

Our Parishes Newsletter

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 24th July 2022 (C)



This Week's Readings

First Reading	Genesis 18:20-32
Psalm	137(138):1-3,6-8
Second Reading	Colossians 2:12-14
Gospel	Luke 11:1-13

Parish Priest: Father Ned Wall

Retired Priest Fr Bernard McDermott

The Presbytery, 164, Carrington Lane

Permanent Deacons: Anthony Caffrey and John Conway

The RC Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity No. 234025

Website: <https://ourparishes.church>

CONTACT DETAILS

All Saints
164 Carrington Lane
Ashton-on-Mersey
M33 5WL

Telephone:
0161 962 4444

Our Lady of Lourdes
Chapel Lane
Partington
M31 4EZ

Telephone:
0161 775 2905

Email:
our3parishes@gmail.com

<https://ourparishes.church>

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

First Reading
Ecclesiastes 1:2,2:21-23

Psalm
89(90):3-6,12-14,17

Second Reading
Colossians 3:1-5,9-11

Gospel
Luke 12:13-21

REFLECTION

The gospel today makes a lot of sense. It points at how we can get caught up in what we own and what people have. It's about possessions and how they take us over. Or how we react when we lack what we once had. We enjoy wealth but we have a mixed reaction to it.

St Ignatius mentioned three obstacles to our faith – wealth, honour, pride. He saw from his own experience that people wanted wealth so that they would be highly thought of – it can be right school, the right address, the right bank. And pride in what we have. And we know things can change very quickly. Shares go down; you may die or become ill and what then?

Rich in whose sight?

The battle – between being rich in the sight of the world and being rich in the sight of God.

The opposite of the obstacles St Ignatius mentioned – simplicity, integrity, humility. Humility is pride in who we are – children of God, brothers and sisters, and me just as I am. I need nothing outside of myself to make me feel good about myself. This too is simplicity but not necessarily simple.

What we have is gift, given to us for the good of the world, the community, the neighbourhood, not just for the good of myself.

Love not wealth

Ask in the end what matters. Judged on love not on wealth. Or if wealth, on what we did with our wealth. It can lead us away from God very easily. Do we live like him?

Be rich in God – in mercy, love, forgiveness and justice.

Donal Neary SJ

Today's Mass

Psalm

On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word was made flesh and lived among us:

to all who did accept him

he gave power to become children of God.

Alleluia!

All Parishes

LENTERN PROJECT

A huge thank you to all who donated, we raised a fantastic amount of £2,800. As a result 40 families next week through two of our parish schools receive £70 voucher, this will be of great help to so many families who will miss out on free school meals with Summer Holidays.

Thanks to all who gave and great to see our communities as always respond to the needs of others.

CAFOD/REFUGEE

Now that the Lenten Project is over, the jars will return, one for CAFOD and one for Refugee family. Also the wall fixing will return for the Roof fund. These will be there if you wish to support these three worthy causes.

OUR LADYS HELP NEEDED

We ask your continued prayers for Margaret Cornwall who has just returned home. Please keep Margaret and Dave in your prayers. Also we now need more volunteers, people to come to the plate to help with church and also bring Communion to our sick and housebound. If you can help in any way, have a word with Fr Ned or Josie Winsor, or email us on our3parishes@gmail.com. We really do need more help now.

ALL SAINTS COLLECTION

Thank you to all of you who give each week to our collection, for 3 Masses we are averaging £800/£900, not to mention standing orders. This is a very good collection and is needed more than ever for the upkeep to the parish. Thank you so much and please continue to keep giving as it is needed so much more.

BIDDING PRAYERS

Thanks to all those who signed up, the prayers need to be dropped in to us or emailed to us by the Friday evening. Here is a reminder for next few weeks.

July 23rd/24th Anna & Shelagh
30th/31st Marion Lyons

Thank you to all who have put their name forward to write our Bidding Prayers.

MONDAY CLUB

Last Monday on one of the hottest days so far, the Parish Centre was the place to be. Thanks to Air-con we enjoyed a very cool afternoon. This week anyway the weather should be cooler and we will enjoy a Talk by Sue Perkins (one of our own) on her role as lay chaplain at Loreto and on the experience of taking a group of pupils to India.

SUNDAY COLLECTION 17th July 2022

Offertory - All Saints 17/07/2022 £936.26

Offertory - Our Lady 17/07/2022 £330.05

- Thank you all once again for your continuous generosity.

RCIA

In anticipation and looking towards Sept/Oct, we are asking for volunteers to join us and journey with the new people as they learn more about our faith. You would be expected to do one week a month for an hour in the evening up to Easter and basically your faith is walking with others who are inquiring. We did a drive last year for Confirmation Volunteers and it was a huge success and so hopefully we can get ready to set this RCIA group up for Sept/October start. If you can help, have a word with Fr Ned and we will put this advert again until the end of Summer.

