

Newsletter

Parish of St John Vianney

Halewood & Hunts Cross

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Nunes

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This Newsletter Covers:

Twenty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time **Twenty Third Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Sunday, 29 August 2021 - This Sunday, our lectionary returns to Mark's Gospel after a number of Sundays in which we heard the Bread of Life discourse from the Gospel of John. Recall that we focus on the Gospel of Mark in Lectionary Cycle B, but substitute John's report of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes for Mark's report of this event.

In today's Gospel, Mark provides a significant amount of information about the Jewish observance of ritual-purity laws. Most scholars believe that Mark includes this information because his audience includes Gentile Christians who have no knowledge or experience of these laws. We can infer, therefore, that many in Mark's community were not Jewish Christians.

In this Gospel, Mark addresses the question of which Jewish practices would also be observed in the newly emerging Christian community. This was a significant question for the early Christian Church, especially in communities that included both Jewish and Gentile converts to Christianity. We also hear this question addressed in the letters of Paul with regard to table fellowship. In Gospel passages such as the one today, we see the Gospel evangelists finding justification for a Christian practice distinct from Judaism in the remembrances of Jesus' teaching and the practice of his first disciples.

Jesus first criticises the Pharisees for putting human tradition above God's Law. Here, Jesus is referring to the tradition of the elders, the teachings of the Pharisees, which extended the ritual-purity laws of Temple worship to everyday Jewish life. Jesus criticises the Pharisees for making this tradition equal to and as binding as the Law of Moses.

Next, Jesus comments on the meaning behind the Pharisees' language of holiness, clean and unclean. Jesus teaches that a person is not defiled by the food that enters his or her body, but rather by sin that emerges from his or her words and actions. In this teaching, Jesus unmasks a deeper question behind the one posed to him by the Pharisees. The real issue is holiness, which is not found in external acts alone. Holiness comes from within and is evidenced in the actions and attitudes that emerge from a person's life.

If we read today's Gospel carefully, we will see a pattern in Jesus' teaching method that will be repeated in the weeks ahead. Jesus' first teaching is directed to the Pharisees who questioned him. Jesus' words are then directed to the crowd, teaching that a person is defiled by his or her words and actions, not by the food that he or she eats. In verses omitted in today's reading, we learn that Jesus returned home with his disciples, who in turn questioned him about what he had taught. The words we read at the conclusion of today's Gospel are addressed to Jesus' disciples. Mark's narrative shows several audiences for Jesus' teaching: his antagonists, the crowds and Jesus' disciples. As we see in this reading, the words to the Pharisees are often words of challenge. The teaching to the crowds is often a general, sometimes cryptic, message. With the disciples, who often misunderstand Jesus' words,

further explanation is offered about his message and its meaning.

Jesus' words challenge us as well. In our desire to show that we are holy, we might also give too much credence to externals, following rules without thinking about the intention behind them. Jesus reminds us that we do not make ourselves holy by our actions. Rather, we become holy when we allow God's Spirit to transform us. Our actions should be an expression of the conversion of our heart to God and to God's ways.

Sunday, 5 September - Today we continue to hear the Gospel of Mark proclaimed. In today's reading, Jesus heals a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment. This is a story about Jesus' healing power and in it we find clues about our understanding of sacrament. We are struck by the physical means used to heal the man, the use of spittle and touch. The Church continues to celebrate the sacraments using physical means. In the Sacrament of Baptism, water and oil are used to show the power of the Holy Spirit. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, we are anointed with holy oil on the forehead and the hands. In the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We are a sacramental people who believe that God's grace is given to us through these physical signs.

Some, however, see in this Gospel an image of the proclamation of the good news of Jesus to the Gentiles. The geographic references tell us that

Jesus is journeying through Gentile territory. Jesus had previously visited this region and healed a person possessed by a demon. Jesus was already famous there, which explains why people brought the deaf man to him. The story that precedes this reading in Mark's Gospel sets the stage. Jesus encounters a Gentile, a Syrophoenician woman who asks him to heal her demon-possessed daughter. Jesus engages her in a dialogue about not feeding to dogs the food intended for children. Jesus is struck by the woman's great faith when she replies that even dogs eat the food that falls from the table and he heals her daughter immediately. The faith of this Greek woman compels Jesus to respond to her plea.

