

Saint Charles Swinton

Parish Newsletter

15 November 2015

Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe..

Page 160 in Mass Book.



DIOCESE OF SALFORD Pastoral Letter of the Right Reverend John Arnold

Bishop of Salford

To be read in all Churches on the weekend of 21st/22nd November, 2015, the Feast of Christ the King.

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is important that I write to you again about several matters. I hope that, apart from this letter being read at Mass, there will be an opportunity for you to have copies, or that you may read it again on the diocesan website.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. Coming as the last Sunday of the liturgical year it is a clear reminder of what we are about and the priorities that we must always have as Catholics. Christ is the summit of our Faith. There is a need to be constantly strengthening our Faith in Him, growing in our knowledge of Him and His ministry, and continuing that ministry through our role as His ambassadors by our prayer, work and example. This is a good moment to take an overview of our progress. I have been your bishop and pastor for almost a year and I have spent that time learning about a Diocese which is new to me. There is much energy and commitment in the priests and people of the Diocese of Salford and I am grateful to every one of you for all that is being achieved.

I must thank you sincerely for the completion of the diocesan-wide consultation which brought several thousand responses. There was good consensus in what was said, with many wise comments and accounts of valuable experience. I have written a report which is available in two forms. The full report is available in parishes and on the Diocesan website and the shorter form - a summary of decisions - should be available to you at the back of the church at the end of the Mass.

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DIOCESE OF SALFORD

The Coming Week.....

Sunday 22 November Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe ("Christ the King")

Sacramental Programme
celebration Unit 2 "We are People
who Pray"

Mass 6.00pm (Saturday)
8.45am. 11.00am

November is the month of the Holy Souls, when we remember our deceased loved one in our prayers and Masses.

As always, you can do this in a very explicit way by listing their names on one of the lists you can find at the back of church and placing them in the basket on the altar where they will stay during the month.

The UCM will be holding their Christmas Sale at the back of church this weekend

This weekend we will have the **annual appeal for the Priests' Retirement Fund**. There are sixty priests in retirement at the moment at a cost of approx. £700,000 and Bishop John invites your generosity so that we can build up this fund to meet the current and future needs.

Monday 23 November Saint Columban, abbot.

Born in Ireland in the middle of the sixth century. He embraced monastic life and went to France where he founded a number of monasteries that he ruled with strict discipline. He was sentenced to exile and went to Italy. Renowned for his example of the Christian and religious life, he died in the year 615.

8.30am Mass.

Tuesday 24 November Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, priest and Companions,

martyrs, the 117 Vietnamese martyrs. Between 1820 and 1862 these 117 martyrs were killed in a brutal persecution. Andrew was a parish priest, the group includes eight bishops, fifty priests and fifty-nine laymen and women.

8.30am Mass

**12.30pm Funeral Mass for
Susan Buckley RIP, 62, of
Slindsley Court.**

**7.00pm Sacramental
Programme**, meeting for parents,
Unit 3 "We are People who Celebrate
Forgiveness"

Wednesday 25 November

9.00am Mass in school,
Year 4. All welcome.

**7.30pm Wednesday evening
Growing in Faith evenings.**

"We are People who Follow Jesus"

In this session we will explore the meaning of the Commandments and the Beatitudes along with reflections on penance and conversion.

Thursday 26 November 8.30am Mass

Friday 27 November 8.30am Mass

7.30pm Annual Mass for deceased of the parish.

Those who have lost a loved one from the parish during the last twelve months will have received an individual invitation and will have a named candle to bring to the altar during Mass. Anyone else wishing to put the name of a loved one on a candle can do so on arrival at church.

Saturday 28 November 9.00am Mass in Cemetery.

**10.00am Sacramental
Programme, meeting for
children.**

11.30am - 12noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation.
United Reformed church, Worsley
Road invite you to their Christmas
Fair. 10.30am - 3.00pm

Sunday 29 November First Sunday of Advent.

As you will see from the summary of the report, the consensus expressed allows me to immediately make a number of decisions about our sacramental life, pastoral life and the administration of the Diocese. Other matters require further consideration and more decisions will follow. I have also been able to ask priests and people to take up various positions of responsibility in the Diocese; some being confirmed in positions they already held and others starting afresh. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who held various posts during this last year and carried out responsibilities with which they had been entrusted by my predecessor, Bishop Terence.

