

Newsletter

Parish of St John Vianney

Halewood & Hunts Cross

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**For more News and Information see our website:
parishofstjohnvianney.co.uk**

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Welcome & Thank You

**To Fr Colin Wilson, Fr Dennis Amal Raj SSS,
Fr Ramesh Amaldoss SSS and Fr Antony Praveen SSS**

Whilst Father Matthew is on annual leave we are pleased to welcome Fr Colin Wilson who will be celebrating Sunday Masses for our parish and Frs Dennis, Antony and Ramesh from the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament who will be celebrating our Thursday and Saturday evening Masses. Thank you for joining our parish community at this time, we really appreciate it.

Parish Office

The office will be closed on Thursday, 14 and Friday, 15 September due to staff holidays, open as usual on all other days.

Back to School

As our schools reopen and staff and pupils return, we hope that the summer provided the rest and relaxation deserved by all. To those young people venturing on to further education and new opportunities we wish you every success and pray that the Lord continues to keep you safe.

10 September 2023
Twenty Third Sunday of Ordinary
Time, p125
Matthew 18:15-20
Pointers for Prayer

1. At the time Matthew was writing his gospel local church communities would have numbered no more than fifty people. They would be known to one another. Matthew presents the instructions of Jesus for dealing with people whose behaviour disrupted and harmed the community. Note the steps suggested. Simple directions but many of us do otherwise. We avoid difficult confrontations. We talk about the faults of others to everyone but themselves. We go over the head of someone who displeases us and make complaints. In your experience, which approach is life-giving for you and for others?

2. While Jesus is referring to a group situation, the advice can be applied also to personal difficulties and problems with others. What lessons has life taught you about constructive ways of dealing with conflict?

3. Jesus also recognises that there are limits to what we can do in resolving conflicts. We may reach out, but if the other person does not respond the matter is out of our control. Let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector suggests having nothing more to do with that person. But that is not the last word because Gentiles and tax collectors were precisely the kind of people to whom Jesus reached

out. So while for the moment we may have nothing more to do with a person who has hurt us, we leave the door open for the future.

4. As individuals and communities we have the power to bind and to loose, to exclude people from relationship, or to open up and include others in relationship. When have you found it important to acknowledge this power in your own life?

5. There is great assurance in the promise of Jesus in v.19, but he seems to promise more than we experience. What has been your experience of praying with others for something you wanted God to grant?

6. Jesus also promises to be with his followers when they gather together. What does that mean to you? How have you experienced the presence of Jesus in his followers gathered together?

Prayer

Confirm, O God, in unity and truth
the Church you gather in Christ.

Encourage the fervent, enlighten the
doubtful and bring back the wayward.
Bind us together in mutual love, that
our prayer in Christ's name may be
pleasing to you. Grant this through
our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who
lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and
ever. Amen

17 September 2023
Twenty Fourth Sunday of
Ordinary Time, p128

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35:
Jesus teaches that we must forgive one another as God has forgiven us.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading directly follows last week's Gospel in which Jesus taught the disciples how to handle disputes and conflict within the Christian community. In today's reading Peter asks Jesus how many times one ought to extend forgiveness to another. Peter proposes a reasonable number of times, perhaps seven. Jesus replies by extending Peter's proposal by an enormous amount; not just seven times should one forgive, but 77 times. The parable of the unforgiving servant is Jesus' elaboration of his initial reply to Peter. Through the parable we come to understand the depths of God's mercy toward us and the results of our acceptance of God's forgiveness.

The king in the parable decides to settle accounts with his servants. We are told that one servant in particular owes the king an enormous sum of money. Despite the promise of the servant, it is unlikely that he would ever be able to repay the debt that he owes. The king is moved by the humility of the pleading servant and mercifully forgives the debt. Rather than displaying gratitude for this forgiveness, the servant confronts a fellow servant who owes him a small

debt - a pittance when compared with the amount that was owed to the king. The unmerciful servant refuses the pleas of his fellow servant and sends the servant to prison.

