,127-130 Lord, how I love your law!

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good, God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

Gospel Acclamation: John 15:15 Alleluia, Alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'