

Saint Charles Swinton

Parish Newsletter

17 July 2016

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Page 111 in Mass Book.



Martha – a Woman for our Time?

Martha was made for our time: busy with many things, seeking to be recognized and also, it must be said, trying to do her best. We meet her in Luke's Gospel when Jesus comes to visit the two sisters, Mary and Martha, in their home. Mary sat at Jesus' feet and "listened to his word," while Martha was distracted by "much service." Indeed, Martha was so distracted by her own work that she complained that her sister was not helping her, a complaint that rings true in our own day as well. But Jesus does not take up her cause; instead he challenges Martha by pointing out that she is "worried" and "distracted" by her service. Jesus says that only "one thing is necessary" and that Mary has chosen the "better portion."

Martha is by no means a negative figure, as hospitality is an essential gift to others, but she is a slightly harried figure. Martha's troubles stem not from the service she renders but from her desire to be acknowledged for it, a concern that rings true more than ever in our social media age; and these worries and distractions are keeping her from offering herself freely to Jesus and from being present to the Messiah in her midst. Jesus says that "one thing is necessary," and this is to find Christ in our midst and to be with him, as Mary was.

How will we find Christ in our midst if we do not slow down? How will we find Jesus' face in the stranger if our service, even our good service, is done in order to serve our needs? How do we find Christ in "the least of these" if our focus is on ourselves? We all have the potential to be Mary, but our age, for all of its great gifts, makes it hard to be the one who quiets down and listens.

We can now worry about every corner of the world as we scroll through our Twitter feeds or Facebook pages. We can worry about the world around us without being present to those with us. This anxiety can foster a sense of meaninglessness or helplessness. This worry and anxiety, though, is paired with the constant distractedness of daily life.

continued over....



The Coming Week.....

Sunday

17 July

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 6.00pm (Saturday)
8.45am and 11.00am.

6.30pm Saint Charles hosts the monthly Ecumenical Act of Worship.

Monday 18 July

8.30am Mass

Tuesday

19 July

St John Plessington, Priest & Martyr

John was born in the north of our Diocese in 1634 or 1637, and studied for the priesthood in Valladolid, being ordained in 1662. He worked first at Holywell, in North Wales, before moving to Cheshire. He was arrested, tried and executed in Chester in 1679.

8.30am Mass

Wednesday

20 July

8.30am Mass.

2.00pm Year 6 leavers Mass in church.

Thursday

21 July

11.15am Funeral Mass for Kathleen Brown of Broadbent Street. RIP.

No 8.30am Mass this morning.

Friday

22 July

St Mary Magdalene

she was one of Christ's disciples and was present at his death. On the morning of Easter day she was the first to whom the risen Redeemer appeared, according to St Mark's Gospel.

8.30am Mass

Saturday

23 July

St Bridget, Religious Patron of Europe

9.00am Mass in Cemetery.

11.30am – 12.00noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society

"Afternoon Tea" for the "Senior Members" of the parish.
2.00 – 4.00pm.



Any offers of baking would be gratefully accepted.

Sunday

24 July

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass 6.00pm (Saturday)
8.45am and 11.00am.

Monday 25

– Friday 29 July

No Mass in church this week.

Saturday

30 July

9.00am Mass in Cemetery.

11.30am – 12.00noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Sunday

31 July

Ecclesiastical Education Fund (Diocesan Priests' Training Fund)
This weekend we will conclude the year's fund-raising with a retiring collection.



Summer Happenings

Saturday
23 July

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society are hosting an "afternoon tea" for the "Senior Members" of the parish.
2.00 - 4.00pm.



Seniors of the parish who are on the regular visiting list will receive a written invitation. *However...*

the invitation is open to anyone of this certain and esteemed stage of life. So, if that includes you, please do come along.

It would be useful, but not essential if you could let us know by putting your name on the list at the back of church.

Please let me know



St Vincent de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

The SVP are also anxious to know of anyone who is living alone or finding it difficult to get out and would appreciate a visit at home.

They also are always happy to discover anyone in need who would appreciate some material help. I am grateful to school for putting us in touch with some needy families.

Summer "Week" of Guided Prayer.

Once again we are offering this over two weeks, from **6 - 20 August**. For the Year of Mercy these weeks have been promoted throughout the diocese. Our parish has been designated as one of the centres for this.

We will be resourcing it ourselves as in past years.

Flyers with more details are available at back of church.

People are too busy even to take vacations or get enough sleep, since there is so much work to do and, positively, "more service" to do. Yet even leisure, the simple relaxation of watching an episode of a TV series, might not be enough to stave off distraction today, as I cannot watch TV without my smartphone open so I can find out what everyone else is thinking about "The Americans" or "Game of Thrones" or just surfing the web to see what else might catch my attention.

Distractedness is a sign of our electronic connectedness and our human disconnectedness. We yearn for deep relationship, as Mary had with Jesus, but this requires putting away the tools and mind-set of anxiety and distraction.

It is not that Martha is doing anything wrong in showing hospitality, or that we are doing anything wrong in trying to do a lot of things; it is that we can do better. And it is not just that we need to challenge the busyness of our daily lives and to relax—we do—but it is that there is something better waiting for us. The good news is that Jesus wants us to be with him.

With Jesus we are not judged by how much we can accomplish, but we are accepted for who we are. Jesus asks us to spend time with him. Our worth is not dependent upon what we can do but upon who we are: beloved friends of Jesus, who calls us to be with him and love him. In that context, we can be prepared to serve our friends and others, do our work and show hospitality, not because we want to be acknowledged and rewarded but because we love others and love God.

What a remarkable reality. The more we love others, care for others, not out of worriedness or distractedness, but out of love, the more we are at ease with others and ourselves. We are not doing for, we are being with. It is the heart of the one necessary thing: being present to Jesus in order to love others.

An article from America Magazine by John W. Martens, professor of theology at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn.
Twitter: @BibleJunkies.

Sacramental Programme 2016-2017.

If you have a child not in Saint Charles school eligible for First Communion (i.e. in Year 3) and wish them to be part of the Sacramental Programme, please let me have name/contact details before the end of the school year.

SPUC 50th Anniversary Pro-Life Conference.

This is being held at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire, 23 - 25 September. Details on notice board poster.

Do you have the time to help our children read?

Saint Charles School are always keen to welcome volunteers who can sit and listen to our children read. The commitment can be as much or little as you are able - one or perhaps two hours a week, preferably at about the same time and day if possible. **Please let me or Mrs Campbell know if you are able.** (you do not have to have children of your own in school)

Consultation Document.

Apologies from diocese for shortage of copies. They are hoping to do a reprint if sufficient need over diocese.

Meanwhile - it is now available on the diocesan website and you can fill in the survey there also.

Annual Shoe-box Appeal.

Once again our Cubs are hoping to send these as Christmas gifts to needy parts of Easter Europe. They would appreciate donations of wind-up torches or radios, reading glasses, nail clippers or scissors, shampoo (max 300ml), solar powered

A member of Churches Together in Swinton and Pendlebury

Parish Priest: Rev Mgr Paul F Smith STL • ☎ 0161 794 1089 • ✉ paul.smith@dioceseofsalford.org.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 7.00pm

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

If you would like to receive this weekly newsletter by e-mail please give me your e-mail address.

calculators, screwdrivers, tape
measures, candles and holders.
They do not need any gloves, hats,
crayons, pencils or facecloths but
*would appreciate donations towards
postage (£3 per box)*

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