

Saint Charles Swinton

Parish Newsletter

17 May 2015

The Ascension of The Lord.

Page 269 in Mass Book.



Family Communications?

This year's World Communications Day comes roughly half-way between the two Synods of Bishops on the Family, so Pope Francis has chosen to focus on the family as "A Privileged Place of Encounter with the Gift of Love". He says some beautiful things about families, but he is not speaking about some ideal or perfect family, as you will see if you read his message. Here are some reflections on the message.

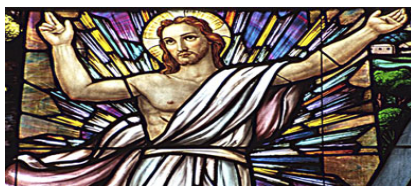
Let us start with the conclusion of the message, its last two paragraphs; there we find a phrase that sounds obvious, but it bears pondering: "Families should be seen as a resource rather than as a problem for society". That would be a remarkable element in a party manifesto, would it not? Families that are healthy, above all in terms of their internal relationships, are an invaluable asset in any society. These paragraphs urge us to work "to build a better future for the world in which we live" rather than "fighting to defend the past". There is a hint here not to be weighed down by the enormous challenges of changing legislation on marriage and the family, because that can distract us from the need to do all we can to help real families in their real lives, with all the difficulties they can have. This spurs us into creative mode: how do I support the people sitting in front of me on a Sunday rather than turning family life into "a subject of debate or a terrain for ideological skirmishes"? *continued over...*



The Coming Week.....

Sunday 17 May The Ascension of the Lord

Mass 6.00pm (Saturday)
8.45am. 11.00am



Today is World Communications Day. At the Ascension Jesus commanded his followers "Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News to all creation" and this day invites us to reflect on how we continue effectively to do just that.

Today we have the regular monthly retiring collection for CAFOD. Please bear in mind that this will be a special collection for the Nepal Earthquake Disaster Fund.

6.30pm Monthly Ecumenical Worship at Holy Rood church. (please note that this is a change in venue from the one on the original list)

Monday 18 May 8.30am Mass

7.00pm Meeting of church Jubilee Group ("Wrap-up" meeting!)

Tuesday 19 May

St Dunstan, Bishop

born near Glastonbury in 909 and died in Canterbury in 988, he studied secular arts and literature before becoming a monk, then abbot at Glastonbury. He was the principal agent in the restoration of English monasticism after the Viking devastations. A man of many talents, he was a renowned painter, musician and metalworker, besides being a counsellor of kings and a zealous reforming bishop.
8.30am Mass

Wednesday

20 May

9.15am Mass in School – Year 6. All welcome

Thursday 21 May

8.30am Mass

Friday

22 May

8.30am Mass.

Saint Charles School closes for half-term holiday.

Saturday 23 May

9.00am Mass in Cemetery.
11.30am – 12noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Sunday 24 May



Pentecost Sunday

Further Ahead.....

First Holy Communions. The children of our Sacramental Programme will be making their First Holy Communions after the half-term holidays on **Sundays 14, 21, 28 June and 5 July**, spread over all the Masses. The final celebration of their programme will be on Sunday 19 July.

The Apostleship of the Sea will be coming to say something about their work on the **weekend 6/7 June**. It will be good to catch up with them again and finding out where all the woolly hats many of you made for them ended up!

Annual Foreign Mission Appeal.

The Montfort Missionaries have been allocated our deanery for their 2015 appeal and are busy organising their schedule. I am hoping they will be able to do this on a weekend I am away in September as Father Frank will not be available that particular date!

We can find ourselves locked into discussions often dictated by the media, rather than rejoicing in family life "as a setting where we can all learn what it means to communicate in a love received and returned". The Holy Father is certainly not suggesting that we should ignore the way some politicians, academics and others have chosen to dismantle traditional visions of marriage and the family. He is saying that we should emphasise our positive message of encouragement and support for families, while never abandoning those debates. As he says, "All too often things get simplified, different positions and viewpoints are pitted against one another, and people are invited to take sides, rather than to see things as a whole". He wants us to do our best to ensure that the life of families does not become 'collateral damage' in an ideological battle. (from homily suggestions on Bishops' Conference of England and Wales website.)

Two Important Years...

Year of Consecrated Life.

This began on the First Sunday of Advent and in announcing this year, Pope Francis said "Religious should be men and women able to wake up the world."
 There will be a number of events in the diocese but more locally I have invited our own local community of Religious to make a presentation/install a display of their work. They will do this on World Mission Sunday, weekend, 17/18 October.

Jubilee Year of Mercy.

On Friday 13th March, Pope Francis made a surprise announcement in his homily at a Penitential Service in Rome: he announced an extraordinary Holy Year with the theme of mercy and forgiveness, to take place from 8th December 2015 (The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception) to 20th November 2016 (The Solemnity of Christ the King). The beginning of the Holy Year also marks the fiftieth anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council in 1965. There will be a number of diocesan and more local events to mark this. Watch this space!

Thank You from the S.V.P...

Because of your support over the last 12 months we have been able to:

- Help a needy family send a child to Lourdes;
- Donate food and toiletries to Loaves and Fishes.
- Supported families in need;
- Provided a gift of biscuits at Christmas to the elderly/sick and bereaved.

If you know of anyone who would like a visit or needs help from the S.V.P please speak to Fr Paul or any member of the S.V.P, or fill in the slip at the back of church.

Thank you for your continued support.

And a thank you from...

Pat Stirzaker who wishes to thank everyone for their support at her recent coffee morning. £190.00 was raised and has been sent to CAFOD for the Nepal Earthquake Appeal.

Parish Safeguarding Representative.

This is becoming more and more important position in any parish. My last two successive reps. left the area soon after taking up the position. Much of the day-to-day work involves the processing of required paperwork. There is a training programme provided by the diocese and lots of support. If there were two people who could work as a team this would be even better.

If you feel you could do this or would like to find out more about what it entails, please contact me, and you might also be able to suggest someone suitable.

Coming events....

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 07415974938. (see also poster in the porch for accommodation and price options).

Community Garden.

Thank you to the Community Garden team who have been very busy sprucing up the front door area of the presbytery amongst other improvements in anticipation of the Jubilee celebration and the visit of the bishop. They hope soon to give more information about how individuals or groups can use the wonderful facilities that are now being developed.

Examination Season here again!

I have put in the porch a list of the Year 11 pupils from Saint Ambrose Barlow who are beginning their GCSE examinations. Please keep them in your prayers at this important time in their lives.

And Finally...!

Our Sixtieth Anniversary Mass made the papers! Those of you who receive the free Manchester Weekly News Salford edition will have seen the photo on the front page and article inside. It has not appeared in the Catholic press as yet - Pope Francis "gazumped" it with all his photos! The choice of photo was the paper's, not mine! Thanks to Maria Brewer for producing the press release.

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

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

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

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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

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

October

November

December

CAFOD

January

February

March

April

May

June

July

August

September

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

16

23

30

April

6

13

20

27

May

4

11

18

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