A few other servants tell the merciful king about the actions of the unforgiving servant. The king punishes the servant because he refused to show the kind of mercy he had himself received from the king. Jesus concludes by indicating that this is how it will be with God and those who refuse to forgive one another.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity - the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

Keep In Your Prayers

Frank Henesy RIP, Eileen Prescott, Cathy Murphy-Malpas, Mila Facenfield, Mary Lonsdale, Mary Ireland, Jack Curtis, Catherine Atkin, Margaret Facenfield, Kitty Heisley, Sally Moore, Valerie Higgins, Ron & Veronica Humphreys, Nora Bartley, John and Vera Leonard, Silva, Gerry Marsh, Marian Hawkins, Laura Wakefield, Lisa Crompton, Vera

Farrell, Maureen Jackson, Lorraine Keogh, May McGrath, Maureen Skillicorn, Josie Henesy, our sick and housebound and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Baptismal Information

Next meeting to register and find out more is Monday, 2 October, 6pm, St Mark's annexe. All enquiries please ring Chris Myles on 07443 018 816.

Upcoming Rites of Welcome:

5.15pm: Rosa Teresa Kenny,
Leo Vincent Murray, Lilly Murray.

9.15am: Isabel Natalie Hilton,
Oliver James Shields,
Emmie Caitlan Shields,
Lacey Violet McAdam.

11am: Hallie Sophia Jones,
Rowan Christian McNeilis,
Lucia Rose Stewart,
Leilah Mae Stewart.

Upcoming Baptisms:

Sonny Joseph Barnes,
Matilda Moore, Molly Moore,
Daniel Jiri Pospisil,
Jamie Michael Barratt,
Flynn Nathaniel Stafford,
Rory Peter George King.

Church Cleaning Days

Contact Julia Clark on 07925 368 140 for Holy Family, Tuesdays from 9.30am.

Contact Ann Farrell on 07855 981 691 for St Mark's, next session is Saturday, 16 September, 8.30am.

A Play at St Mary's, Woolton

'Storm in a Teacup' musical comedy show will be performed at St Mary's parish hall on Monday, 25 September at 6.30pm. Tickets from £5, all enquiries to 07810 866 275/07782 482 733.



Autumn Fundraising Afternoon Tea

The Ladies Group have organised the above which will take place in St Mark's Parish Centre on Friday, 27 October, 2pm-4.30pm, pay on the door, £3 adults/£1.50 children. Please save the date and support this event if you are able.

The Shaping of Things to Come

Reflecting on the life and ministries of our parishes. How can we move into the future? A series of talks at The Irenaeus Project, 32 Great Georges Road, Waterloo, L22 1RD, 7pm-8.30pm on 12, 19 and 26 September, if you missed the first session you are still very welcome to come along and join in the discussion.

Family of Parishes Roadshows

The Pastoral Plan makes clear the way forward for the church in our archdiocese. It says this: "Developing the models of pastoral collaboration

that we already have we will create families of parishes." In the future, we will work as Families of Parishes.

To explore what this means, there are three roadshows planned. These are open meetings for anyone and everyone to come. They will take place on Saturday, 4, Tuesday, 7 and Wednesday, 8 November. The Saturday will be 10am-12 noon and the two evening meetings will be 7pm-9pm. Further details will follow but for now, save the date!

St Anne's Church, Overbury Street
Saturday, 16 September: 12pm-4pm
Sunday, 17 September: 12pm-4pm

Visit this beautiful church which is 177 years old and explore its distinctive architecture. Witness the diverse multicultural communities which are part of its past and present history. There will be guides to explain the architectural details of various parts of the church. You will be able to meet a wide variety of people, including asylum seekers and refugees, those who use and help with the parish pantry and the protection of the homeless. There will be a Fair Trade stall offering products produced by communities in various parts of the world and on the second day you will hear some inspiring African singing by members of the church choir.

SVP Annual Day Retreat **Tuesday, 19 September**

The coach will leave Holy Family church at 9.15am and St Mark's church at 9.30am. All enquiries to Terry Fitzsimmons on 07923 015 347.

Halewood Community Choir **Starts 14 September**

Meets Thursdays 7pm-9pm in Halewood Academy, The Avenue, L26 1UU. £5 each session. Open to those aged 18 to 108!

What's on at our Cathedral

Welcome Mass for the Relics of the Scottish Saints. Monday, 18 September, 5pm-7pm. The Relics of the Scottish Saints will remain in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel until their departure after the 12.15pm Mass on Thursday, 21 September.

Cathedral Friends Lecture: Nicholas Breakspear, Gibberd Room, Saturday, 23 September, 11am-1pm. In this fascinating lecture you will discover the story of how an impoverished lad from Hertfordshire was Pope by the time he was 50.

First Holy Communion **Preparation Programme**

The programme has been updated and we have placed Mass at the heart of the preparation. **Children can register at the end of a Mass** and work their way through a series of leaflets and books to help them prepare. There is no time limit to

completing the programme so families can work through it at their own pace.

