



**Baptism Font and Liturgical matters!** My words two weeks ago about the possibility of moving the font from the front of the church to under the choir loft were received very positively. Often things are moved in churches and, if done with thought, can enhance the understanding of the liturgy. Having the font where it is a present does not help with our celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. The Liturgists (those people who differ from Terrorists in that you can negotiate with Terrorists!!) give us insights into the settings of our various Sacraments. If we follow the rubrics to the letter, we should have the first part of the liturgy outside and then welcome the child into church at the church door! The best placing of the font will be in the place where it will be seen (and used) by everybody. That is why I feel it would be best positioned under the loft. The final part of the Rite of Baptism would then be a procession to the sanctuary for the final anointing and blessings.

I am sure that most parishioners are concerned about the state of the figure of Christ on the cross in the garden. It really does need to be cleaned and restored and the surrounding canopy to be repaired. Maybe this could be a Lenten project? If anyone has ideas, time or skills to offer then please contact me as soon as possible.

**Fairtrade** there will be another chance to stock upon fairly traded goods (as well as enjoying a cuppa and chat) after the morning masses next Sunday! Bring a purse!!

**Retired Priest's Collection** Thanks for your generosity! The special collection was £459.85. I will be sending a cheque to the Curial Offices this week.

**Human fertilization & Embryology Bill** Thank you to those who were able to come to the meeting about this important area of medical research. Early in February the House of Lords will be debating this issue and making decisions that will affect the whole country. Many people do not seem to be aware of the implications of their out-comings but as a Christian people we must preserve the Church's teaching on the sanctity of life.

**Quiz!** There will be a Family Quiz in school on Friday 8th February starting at 7pm. It is a chance to chill out and enjoy an evening of fun together. Teams will consist of both children and adults and the questions will be geared to challenge and amuse everyone. Fr. Philip will be the question-person and the final arbiter of correct answers. Come along! Make up a team!! Enjoy Lent!!

**St. Patrick's Day Celebration!** Advanced notice for a Ceilidh. The School will be holding a dance at the Cricket Club on Saturday 15th March at 7.30pm. Tickets £5 with proceeds going to the school. Please contact school for more details. All are very welcome.

**Rome reunion** thanks to those who helped with food, drink and preparation. The next pilgrimage will be to .....! Watch this space!!

**At Your Word Lord.** Sr. Jo in the convent every Friday starting at 7.30pm.

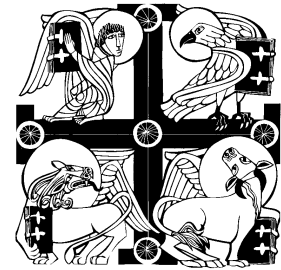
## OUR LADY HELP of CHRISTIANS & St OSWALD

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There is one thing I ask of the Lord, for this I long, to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to savour the sweetness of the Lord, to behold his name. I am sure I will see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Ps. 26.



When Matthew writes about the call of the first disciples there is no suggestion of any hesitation on the part of the four fishermen. Matthew gives us no reason why they would follow Jesus. The story is simple; Jesus calls them and they follow! There is no hint about where they are going; there is no detail of what discipleship is all about. Nothing is promised; nothing is signalled. Matthew is clearly not interested in these questions. He is more concerned to show that the disciples are called by Jesus and how their call means that they will have to leave everything that formally provided security.

Obviously things didn't happen as abruptly as that. The disciples did not leave the security of their homes and employment on the spur of the moment just to follow a stranger they had never seen before. John and Luke in their Gospels allow the disciples time to make up their minds. Matthew wants to focus on something more important; the start of Jesus' ministry. John the Baptist is in prison, the great voice of the wilderness is silenced. It is now time for Jesus to begin his ministry. Matthew wants to show that in Jesus, the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled in Jesus. Jesus is the great light that has dawned.

Matthew keeps the focus on Jesus and shows the authority of his word and the power of his healing. Discipleship is centred upon Jesus. It is because of who he is that others will change. Jesus alone is the source of discipleship. Without the person of Jesus, discipleship is meaningless.

What have we been called to do? What is our vocation?

**Newsletter for Sunday 27th January 2008  
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

## Mass Times and Intentions of Holy Mass

Sundays Year A: Psalter Week Three

<b>Sat</b>	<b>26th</b>	<b>6.30pm</b>	Parishioners	
<b>Sun</b>	<b>27th</b>	<b>9am</b>	Fr. Gerald Fitzgibbon	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
		<b>11am</b>	Millicent Bateman	
<b>Mon</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	Sheila Gadd	St. Thomas Aquinas
<b>Tue</b>	<b>29th</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>Word &amp; Communion</b>	
<b>Wed</b>	<b>30th</b>	<b>11.30am</b>	<b>Funeral Service</b> Barbara Ryan	
<b>Thu</b>	<b>31st</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Word &amp; Communion</b>	St. John Bosco
<b>Fri</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>12noon</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Sat</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>6.30m</b>	John Poland	Presentation of the Lord.
<b>Sun</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>9am</b>	Steve & Maureen McKenna	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
		<b>11am</b>	Parishioners	

**Christian Unity Week** Many of the congregation were able to attend the various services during the week at the other Christian churches. Thanks to those who were able to participate. The service here on Saturday was very well attended and was an opportunity to share again those things that we all hold to be true. I preached on the fact that not only is our church door locked during the day but that right now the handle is broken so it is almost impossible to get in!! The lock is easily fixed. However I am still very keen on the idea of the church being opened during the day for those who want to call and spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament. If anyone has had any thoughts about this will you please contact me.

