

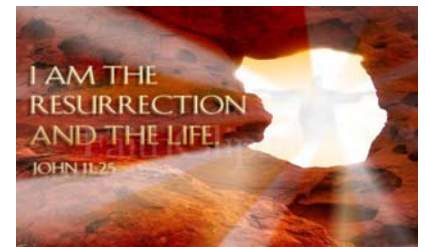
Saint Charles Swinton

Parish Newsletter

5 and 12 April 2015

Easter Sunday and Second Sunday of Easter Year B.

Page 251 & 255 in Mass Book.



Easter Joy, Jubilee Joy.

First of all, I wish you every blessing and joy as we embark on this new season of Easter.

Our celebration may be annual, but the event is every real, very present because the Lord is indeed truly risen and with us on our journey, which is why we pray with Bishop John the diocese "*Stay with us Lord, on our journey*" – which I am now going to incorporate into our Bidding Prayers as our response.

I always find the real joy and hope that come from our Easter celebrations a challenge. It can be so natural most of the time, but it must seem impossible to those in corners of our world that live with tragedy and disaster – and we have heard of so many in just these past couple of weeks. It also challenges us when we are called to bring the Good News of the Risen Lord to those who have suffered in those situations.

There are always in our parish community those who are dealing with the reality of sickness, dying, death – their own or that of loved ones. We can too easily offer simplistic answers and versions of the Good News. Sometimes it is simply enough let them know we are with them in these moments. This is often my experience in those situations.

My prayer this Easter is that the seeds of Resurrection hope and peace grow in the hearts of all those communities and individuals who only know darkness and pain at this time.

continued over...



The Coming Week.....

***Sunday
5 April
Easter Sunday
of the Resurrection
of the Lord.***

Mass 8.45am. 11.00am



at both we will renew our Baptism Promises using the newly blessed Holy Water from the Easter Vigil. And why not take some away to use at home.

***Monday
6 April
Bank Holiday
12.00 noon Mass***

***Tuesday
7 April
Easter Tuesday.
8.30am Mass***

***Wednesday
8 April
Easter Wednesday.
8.30am Mass***

***Thursday
9 April
Easter Thursday.
8.30am Mass***

***Friday
10 April
Easter Friday.
8.30am Mass***

***Saturday 11 April
Easter Saturday
9.00am Mass in Cemetery.
11.30am – 12.00noon Sacrament
of Reconciliation.***

***Sunday
12 April
Second Sunday of Easter
Mass 6.00pm (Saturday)
8.45am. 11.00am***

***“Divine Mercy Sunday”
Devotions locally at Saint
Mary’s Eccles.
See details on notice board.***

***Monday 13 April
Easter Weekday
8.30am Mass
Schools re-open.***

***Tuesday
14 April
Easter Weekday.
8.30am Mass***

***Wednesday
15 April
9.15am Mass in School – year 5
No Mass in Church today***

***Thursday
16 April
Easter Weekday.
8.30am Mass***

***Friday
17 April
11.00am Funeral Mass for
Kathleen Holden, RIP of Everton
Street.
No 8.30am Mass this morning.***

***Saturday
18 April
9.00am Mass in Cemetery today.
11.30am – 12.00noon Sacrament
of Reconciliation.***

***10.00am Sacramental Programme;
Children & Parents
“We receive the Gift of the Spirit”***

***Sunday
19 April
Third Sunday of Easter
Mass 6.00pm (Saturday)
8.45am. 11.00am***

If indeed we do believe that the Risen Lord is indeed with us on our journey of faith as individuals and as community, then it is indeed right that we celebrate anniversaries at points along the way.

This year we have been celebrating the sixtieth year of the life of this church building of Saint Charles Borromeo. It is right that we look back and have celebrated in a variety of ways. I invite you to reflect on where you have recognised the presence of the Risen Lord along the way, both as community and as individuals.

Our celebration Mass to bring to a climax the anniversary year is on Sunday 26 April and the Bishop John will be here with us for the 11.00am Mass.

I would like at that Mass to have representatives of the various parish groups/organisations to be represented in the entrance procession and will be writing to each group representative during the next few days.

After the Celebration Mass I am proposing an informal "wine and cakes" and invite you to bring along some (preferably home-baked) goodies for the event which will be just outside the church door (along the hedgerow). I am of course presuming on good weather!

I hope we can focus on this significant event in the life of the parish.

Once again, Easter Joy and prayers for you and your families.

Church Decorating Fund

Last week

Your generosity last week reached the sum of £1,727.44. The Police Choir concert raised £211.00 (after expenses) and the rest by generous donations, including cheques for £500.00, £500.00, £250.00, £100.00, £20.00 and many generous cash offerings.

This has now increased to £2,579.48

with the help of your generous offerings in last week's retiring collection, contributing £3381.74, a cheque of £300.00 and other offerings in cash. A magnificent effort – and not too late if you wish to contribute.

New Offertory Envelopes.....

Current envelope users – please be careful and take the set with your name and postcode on.



If you would like to start using envelopes to make your offerings

please take an unlabelled box, fill in the card at the front and put it in your first envelope with your offering.

For those who have not yet signed up for Gift Aid or would like to set up a Standing Order you will find information and forms next to the envelopes.