Mark shows that Jesus' own mission affirms the early Church's mission to the Gentiles. This was a significant issue to the early Christian community, which found that the good news of Jesus took root and spread quickly among the Gentiles. Yet there is an irony in the story of healing that Mark tells. Jesus gives the man the gift of speech, but then tells him not to use it. Jesus asks that the news of his healing power, which is evidence of his identity as the Messiah, not be spread. This is a recurring motif in Mark's Gospel and is sometimes called the "messianic secret."

For more news see
parishofstjohnvianney.co.uk

Thank You Fr Vin

We welcome Fr Vin McShane to our parish over the coming weeks as he celebrates Mass for our community. Thanks for being with us Fr Vin, it's always lovely to see you!

Parish Office Opening Hours

w/c Monday, 30 August =
Office closed all week.

w/c Monday, 6 September =
Office closed all week.

w/c Monday, 13 September =
Usual opening hours resume,
see front cover.

Ladies Group

Our first meeting will take place on Wednesday, 1 September at 7pm in the Annexe. We look forward to seeing new faces who will be made very welcome.

SVP District Meeting

Thursday, 2 September, 7.30pm, St Mark' Annexe.

Bereavement Drop In Session

Lord, may we always be present to those who suffer bereavement and help us to be attentive to their needs.

Starting at 2.00pm on Tuesday, 7 September in St Mark's Annexe.

Parish Council

Next meeting Tuesday, 21 September at 6pm via zoom.

Youth Group

Meeting for current members only on Wednesday, 29 September at 7.00pm in St Mark's Annexe.

Sunday Coffee Mornings



These have now resumed in St Mark's Annexe after 9.15am Sunday Mass. **Please wear a mask to enter the annexe and whilst moving around inside and please sanitise your hands on entry.** All welcome but please respect those who are more comfortable chatting from a distance and especially those who may not have been in large groups for some time. Thank you so much.

Keep In Your Prayers



Patricia Hoare, RIP
Mary Catterall, RIP

Eternal rest, give unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace, Amen.,

Also, our sick and housebound and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Baptism Registration Meetings

Next meeting on 6 September, 6.00pm in St Mark's Annexe. Please wear a mask. All enquiries please ring Chris Myles on 07443 018 816.

Baptisms

The following will receive the Sacrament of Baptism in the coming weeks, please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Heidi Vee McMahon
Ava May Burrows
Mason David Corkill
Caden John Corkill
Orlaith Katherine Josephine Rooney
Ronnie William Ryan
Ruby Esme Ryan
Zachery Alexander James
Van Der Merwe

With You Always Programme

Email all enquiries to Jayne Cross at
jayne.wya@gmail.com

Employment Opportunities within Archdiocese of Liverpool

Check our website for more details of
two vacancies at Philip Neri House.

Receive This Newsletter Via Email

To register please email
sjvparishcomms@gmail.com

Need A Lift To and From Mass?

Please contact the parish office and we
can put you in touch with someone
who might be able to help.

Parish Website

Our website is updated regularly and
should be your first port of call for the
very latest parish information. The
website enables us to share with you
more details of events within our
parish, the wider community and
Archdiocese. Please visit us at
parishofstjohnvianney.co.uk

Parish Finance

Please consider making your
contributions by Standing Order or
Gift Aid it, contact office and we'll do
the rest.

Gift Aid Envelopes	£390.00
GASDS Loose	£195.23
GASDS Envelopes	£ 94.00
Second Collection	£ 21.40
(Catholic Education Service)	
Total Offertory	£700.63

Upcoming Second Collections

5 September,
SVP

19 September,
Home Mission Sunday

Parish Office Numbers

Mass times can and do change to
allow for funerals so please always
check before you travel.

St Ambrose, 425 2289
OLA, 487 9372
Christ the King, 722 2231
St Mary's, 428 2256
Bishop Eton, 737 4110

Knights of St Columba Council 9

Annual sponsored walk on Sunday, 19
September, starts 2.00pm from Royal
Albert Dock Gates to Aigburth
Cricket Club, all welcome and
refreshments at finish line for all those
who take part. Proceeds raised will be
shared amongst Council 9 parishes
which includes our own.

Season of Creation

During the last eighteen months, many of us have been aghast at those who remain sceptical about the Covid-19 pandemic and see it as some sort of conspiracy. Sadly, there are plenty of people who view the constant warnings about climate change in a similar way. However, the evidence is undisputable and the latest report from the United Nations warns us that if we don't take action now, the damage to the earth, our common home, will be irreversible. Just this month we have heard about terrible fires in Europe and the United States, as well as unprecedented flooding in various cities.