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO TRAIDCRAFT?

We used to rely on a large team of volunteers to sell Traidcraft goods at all the Sunday Masses. Sometimes they unpacked all the stock from the cupboard and then packed it all away again without serving any customers and food became out of date. During lockdown regular customers ordered from me directly and the turnover was not greatly reduced. At the moment I am still serving the regulars and also bringing stock and catalogues to coffee after 10.30 mass. I can also provide a stall at events or clubs. Please let me know if you have ideas for how to promote Traidcraft in the future, or for a catalogue, or to place an order.

Thanks for all your support,
Fran Moley, fmoley@aol.com, 0161 969 4153

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL COURSE

This is a self-help mental health course teaching useful life skills, over a series of six 90 minute group meetings.

I presented it at Sale West Youth Centre in May and June and it was well received.

There are plans to run it again in October and November, with a taster session on 8th

3at 10.30.

If you think this could be useful for you, or a friend, or family member, book a place at the taster session to find out more
email livinglifefesalewest@gmail Fran Moley

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

BBQ RETURN

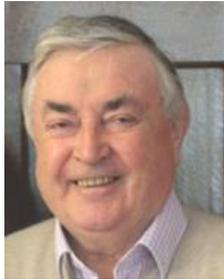
The date is now fixed and will take place Friday 2nd September at 7.00pm. In order for this to happen, we ask for a few volunteers who will do the cooking and preparations. If you can help, have a word with Fr Ned Thank you

CHRISTMAS CONCERT / CHOIR

This will take place Thursday 15th December, another date to put in your diary.

FLOWER ROTA

Team B - Sue U & Lynn B



“I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ” ..said St Paul (Rom: 1-16)
I was reflecting on this statement from St Paul and have asked myself how loyal am I to the Church I belong to and are there times when I feel ashamed of our Church?

Last week I wrote about my experience of living as a priest both here at home and overseas symbolised in my attitude to wearing a clerical collar. Is my reluctance to wearing a clerical collar partly because I am ashamed of the Gospel of Christ? I would say No, but there are times when I do feel ashamed at the way our Church proclaims the Gospel both here at home and to the world.

The scandal over clerical sexual abuse affected me deeply and, at that time I did feel ashamed of the Church especially in the way we covered up and for a long time refused to acknowledge any culpability or expressions of sorrow and regret at what had occurred, especially towards the victims of abuse. For many years they suffered in silence afraid to speak out, while the Church ignored their suffering, believing that the Church was incapable of committing such crimes. (Clericalism?)

I wonder how loyal are we to the Church and how many of us feel ashamed or reluctant to show that we are followers of Christ?
How many of us make the sign of the cross outside a church environment? ..eg. before a meal in a restaurant?

Do we, in our public life willingly witness to the fact that we are Christian, or do we prefer to remain silent to avoid argument. Do we play it down a little in case we appear to be different?

Our opinion on issues which affect our daily lives is of course private and that should always be respected. However, I wonder how many of us conform to world standards / values to avoid trouble? Are we inflexible when it comes to conforming to the standards of Jesus Christ? Is everything 'black and white' on important issues eg. abortion?

No one of us can answer that question except our own conscience but even the best of us will pray Robert Louis Stevenson's prayer that through all the chances and the changes of life, down even to the gates of death, God may keep us true to ourselves, true to our loved ones, and true to himself.

Fr Bernard
24th July 2022

I'm a Catholic priest. But please don't call me Father.



A priest elevates the host during a Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City in 2020. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

America recently launched a national marketing campaign called [#OwnYourFaith](#). This article is part of a series of essays tackling the questions many Catholics are asking about the church and the world. It's time to #OwnYourFaith.

I have been a priest for almost 20 years, and I have never liked being called "Father." I dislike it so much that each year on Father's Day some mischievous members of my family purposely make a point of calling to wish me a Happy Father's Day. I dislike it so much that I'm afraid *more* of my family will now start doing the same.

I know: What's the big deal? It's like calling your physician "Doctor." It's like telling your kids to refer to their friends' parents as "Mr. and Mrs." rather than "Tellulah and the Boz." It's like referring to the guy in charge of your unit as "Sarge." It's just a job title.

We will all be a lot better off when fewer distinctions are made between us clergy and everyone else.

Who knows, maybe I would have the same trouble in those situations. (Who doesn't want to be called "Tellulah" or "The Boz?") But I think the title of "Father" is a little bit different. Part

of my trouble with the term is the amount of respect that automatically comes with it, the authority that is instantly granted to priests. After I was ordained, Catholics who were much older and more accomplished than me, people who did not even know me, were suddenly talking to me with a deference I could not understand and definitely did not deserve. And “Father” was just one part of this package: I can’t tell you how many times I’ve had people apologize for cursing or slips of the tongue. “You should come have a drink at my community,” I’ve wanted to say to them.