That continuity in this my first year has been invaluable to me. At this point, it is sufficient to name only the two Vicars General, Mgr Anthony Kay and Canon Michael Cooke and the five Episcopal Vicars: Fr Paul Daly (Formation), Canon Paul Brindle (Care of Clergy), Canon Anthony McBride (Education), Fr David Glover (Caritas) and Fr Peter Hopkinson (Dialogue and Ecumenism). I am most grateful for their generosity in accepting these responsibilities. Each of them will lead teams of clergy and lay people who will be responsible for the developing mission of our Diocese for Evangelisation and social outreach.

In the coming year we must also turn our attention to the practical challenge of consolidating the parishes. We have too many small communities, far more than can realistically be served by the priests of the Diocese. Many of our current parishes were formed at a time when the Catholic population (and especially the Mass-going population) was a lot higher than it is today.

Over the next eight months, through various levels of consultation and discussion, I will be asking priests and people about the best way of naming what, in the Consultation Report, I refer to as "Mission Parishes". The "Mission Parishes" will each have a resident priest or priests and may well contain more than one church.
continued next column.....

To allow the parishes to be missionary, lay people will have to take up not only a great deal of the administration but also their rightful part as co-workers with the priests in the task of evangelisation and other ministries. There is no doubt that the Diocese will change quite dramatically and, as I have said in a previous letter to you, the changes will demand a generosity and understanding on the part of priests and people. Having said that, I have every confidence that there will be much to celebrate and enjoy with purpose as we prepare our Diocese for this next stage of the mission to which Pope Francis has called us.

I will be meeting with all the priests of the Diocese in early February and relying on them, with their knowledge and experience of the Diocese, to begin the discussion and planning for this re-alignment of the parishes within the Diocese. Their proposals will be open to your comments and knowledge before any decisions are made.

Although there will be change, much will remain the same and so much of what is familiar will continue as before.

Finally, all this planning and change will be in the context of the Year of Mercy. What better place than this to examine where the Lord, in His love for us, may be leading us and to discover the commission that He may have for us? I am asking that we positively engage with change. Change is inevitable but we can take advantage of it and use it to respond to Pope Francis' call for a missionary church. We can create now a renewed Church in Salford that future generations will be grateful we shaped for them.

Our prayer must play an important part in all we hope to do and, as we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, let us continue with that prayer that Christ Himself will "Stay with us on our journey". Yours devotedly
+ John Arnold Bishop of Salford



Advent "Stuff"

AS in past years there are special publications provided by the diocese for the season of Advent to help us prepare for Christmas. There is the "Walk with Me" booklet with reflections for each days' Scripture readings.

There is also an Advent Calendar with suggestions for each day to help you use Advent well. These are for you to take free of charge. If you would like to make a contribution that would be welcome, but I prefer they all go into homes and are well used even if you cannot pay for them.

Year of Mercy "Stuff".

You may have heard that Pope Francis is inviting the whole Church to reflect on the mercy of God in a special "Jubilee Year of Mercy" beginning 8 December.

I will be saying much more about this over the coming weeks/months and all the ways of entering into the spirit of that year. Next week there will be booklets and prayer cards available. And...watch this space!

Advent in Precinct.

This year we are only going to be able to have one Saturday – 12 December, 10.00am – 2.00pm.

The good news is that Asda have allowed us to use their foyer and we are incorporating an exhibition of cribs, including our own "Travelling Nativity"

As always, volunteers welcome for a slot.

Diocesan Posts in Communications

The Diocese are looking to appoint both a

Communications Officer and a Communications Technician.

Applications are invited by 4 December. Job descriptions and other details posted on notice board and are also on diocesan website www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

A member of Churches Together in Swinton and Pendlebury

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

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

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.

Saint Vincent de Paul Society
Monthly as announced

Union of Catholic Mothers
First and third Tuesdays at 7.15pm

Beaver Scouts

Mondays in school at 6.00pm

Cub Scouts

Tuesdays in school at 6.00 pm

Brownies

Wednesdays in school at 6.00 pm

Rainbows

Thursdays in school at 6.00 pm

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