St. Gregory's Newsletter

5th February 2017 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Parish Mass Book page 133



The Parish Office is staffed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.00am to 13.00pm.

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Archdiocese of Liverpool Registered Charity No. 32709



Saint of the Week Our Lady of Lourdes

The appearance of the Virgin Mary to Bernadette Soubirous in 1858 at Lourdes in France was a call to penance and prayer, which has found particular expression in the service of the sick and disabled. The Feast Day of our Lady of Lourdes, 11th January, has also been instituted by Pope St. John Paul II as World Day of Prayer for the sick.

Lourdes is visited annually by four to six million people, over 1,200 last year from our own diocese. Countless miraculous healings have taken place there on account of the spring of healing water dug originally by Bernadette according to our Lady's request. Between February and July, Our Lady appeared eighteen times and showed herself to St. Bernadette in the grotto at Lourdes. She said to the 14 year old Bernadette, who ran to tell the parish priest, repeating it over and over lest she should forget the lady's name: 'I am the Immaculate Conception'. Archbishop Malcolm has written an impassioned letter asking for support for our Diocesan Lourdes pilgrimage, and indeed all who are suffering from various physical and mental illnesses and all those dedicated to caring for them throughout the year. Please see the notice board.



Reflection

Mary was all light, her life illuminated and totally consumed by the Word of God as she cared for, followed and perpetuated the work of her son Jesus, who drew her to ever greater perfection. Assumed into heaven, she still lights up our earthly journey.

Mary Remembers

So often in tragic circumstances I've seen how it is consoling simply to recall that Mary does not forget us; She remembers;

She's looking after us even in the most apparently desperate situations.

The simple truth is that the words we repeat, even only half-consciously, do not fall on deaf ears: "Pray for us now... and at the hour of our death."

Yes. We have a mother in heaven. She hears these words. And she remembers.

So even when I might forget Mary, she does not fail to remember me. Always.

As we go through life, she makes a declaration: I am "totally yours".

Totally mine as mother and sister, advocate and refuge, confidante of the soul, cause of joy.

So I can trust that "at the hour of my death" she will be there, remembering even my perhaps long-forgotten petitions.

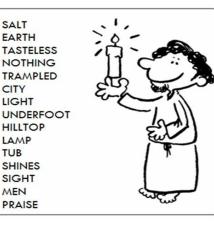
But why wait till the hour of death to develop my relationship with her?

Even now, Mary..... gently awaits my heart's conversation. "I am totally yours" "And I, too, totus tuus – totally yours".

(Bishop Brendan Leahy)

Childrens' Corner

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5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 5th February

Sunday 5	February	Saints of the week	weekday Ma	asses	
9:30am	Madge Critchley (A)	St. Paul Miki & Companions	Mon.	8.30am	Eucharistic Service
11:00am	Mary Spedding (A)		Tues.	8:30am	Valerie Bretherton
6:30pm	Special Intention Christina Ashworth	St. Jerome Emiliani and	Wed.	8:30am	lan West (Birthday)
-		St. Josephine Bakhita	Thurs.	8:30am	David Curwen
		St. Scholastica	Fri.	8:30am	John Bridge

Our Lady of Lourdes

World Day of Prayer for the Sick

Sunday 12th February

9.30am Stephen Corcoran 11.00am Kathleen Swarbrick 6:30pm Edwin Clifton

Rosary: 20 minutes before weekday Mass **Weekly Confession:** Saturday after morning Mass

Sat.

10:00am John & Elizabeth

Watmough (A)

...

Please Pray For Our Sick Brothers And Sisters

Kitty Ellison, Jayne Hodge, Kathleen Reynolds, Brigid Cain, Mary Patten, Agnes Martindale, Robert Stretton, Hilda Haworth, Mildred Bridge, Margaret Wood, Harold Sutton, Margaret Bower, Thomas Moss, Gerard Baker, Hugh Daly, Margaret Dearden, Maureen Jackson, Dorothy McDonald (Howarth), Maureen McIver, Bill Burns, Lois Chiasson, Gerard McGuigan, Moya Jones, Teresa Kershaw, Teresa Critchley, Mary Ellison

Collection

Thank you very much for last week's collection of £1041.

Food Bank

In response to having watched the film 'I Daniel Blake' and its message about the current situation of so many people in our country lacking basic necessities such as food and shelter, Anne Rawlinson is coordinating a collection of food and – importantly – toiletries for the *Living Waters* Foodbank. If you wish to contribute, please leave your donation in the box which is now placed permanently in the porch and will be emptied weekly and delivered to the foodbank, "feeding local people in crisis". Thank you Ann for this new initiative.

<u>SVP</u>

Members of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society will be holding their monthly collection after Mass today. Please support their work also with your prayers as they continue to give valuable assistance on our behalf to many who need a helping hand.

Graveyard

Reece reminds us that the team will be removing Christmas wreaths etc. from the churchyard starting this week. If there is anything you wish to save please collect it before it is removed.

Weddings at St. Gregory's

A list of couples who have 'booked' to be married this year has been placed on the notice board in the porch.

St. Gregory's School

Tickets are on sale for their famous St. Patrick's Night - a sell-out last year, so get them quick from School.

200 Club January Winners

3rd prize £20 Ben Markham - 2nd prize £30 Sarah Johnstone - 1st prize £50 Christine Cooper Congratulations!

"Why we need more Deacons"

A reminder of an evening for men who may be wondering if they are called to serve as deacons and what the formation involves. This Tuesday 7:30 – 9:00 pm. Wives also most welcome. Hosted by the Archbishop at Holy Name, Moss Pits Lane, Fazakerley L10 9LG

Lent Fast Day Briefing

Next Sunday sees a special event where a CAFOD partner, Sr. Yvonne Mwalula Mwila, normally working with the poorest and most vulnerable people in Zambia, will give a presentation about the amazing difference that CAFOD makes 'on the ground'. St. Benet's, Copy Lane, Liverpool, 12th February 2.00 – 3.30pm. Also see poster.

Marriage and Family Life

Every year Archbishop Malcolm McMahon invites us to the Cathedral for a special mass to celebrate family life, which is seen by the Church as a foundation and as such should be celebrated. All most welcome, see poster. Next Sunday, 12th February at 11.00am. Refreshments after in the Gibberd Room.

Recovery from Divorce and Separation

The next series of support meetings for Divorced and Separated Catholics (and other Christians) will start in mid-February 2017. All who are divorced or separated or experiencing the breakdown of a marriage or a long term relationship are very welcome. The small groups are informative, affirming, free, confidential. For a place on the South Liverpool course please call: Frances Trotman 0151 727 2195, for the Ormskirk course Maureen O'Brien 07967 753371 General enquiries m.obrien@rcaol.co.uk 0151 522 1044

Ministering to the Assembly

Counters6th FebruaryDavid Chadwick and Pauline TurnerRotas12th February, 6th Sunday in Ordinary TimeS.A.S.Sandra Donnelly, Madge Martin, May WestDial a RideTaxiReadersAndrew NightingaleEuch. MinistersMargaret ScardClare MeredithEmmy MossLinda WalmsleyEdward Brierley

Alex Duxbury Anthony Hooson Paul Rynn