Coming events....

Thursday 30 April

Coffee Morning at 12, Allenby Road (Pat Stirzaker's) Proceeds for UCM charities.

Saturday 2 May Salford Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham. There will be a locally organised coach – see notice in porch and contact numbers.

Salford Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes Friday 31 July – Thursday 6 August, by air. This year's air pilgrimage will be led by Bishop Arnold.

There is now also a coach pilgrimage being organised via Salford Cathedral.

Any enquiries please contact Clare Muscat on 0741 5974938. (see also poster in the porch for accommodation and price options).

KRAKOW 2015: St. Mary's Swinton & St. Mark's Pendlebury Parish is organising a Pilgrimage to Krakow, Poland, walking in the footsteps of St. John Paul II during November 8th—13th, staying at the Old Time Hotel, Krakow (a short walking distance from the Main Market Square) and flying from Liverpool Airport. The cost including five nights stay at the Hotel with B&B, Flights and transfers will be approx £350.00 per person. At present there are 11 pilgrims signed up and we have a further 12 spare places left on the pilgrimage for parishioners from the deanery. If you would like to join the pilgrimage to Krakow you should contact Fr. Lomax 0161 794 1099.

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Raissa Maritain, the philosopher and spiritual writer, died some months after suffering a stroke. During those months she lay in a hospital bed, unable to speak. After her death, her husband, the renowned philosopher, Jacques Maritain, in preparing her journals for publication, wrote these words: "At a moment when everything collapsed for both of us, and which as followed by four agonizing months, Raissa was walled in herself by a sudden attack of aphasia. Whatever progress she made during several weeks by sheer force of intelligence and will, all deep communication remained cut off. And subsequently, after a relapse, she could barely articulate words. In the supreme battle in which she was engaged, no one on earth could help her, myself no more than anyone else. She preserved the peace of her soul, her full lucidity, her humor, her concern for her friends, the fear of being a trouble to others, and her marvelous smile and the extraordinary light of her wonderful eyes. To everyone who came near her, she invariably gave (and with what astonishing silent generosity during her last two days, when she could only breathe out her love) some sort of impalpable gift which emanated from the mystery in which she was enclosed."

The emphasis on the last sentence is my own and I highlight it because, I believe, it has something important to say in an age where, more and more, we are coming to believe that euthanasia and various forms of physician-assisted suicide are the humane and compassionate answer to terminal illness.

The case for euthanasia generally revolves around these premises: Suffering devalues human life and euthanasia alleviates that suffering and the ravages of the body and mind that come with that suffering so as to provide a terminally ill person "death with dignity" and death with less suffering. As well, it is argued, that once an illness has so debilitated a person so as to leave him or her in a virtual vegetative state, what is the logic for keeping such a person alive?

What's to be said in response to this? The logic for euthanasia, compassionate in so far as it goes, doesn't go far enough to consider a number of deeper issues. Dignity and usefulness are huge terms with more dimensions than first meet the eye. In a recent article in AMERICA magazine, Jessica Keating highlights some of those deeper issues as she argues against the logic of those who have lauded Brittany Maynard's (the young woman who captured national attention last year by choosing assisted suicide in the face of a terminal illness) decision to take her own life as "courageous", "sensible", and "admirable". Keating concedes that, had she not made that decision, Maynard would no doubt have suffered greatly and would in all likelihood eventually been rendered unproductive and unattractive. But, Keating argues, "she would have been present in a web of relationships. Even if she had fallen unconscious, she likely would have been read to, washed, dressed and kissed. She would have been gently caressed, held and wept over. She would simply have been loved to the end."

That's half the argument against euthanasia. The other half reads this way: Not only would she have been loved to the end, but, perhaps more importantly, she would have been actively emitting love until the end. From her ravaged, silent, mostly-unconscious body would have emanated an intangible, but particularly powerful, nurture and love, akin to the powerful life-giving grace that emanated from Jesus broken, naked body on the cross.

We too seldom make this important distinction: We believe that Jesus saved us through his life and through his death, as if these were the same thing. But they are very different: Jesus gave his life for us through his activity, his usefulness, through what he could actively do for us. But he gave his death for us through his passivity, through his helplessness, through the humiliation of his body in death. Jesus gave us his greatest gift precisely during those hours when he

the bedside of a dying loved one have experienced that in that person's helplessness and pain he or she is giving us something that he or she couldn't give us during his or her active life. From that person's helplessness and pain emanates a power to draw us together as family, a power to intuit and understand deeper things, a deeper appreciation of life, and especially a much deeper recognition of that person's life and spirit. And this, impalpable gift, as Maritain says, emanates from the mystery of pain, non-utility, and dying in which he or she is enclosed.

In our dying bodies we can give our loved ones something we cannot fully give them when we are healthy and active. Euthanasia is partially blind to the mystery of how love is given.

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25

June

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July

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August

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September

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October

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November

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December

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SVP

January

February

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June

July

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October

November

December

CAFOD

January

February

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October

November

December

Thanks for your generous support of the parish over the past year.....

Offertory collections.....

January

5

12

19

26

February

2

9

16

23

March

2

9

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23

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April

6

13

20

27

May

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18

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