

Saint Charles Swinton

Parish Newsletter

19 April 2015

Third Sunday of Easter Year B.

Page 258 in Mass Book.



After Emmaus.....

Nearly 2,000 years ago, two disillusioned youths consoled each other as they walked that seven-mile stretch of road separating Jerusalem from Emmaus. They moved slowly, depression having taken the spring from their steps. A double feeling clung to their hearts that day. They were hurting and there was reason. Their messiah and their dreams had just been crucified. A deep dark disappointment dampened their spirits. And there was fear. Most of all, there was fear. Not fear that they themselves might be crucified. That prospect loomed more welcome than the thought of going on.

Theirs was that more horrible fear, the fear that comes from the realization that perhaps nothing makes a difference after all, maybe our dreams and our hopes point to nothing more real than Santa and the Easter Bunny. Maybe hope is only for children and the naive? They had been so excited, so full of hope. The uncrucified Christ had filled them with a dream. With that dream had come a new innocence, a freshness, an energy, a feeling absent since they had been children and which, prior to meeting Jesus, they had, long ago, unconsciously despaired of ever feeling again.

One weekend, one black Friday, had changed it all. They walked now, realistic again, more than 48 hours older, their dreams, like their messiah, dead, entombed. They had grown up a lot in one weekend. Their naiveté had died as it hung exposed, mocked and ridiculed by the wise. There was a lesson hard learned, but it brought a hurt and a disappointment beyond words. But another feeling clung to them too, like a demon refusing to be exorcised. The dream still burned holes in their hearts. Mocked and dead – maybe it didn't matter? Maybe something was more real than even death! Hurt beyond words, confused beyond doubts, they searched for words, grasped for trust. Then a stranger caught their step and caught their mood. They didn't recognize him. How could they? In their loss of trust, their messiah had died. *continued over...*



The Coming Week.....

Sunday 19 April

Third Sunday of Easter

Mass 6.00pm (Saturday)
8.45am. 11.00am

6.30pm Ecumenical act of
worship, here at Saint Charles.

Monday 20 April

8.30am Mass

7.00pm The Saint Vincent de
Paul Society meets.

Tuesday 21 April

Saint Anselm, bishop and
Doctor of the Church. Of Italian birth
he joined the abbey of Bec in the
north of France eventually becoming
abbot and then followed his
predecessor Lanfranc to become
archbishop of Canterbury. he is
famous for his theological and
philosophical writings. Died 1109.
8.30am Mass

Wednesday 22 April

9.15am Mass in school – class
4. All welcome.

Thursday 23 April

**St. George, Martyr
Patron of England**

He was martyred at Lydda (Israel)
around 303, in the persecution of
the Emperor Diocletian. His cult,
which predates the legend of his
slaying the dragon, spread quickly
through East and West. During the
Crusades George was seen to
personify the ideals of Christian
chivalry and he was adopted as
patron of several city-states and
countries. King Richard 1 of England
placed his crusading army under his
protection and in 1222 his feast was
proclaimed as a national holiday.

8.30am Mass

Friday 24 April

8.30am Mass

The 60th Celebration in
Flowers opens today and you
can visit church from after Mass
until 7.00pm

7.30pm Concert – “An Evening
with Emma Rushmore and
Friends”. Tickets on sale after
Mass £5.00 or pay on door.
Proceeds to HCPT.

Saturday 25 April

St. Mark, Evangelist

A cousin of St Barnabas, his close
contact with St. Peter is reflected in
the composition of the Gospel that
bears his name. Traditionally he is
credited with founding the Church of
Alexandria in Egypt.

9.00am Mass in Cemetery.

11.30am – 12.00noon Sacrament
of Reconciliation.

*Floral Celebration continues
today 10.00am – 6.00pm.*

Sunday 26 April

Fourth Sunday
of Easter

*World Day of Prayer for
Vocations.*

Mass 6.00pm (Saturday)
8.45am. 11.00am

Today Bishop John joins us to
preside at the 11.00am Mass
which is our final celebration
of the 60th. Anniversary Year.



*“Looking back with
thanksgiving, looking forward
with hope”.*

But the stranger begins to find the words: "Do they not yet understand the

ways of God? Isn't it always when they don't understand, and have to trust, that they understand the most deeply? Wasn't it necessary for naiveté to be so exposed and ridiculed? Is that not its glory?" His words burned in them, touching and soothing that same deep part of the heart where the dream had lain. But they were only words, a balm, a momentary salve, nothing more. The doubt, the hurt, the fear, these lingered on. Emmaus and twilight appeared at the same time. The stranger had been a consolation. Why not ask him to stay? They continued to share, bread and consolation. Suddenly their eyes were opened. Their minds and hearts were opened even further. They understood. Jesus was with them again. The dream exploded anew like an atom split. They split, immediately, for the ends of the earth, hanging their naiveté and their dreams on crosses everywhere. The dream never died again. Easter Sunday had eclipsed a godless Friday.

Christianity goes through multiple moods and feelings. Each age must struggle with its own emotions. Today, in terms of feeling, we live in that time between Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We are trudging along the road to Emmaus. Like the two disciples, we live with crucified dreams. Aesthetically, romantically, ethically, and religiously, we are surrounded by despair and its child, cynicism.

We need to remain on the road to Emmaus. The stranger still stalks that same road. In his company we need to discuss our doubts, discuss the scriptures and continually offer each other bread and consolation. At some moment too, our eyes will be opened. We will understand and we will recognize the risen Lord. Then the dream will explode anew like a flower bursting in bloom after a long winter. We will be full of a new innocence. Easter Sunday will happen again.

Stay with us, Lord, on our journey.

Church Decorating Fund

This has now reached the sum of £3,114.48.

Many thanks for so many generous contributions to the fund. Sorry for the confused account of the fund in the last newsletter!

It is still not too late 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 unlabeled 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.

Confirmation celebration.

This will take place on **Sunday 10 May at 3.00pm.** Please keep our children in your prayers and it is still not too late to become a Prayer Sponsor. Unfortunately this was frustrated by the disturbance of the decorating but the cards are now back in place.

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.

A member of Churches Together in Swinton and Pendlebury

Parish Priest: Rev Mgr Paul F Smith STL • ☎ 0161 794 1089 • ✉ paulsmith@saintcharles.freeserve.co.uk website: www.stcharlesswinton.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 250037

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 11.30 am to 12.00 noon and after evening Mass

BAPTISMS

By appointment. Parents are expected to attend a course of preparation.

WEDDINGS

Six months notice is normally required.

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 6.00 pm (First Mass of Sunday)

Sunday

- 8.45 am (Church Parade every second Sunday of the month)
- 11.00 am (with children's Liturgy of the Word)

Monday to Friday: usually 8.30 am

Holy Days

7.30 pm (eve), 8.30 am

Saint Vincent de Paul Society
Monthly as announced

Union of Catholic Mothers
First and third Tuesdays at 7.15pm

Beaver Scouts

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25

June

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22

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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

March

April

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July

August

September

October

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December

CAFOD

January

February

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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

16

23

30

April

6

13

20

27

May

4

11

18

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