If anyone would like any more information or a registration form please speak to one of the catechists at the end of Mass.

Prayer Requests

Do you have someone or something you would like to pray for?

Please feel free to fill in one of the prayer request forms at the back of church. Place it into the box provided, which will be brought to the altar by our children during the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass.

Our Housebound Parishioners

If you are no longer able to get to Mass, **don't just disappear!** Get in touch with Fr Matthew or the Parish Office and we can see how best we might be able to support you. But we can't do that if you don't let us know! You are still a vital and essential part of the parish community, even if you can't get to Mass.

Sacrament of the Sick

In times of illness or suffering we are offered anointing with holy oil to strengthen us. The sacrament can also help us to experience healing of mind, body and spirit and we receive the forgiveness of our sins. Anyone feeling the need of the sacrament is very welcome to approach Fr Matthew before or after Mass or via Parish Office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Fr Matthew is usually available in the 20 minutes before each Mass to hear confession. He will be sat towards the front of the church, please approach him directly and make your request known.

Parish Finance

Our parish exists and functions only with the financial support of the members of our community. Please consider making your contributions by Standing Order (ring the office) or Gift Aid it.

Collection for Sunday, 3 September 2023:

Gift Aid Envelopes	£294.20
GASDS Loose	£386.80
Non Gift Aid	£ 60.00
Standing Orders	£367.23
Total Offertory	£1108.23
Bonus Ball 28	£ 87.00

Second Collections:

10 September, Catholic Education Service

17 September, Home Mission Sunday



St Mark's annexe - every Sunday after 9.15am Mass.

Holy Family church – every Sunday after 11am Mass.

All welcome.

Twenty Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

9 September – 17 September 2023

We Pray Especially For

Saturday, 9 September

5.15pm – First Mass of Sunday, Holy Family

Kathleen Curtis, Fr Vin McShane

Sunday, 10 September,

Twenty Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

9.15am – Mass, St Mark's

11am – Mass, Holy Family

12.30pm – Baptisms, Holy Family

People of the Parish
Sadie & Jimmy Devine,
Joan Carr

Monday, 11 September, Weekday in Ordinary Time

6pm-7pm - Exposition, Holy Family

Tuesday, 12 September, Weekday in Ordinary Time

9am – Service of the Word, Holy Family

Wednesday, 13 September,

Memorial of St John Chrysostom

10am-11am - Exposition, St Mark's

11am-12noon - Lectio Devina, St Mark's annexe

Thursday, 14 September,

Feast of The Exhaltation of the Holy Cross

9am – Morning Prayer Online via Zoom (see website)

6.30pm – Mass, St Mark's

Billy Davies, Eileen Ireland,
James & Ellen Lacey

Friday, 15 September,

Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows

9am – Service of the Word, St Mark's

Saturday, 16 September

5.15pm – First Mass of Sunday, Holy Family

People of the Parish

Sunday, 17 September,

Twenty Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

9.15am – Mass, St Mark's

11am – Mass, Holy Family

12.30pm – Baptisms, Holy Family

Danny Fox, McGrail Family,
Biggs Family
Matt Talbot Senior, Ken Needham

Twenty Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

16 September – 24 September 2023

We Pray Especially For

Saturday, 16 September

5.15pm – First Mass of Sunday, Holy Family

People of the Parish

Sunday, 17 September,

Twenty Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

9.15am – Mass, St Mark's

Danny Fox, McGrail Family,
Biggs Family
Matt Talbot, Senior

11am – Mass, Holy Family

12.30pm – Baptisms, Holy Family

Monday, 18 September, Weekday in Ordinary Time

6pm-7pm - Exposition, Holy Family

Tuesday, 19 September, Weekday in Ordinary Time

9am – Service of the Word, Holy Family

Wednesday, 20 September,

Memorial of Ss Andrew Kim Taegon

10am-11am - Exposition, St Mark's

11am-12noon - Lectio Devina, St Mark's annexe

Thursday, 21 September, Feast of St Matthew

9am – Morning Prayer Online via Zoom (see website)

6.30pm – Mass, St Mark's

Elizabeth Morris

Friday, 22 September, Weekday in Ordinary Time

9am – Service of the Word, St Mark's

Saturday, 23 September

5.15pm – First Mass of Sunday, Holy Family

Ronnie Griffiths, Senior

Sunday, 24 September,

Twenty Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

9.15am – Mass, St Mark's

11am – Mass, Holy Family

12.30pm – Baptisms, Holy Family

Vivien & Family
People of the Parish