And it’s not just strangers who adopt the term either. It’s college pals who knew me when I used to ride around campus on a ten speed with no brakes while unironically wearing a bucket hat, black trench coat and Batman pin. It’s relatives who once emptied my diapers and know I got grounded for trying to trick a neighbour kid into paying \$100 for my old “Star Wars” trading cards. These are people who know me far too well to treat me like I’m anything special.

It’s true, I’ve taken vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and I’ve done some interesting and hopefully meaningful things in my life. But I am also a guy who spends way too much time thinking about “Star Wars,” Jeff Goldblum and the future of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. (Come to me, my X-Men.) And while I take being a priest seriously, I’ve also lost jobs, screwed up friendships and recently received my Ph.D. in nursing a grudge. (I’m a 52-year-old Scotch-Irish Virgo. It comes with the territory.) I’d like to think I’m worth having a conversation with. But your confidence? Your faith? Take your time.

My dislike of the title isn’t coming from any lack of self-esteem, either. (Did I not mention, I am a Jesuit.) I think not calling me Father is in your best interest. Before I got ordained, I worked as a teacher at Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The people were fantastic and respectful, but few of them rushed to put too much faith in a new Jesuit coming to work there. They’d all had too many past experiences of the dumb things we say and do (and I did). Instead, I had to earn their respect. And it was hard; it forced me to confront my own

blind spots and failings. But that made me a better teacher and eventually, I hope, a better person.

We're raised to think that priests are worthy of the utmost regard, but in fact people in the church today have just as many reasons to be cautious or sceptical of clergy as my students did of me. The church's history of abuse and cover-up, clerical expressions of privilege and stories of clerics putting ideology or political agendas ahead of pastoral care all have undermined the legitimacy of our role as leaders.

So don't hesitate to, well, hesitate. Make us prove we're worthy of your trust before you give it. That's not being judgmental or unfair, just prudent. Your choice to take it slow might even empower those around you to realize they have the right to ask the same.

Here's the other thing I don't like about being called "Father": The term draws an unhelpful distinction between we who are priests from everyone else in the church. Religious education instructors are generally not called "Teacher"; the Social Ministries Director of your parish is not "Disciple" or the maintenance person "the Czar of Clean." So why give me a title? My first name works just as well as theirs do. And even though I'm standing in the place of Christ during sacramental activities, our belief remains that it is Christ doing the work, not me. And aren't all of us called to be Christ in the actions of our daily lives?

That's where all the "Yes, Father" deference leads us, to guys who abuse their authority and think it's O.K.

My connection with God is not somehow magically deeper than yours. Most clergy don't have visions or hear voices. I am also not nicer than anyone else or more generous; ask my family or friends.

I'm not trying to dismiss the gift that a good priest can be in a community. I just want to point out, so is a good woman religious, a good music director, a good high school theology teacher, a good deacon, an active women's auxiliary and that one older couple who has been coming to the parish for the last

60 years. Clericalism has been a part of our church for so many centuries that I think it's very hard for us to recognize the full extent of it even when it's right there in front of us. I'm sure that most people think they are just doing what they're supposed to when they call me Father or when they refrain from telling me that my homily was terrible and, by the way, I look like an unmade bed. But really I could use their help to keep me from making those mistakes.

I still hear far too many stories of priests going to new parishes and making changes as soon as they get there, consulting with no one and acting more like a landlord than a leader. To my mind, that's where all the "Yes, Father" deference leads us, to guys who abuse their authority and think it's O.K.

When it comes down to it, if you want to call me Father, I won't argue with you. My job is to accept you as you are, not to make you agree with me. But I hope that you'd use the title with the knowledge that we are fellow pilgrims. Because we will all be a lot better off when fewer distinctions are made between us clergy and everyone else. I get it; our lives seem weird. (O.K., maybe our lives are weird.) But fundamentally we're just people trying to follow Jesus and be good to others in our own messy, imperfect ways. Sometimes the best show of respect for someone is not putting them on a pedestal, but rather letting them walk beside you on this crazy road

Jim McDermott, S.J., is an associate editor at **America**.

Mass and Service Times this week

All Saints

Our Lady of Lourdes

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat	23rd	5.00pm	Birdie McMorrow		
Sun	24th	9.30am	Ruby Wedding Pam & Ged	11.00 am	Margaret & Dave Cornwall (int) SVP
Sun	24th	5.00pm	Margaret Waldron		
Mon	25th		No Service		No Service
Tues	26th			7.30pm	Special Intention (M&J)
Wed	27th	7.30pm	Jim McCann		No Service
Thurs	28th		No Service		No Service
Frid	29th		No Service		No Service
Sat	30th	5.00pm	Barrett Family		
Sun	31st	9.30am	May & Jack Fagan	11.00 am	Margaret Lavelle (int)
Sun	31st	5.00pm	Kevin Fallon (int)		