**Brass restoration** The Paschal candlestick and other items have been returned and I hope you like the job that has been done to them. It has been an expensive exercise but if we take good care of them they will last for many years to come as well as enhancing our liturgy.



**First Sacraments Programme** Please remember in your prayers the children and families preparing for First Holy Communion on 8th June. There will be a monthly meeting with the parents when we will share experiences and learn more about the significance of the Sacrament. To help us make connections with the Eucharist and the Last Supper I have arranged for the whole group to experience a Passover Meal on Thur. 13th March. If this is a success then I will plan for a parish celebration next year. The other three meet-

ings will be in school at 7pm on Wed. 13th February, Thursday 17th April & Tuesday 20th May. If any parents whose children will be making their First Communion next year would like to come and join us to see what kind of things we are doing, they will be very welcome.

**Stamps and Christmas cards.** The stamps and cards will be taken away this week. If you have any more contributions then please drop them off at the presbytery.

**A Celebration of Married Life** The Bishop will celebrate a mass on Saturday 9th February at St. Columba's in Chester at 2pm. This will be a mass of thanksgiving for all married couples and there will be an opportunity for the renewal of marriage vows. If anybody is celebrating a special anniversary and would like to go to this mass please see me asap as the Diocese are sending out invitations.

**Lent 2008!** Ash Wednesday is 6th February! There will be the usual morning mass at 9.30am to which out children will be invited. There will also be an evening mass at 7.30pm.

**Mass times** Please make a note of the times of masses and services next week. On Wednesday Steve will be taking a funeral service for Barbara Ryan at 11.30am. Please remember her and her family in your prayers this week. Fr. Peter Hooper will be celebrating the Saturday evening mass for us and I am sure you will welcome his smiling face as you always do. If there are any emergencies during the week will you please contact Steve at home. I will be thinking of you as I stroll through the Yorkshire Dales!

**Mass Times** I have decided that for a six month period I will change the time of the monthly "children's" mass from 9am to 11am. Many parents find it very difficult to get the family up and ready for the early mass and there is a possibility that we could have musicians to help support the music at this mass. The first mass will be next Sunday, 3rd February.

### Liturgy of the Word

**1st Reading** Isaiah 8:23-9:3  
**Psalm** Psalm 26  
**2nd Reading** 1 Cor. 1:10-13  
**Gospel** Matthew 4:12-23

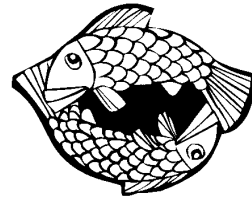
### Next Week

Zeph. 2:3,3:12-13  
 Psalm 145  
 1 Cor. 1:26-31  
 Matthew 5:1-12

**Sacrament of Reconciliation** By appointment. Please contact Fr. Philip.

**Those who are sick:** Jack Owen, Ann Lovell, Sheila Barker, Alan Tucker, George Lee, Evelyn Lloyd-Williams, Barbara McDougal, Matthew Walton, Irene Cranage, Fr. Frank McManus, Sr. Patricia, Joyce Williams, Liam Lynch, Annie Bough, Bob Davies, James Tomley, James McDougall, Richard Burman, Gerald Jones, Joanna Gidge, Kathleen Bebb, Rev John Warnock,

**Anniversaries in January** William Owen, Leonard Hand, Theresa Charles, Catherine Wilson, Vera hands, John Murray, Gerald Smith, Mary Challinor, Mary Kemp, Brendan Halley, Beatrix Alves, Kathleen Williams, David Evans, Elizabeth Tomley, Margaret Jones, Catherine Sullivan, Thomas Powell, Nora Wilcox, John Joy, Francis Murray, Celia Roscoe, Peter Morrissey, Dorothy Hartley, Mary Donovan, John King, Kathleen Jones, Mary Gadd, Eileen O'Connor, Albert Saunders, Susan Rowe, Maria Ingram, Margaret Evans, Michael McDade, Kathleen Harris, Carl Walker, Kathleen Griffiths, Roy Winterbottom, Thomas Marshall, Joyce Price, Leonard Challenor, Evelyn Dobson, Winifred Jones, Thomas Jordan, Lucy Grant, Dorothy Price, Barbara Vidal.



**Offertory Collection** £537.56 Thank you for your generosity.