

# Saint Charles Swinton

Parish Newsletter

8 May 2016

The Ascension of The Lord

Page 277 in Mass Book.



## Communications and Mercy.

*Pope Francis calls Jesus Christ "the face of the Father's mercy", and the Church is a sort of prism through which the world perceives Jesus Christ. Despite her many imperfections and failings, she "is called to practise mercy as the distinctive trait of all that she is and does. What we say and how we say it, our every word and gesture, ought to express God's compassion, tenderness and forgiveness for all".*

*People who teach and are familiar with constructing curricula will understand the challenge of helping students make connections between different subjects; they will appreciate how helpful transverse themes can be. In a way, communications need not be taught as a separate topic if teachers are good communicators, because students will catch on, sooner or later, to the fact that the way their teachers talk and write about things is what makes the difference between an effective teacher and someone who is a real genius on a certain subject but cannot put it across. So runs the theory! Pope Francis is saying that mercy is one of those transverse themes. We should not need to talk a lot about it if the way we live our lives is a practical demonstration of what being merciful means. He thinks love is essentially communication, and is convinced that, if what we do and say is driven by love, "our communication will be touched by God's own power".*

*The Pope's message speaks of building bridges, enriching society by bringing people together and convincing them they 'count', of healing wounded memories and peacemaking. These are the fruit, he says, of carefully crafted communication. He contrasts this with "vicious circles of condemnation and vengeance" which can ensnare us and ferment hatred. There is a clear warning not to react to such negativity in an equally negative way, which could "rupture relationships and communication". continued over...*

## The Coming Week.....

### Sunday 8 May

#### The Ascension of The Lord World Communications Day.

A day of special prayer  
for Right use of the Media

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

Nine children will be making their First Holy Communion this weekend – one at the 8.45am Mass and eight at the 11.00am Mass. We keep them and their families in our prayers.

*Today we begin the oldest Novena of prayer in the Church – praying for a new outpouring of God's Spirit on the Church, the world and in our hearts.*

### Monday 9 May

Easter weekday.  
8.30am Mass

### Tuesday 10 May

Easter weekday.  
8.30am Mass

### Wednesday 11 May

Easter weekday.  
8.30am Mass

7.30pm RCIA – adult faith formation. This week reflecting on **The Mercy of God**. Exploring the idea of grace and salvation in the light of Pope Francis' reflections on mercy and this Year of Mercy.

### Thursday

#### 12 May

##### Ss Nereus & Achilleus

Roman soldiers who converted to Christianity; for this they were executed. Their tomb is in a cemetery on the Via Ardeatina in Rome where a basilica was erected in their honour.

8.30am Mass

### Friday

#### 13 May

##### Our Lady of Fatima

The Blessed Virgin appeared six times to three shepherd children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta between May 13 and October 13, 1917 in the little village of Fatima (Portugal). The message given at Fatima is one of repentance, so that the world may be transformed into the place of grace and peace willed by Almighty God.

8.30am Mass

### Saturday

#### 14 May

**St Matthias**, Apostle. Chosen by the apostles to take the place of Judas Iscariot, so that the number might remain at twelve. Tradition has it that Matthias went to preach in Ethiopia.

9.00am Mass in Cemetery.

11.30am – 12.00noon Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### Sunday

#### 15 May

##### Pentecost Sunday

celebrating the gift that Jesus promised – his own Spirit, to continue his presence in the world and make his presence and life available everywhere at all times.



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

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY:  
COMMUNICATION AND  
**MERCY**

**Key enemies of mercy** in the way the representatives of Christ think and speak are all those forms of expression that indicate superiority, pride, disdain, cold or harsh judgment. The denunciation of individuals has no place in a merciful heart, although moral guidance must point out "the evil and injustice of certain ways of acting, for the sake of setting victims free and raising up those who have fallen". What Pope Francis encourages us to avoid are harsh, moralistic tones, simply because they will not welcome the sinner home but "risk further alienating those whom we wish to lead to conversion and freedom, reinforcing their sense of rejection and defensiveness". This can be a difficult area to address, particularly for people committed to public campaigns where individual politicians are singled out for their parliamentary voting record on bioethical issues. The old adage suggesting we must "hate the sin but love the sinner" seems particularly apt.

**Listening and closeness are the terms the Pope asks us to ponder towards the end of his message.** While hearing is about receiving information, listening is about closeness and commitment to getting things right rather than being silent onlookers, watching life happen. Listening takes other people seriously by letting them trust us enough to share with us what worries them, what makes them happy or sad, and that can happen only when people feel we are not trying to dominate or control a relationship. Once again it is about honouring and respecting the person or people with whom we are dealing.

**A different sort of closeness comes in the digital world,** where we need to act with the same respect as we owe the person we meet face to face. So many people have felt demeaned, dishonoured, almost destroyed by the way others have used digital media against them. But the power to educate, to encourage and to support people through digital media shows that it is a good thing. *continued over....*



**There is a lot to think about in the Pope's concluding sentence.** "In a broken, fragmented and polarised world, to communicate with mercy means to help create a healthy, free and fraternal closeness between the children of God and all our brothers and sisters".

Extracts from Bishops' Conference reflections on Pope Francis' message for World Communications Day

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### Offertory Collection Envelopes.

Those of you who use envelopes for the Offertory Collection will find your new box of envelopes on the table at the back of church. Please collect them after Mass.



If you wish to start using envelopes or BETTER STILL sign up to a regular standing order or sign a Gift-Aid declaration (so we can claim back tax) please take form, complete details, indicate if you want a set of envelopes or a standing order and return to me.

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### First Communion dates.

These continue on  
7/8 May, 14/15 May,  
21/22 May, 28/29 May  
4/5 June and 11/12 June.



The Final Celebration of the Programme will on Sunday 3 July.

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### Thank you from.....

CAFOD -  
£920.00

Helping build a Health Clinic in  
Nicaragua  
and

Missio  
£196.00

Helping spread God's Word  
and share God's love for all  
his people.

### Further ahead....

#### Saturday 21 May

"Come and Sing" day at Saint Mark's, Worsley. Come and join in a performance of Vivaldi's Gloria. In aid of Genesis Breast cancer prevention Appeal. *Details on poster*

#### Saturday 21 May

Halle orchestra at Bridgewater Hall - Dvorak's oratorio "Saint Ludmilla" which tells the story of this saint's conversion to Christianity and the triumph of Christianity over paganism in Czech lands. *Details on poster.*

#### 17/18/19 June.

Annual Northern Catholic Conference at Liverpool Hope University. Theme of Mercy. *Details on poster.*

#### 29th July - 4th August Salford Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes

For initial information see poster in the porch. Volunteers also needed from Medical staff, Lay volunteers, youth group and singers. If you can help please call the Pilgrimage office on 0161 817 2209.

#### Summer "Week" of Guided Prayer.

Once again we are offering this over two weeks, from 6 - 20 August. This was to have been a year without one but for the Year of Mercy these weeks have been promoted throughout the diocese.

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#### At the back of church...

May editions of "Day by Day" and "Bible Alive" as well as Catholic papers.

**Pro-life news.** The newspaper of SPUC and news of its lobbying for pro-life issues. (free)

**May Processions in Swinton** - old newspaper cutting courtesy of Anne Scully.

#### Free reading...

These next two Sundays there will be a free copy (five actually) of the **Tablet** weekly Catholic magazine. Why not take one and give it a try?!

## 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](mailto:paul.smith@dioceseofsalford.org.uk) website: [www.stcharlesswinton.co.uk](http://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 7.00pm

### 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.**

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**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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