In 2015, Pope Francis issued an encyclical letter, *Laudato Si'*, about these issues and established a Season of Creation in the Church's Year to help us to focus on the cry of the earth. The season begins this week with the 'World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation' on 1 September and runs until the feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October.



Nugent Vacancies

Nugent have a number of vacancies, visit their website for more info.
<https://wearenugent.org/careers/>

Nugent's Phil Thompson Golf Classic

Thursday, 16 September, Houghwood Golf, St Helens. Tickets are priced at £450 (for teams of 4). This includes a hearty breakfast barm, a 'tee'-rific day of golf, snacks and refreshments plus a wholesome evening meal with anecdotes shared by Phil and a brilliant guest speaker. All net proceeds from this event will be used to help secure Nugent's future and the vital services we provide across Merseyside.

COVID-19 has brought huge challenges for our society and particularly for Merseyside. Children and families experiencing complex social issues are facing even greater risks. At such a difficult time, Nugent, which has deep and longstanding roots in the communities it serves, has never been more needed – to book your place please contact: Ainsley Briscoe, Fundraiser - Corporate Partnerships and Major Gifts at Nugent on 07833 091 852.

Twenty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

28 August-5 September 2021	We Pray Especially For
Saturday, 28 August	
5.15pm – Mass, Holy Family Church	David Richardson
Sunday, 29 August, Twenty Second Sunday of Ordinary Time	
9.15am – Mass, St Mark's Church 11.00am – Mass, Livestream	Bernie McDougall People of the Parish
Monday, 30 August, Memorial of St Edmund Arrowsmith	
9.15 am - Mass, St Ambrose* 12.00noon - Mass, Our Lady of the Assumption* 6.00pm-7.00pm Exposition and Private Prayer, Holy Family Church	
Tuesday, 31 August, Weekday in Ordinary Time	
9.00am-9.45am – Morning Prayer Online Zoom 9.15am - Mass, St Ambrose* 12.00noon - Mass, Our Lady of the Assumption*	
Wednesday, 1 September, Weekday in Ordinary Time	
10.00am-11.00am Exposition and Private Prayer, St Mark's Church	
Thursday, 2 September, Weekday in Ordinary Time	
9.30am - Mass, Our Lady of the Assumption* 6.30pm – Mass, St Mark's Church	Marcelline Leliaert
Friday, 3 September, Feast of St Gregory the Great	
9.15am - Mass, St Ambrose* 12.00noon - Mass, Christ the King*	
Saturday, 4 September	
5.15pm – Mass, Holy Family Church	Evelyn Reynolds
Sunday, 5 September, Twenty Third Sunday of Ordinary Time	
9.15am – Mass, St Mark's Church 12.00 noon, Baptisms, St Mark's Church	People of the Parish
* Mass times can change to allow for funerals so always check before you travel.	

Twenty Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

4 September-12 September 2021	We Pray Especially For
Saturday, 4 September	
5.15pm – Mass, Holy Family Church	Evelyn Reynolds
Sunday, 5 September, Twenty Third Sunday of Ordinary Time	
9.15am – Mass, St Mark's Church 12.00noon, Baptisms, St Mark's Church	People of the Parish
Monday, 6 September, Weekday in Ordinary Time	
11.15am – Requiem Mass for Patricia Hoare, St Mark's Church	
6.00pm-7.00pm Exposition and Private Prayer, Holy Family Church	
Tuesday, 7 September, Weekday in Ordinary Time	
12.00noon – Requiem Mass for Mary Catterall, Holy Family Church	
9.00am-9.45am – Morning Prayer Online Zoom <i>9.15am - Mass, St Ambrose*</i>	
Wednesday, 8 September, Feast of the Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
10.00am-11.00am Exposition and Private Prayer, St Mark's Church	
Thursday, 9 September, Weekday in Ordinary Time	
<i>9.30am - Mass, Our Lady of the Assumption*</i> 6.30pm – Mass, St Mark's Church	Charlie Frost
Friday, 10 September, Memorial of St Ambrose Barlow	
<i>9.15am - Mass, St Ambrose*</i> <i>12.00noon - Mass, Christ the King*</i>	
Saturday, 11 September	
5.15pm – Mass, Holy Family Church	People of the Parish
Sunday, 12 September, Twenty Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	
9.15am – Mass, St Mark's Church 12.00 noon, Baptisms, Holy Family Church * Mass times can change to allow for funerals so always check before you travel.	Ron & Mary Baker