

RCIA I am pleased to tell you that there will be a couple of families who will be welcomed into the Church at Easter! Each one of us has a unique journey that brings us into community with each other. For most of us it began when we were baptised into the Catholic Church. For others it comes at the end of a time of exploration and reflection.

Please remember these families in your prayers over the weeks of Lent.

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!!

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.

The proposed Bill raises deep questions about what it means to be human, about the role of fathers and mothers and the needs of children, and about how ethical decisions are taken. The Bill may be used as a vehicle to make abortion more common. The Bill will be passed in the name of all the citizens, and if we do not speak out about it then our silence will be taken as consent. Please write to Owen Patterson. Let him know your concerns. Write in your own words, sharing experiences if necessary and say what aspect of the Bill concerns you most. Please be polite and courteous. Owen can be contacted at www.writetothem.com

School Closure. We are all aware by now that the possibility of our Primary School being closed has, hopefully, now passed! The Authority have the difficult decision of closing some schools because of an excess of places. Our school provides an excellent, all-round education but has an intake of only 20 pupils each year. Under the reorganisation it is proposed that we increase the intake of pupils to 30. The implications are many and there will be more details in the next few months. But we will need more classrooms and are planning an upgrade of the entrance hall and offices.

Say No More! A rock group, are playing at The Ironworks on 22nd Feb. Bethan, one of our mums at school, is running the London Marathon in April and is hoping to raise £1,500 in sponsorship for the charity *Hearing Dogs* Bethan works as a speech therapist and can be contacted on 680836 for more details.

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.

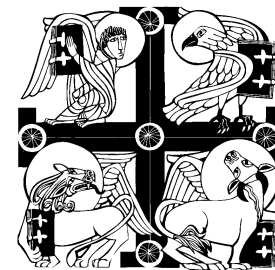
OUR LADY HELP of CHRISTIANS & St OSWALD

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It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets prisoners free. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down. Psalm 145

The best commentary on the beatitudes is Jesus' own life. To be authentic to his own calling, Jesus gives up power and prestige to follow the way of his powerlessness. He is gentle with those people who are written off as hopeless cases. He mourns when he sees how so many choose to be blind when God visits them. He experiences hunger-not just the hunger that is satisfied by bread but the hunger that can only be satisfied by doing what is right.

Jesus scandalises the religious authorities. He is single-minded in his pursuit of mercy and forgiveness. His single-mindedness leads him to times of hurt and terror. He is driven to make a pact with God and humanity. In the end he is abused and persecuted in the cause of right and is handed over to torture and death. And he ends up on a cross with common criminals. In the end he is blessed, he is raised up on the third day!

Jesus experiences all this as an outcome of a life that was lived in love and enthusiasm for God his Father. It all happened to him because he was personally gripped by the reality of the Kingdom that he preached. He addressed the Beatitudes to his followers who, in their time, would have to face the world with all its prejudice and hatred. And Jesus told them they would be blessed even when they were suffering persecution; their reward would be great in heaven.

We all have had experienced the cost of our discipleship; the cost of trying to put Christ at the centre of our lives. Jesus' words are of the one who has gone before us and who never invites us to do anything that he himself has not done.



**Newsletter for Sunday 3rd February 2008
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Mass Times and Intentions of Holy Mass

Sundays Year A: Psalter Week Four

Sat	2nd	6.30pm	John Poland	Presentation of the Lord
Sun	3rd	9am	Steve & Maureen McKenna	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
		11am	Parishioners	
Mon	4th	9.30am	Jan Hornack	
Tue	5th	7pm	Word & Communion	St. Agatha
Wed	6th	9.30am	Gravenor & Manser Families	Ash Wednesday
		7.30pm	Francis Quinn	
Thu	7th	9.30am	Maria Jesus Ingram	
Fri	8th	12noon	Roy Davidson	(Followed by soup in the house)
Sat	9th	6.30m	Parishioners	
Sun	10th	9am	Vi Brooker	1st Sunday of Lent
		11am	Philip Puchala	



Lent 2008. Wednesday we begin again the season of repentance. But before that we are invite to Carnival!!

After the carnival, after the last games and the dances, we sing our final "alleluia" and we sing it in rounds. Then we bury it deep in a chest. The Alleluia that we bury is first lettered on a long scroll and decorated with spring flowers by all the participants. We will not hear or use this greatest expressions of greatest joy until it is sung again during the Easter night. Then we settle down. We remove some of our silliness and gather for community night prayer. Drawing the revelry to a close, we face tomorrow's Ash Wednesday. We offer one another a sign of peace for a fruitful and holy Lent. With that, we begin a great silence. Everything is cleaned up, and everyone moves about collecting belongings, but nobody speaks a word.

Tonight I have danced with the bagman. Tonight I have danced with a general. I have danced with clowns and cowboys. I have danced with the president and an elephant. I have danced with the cheerleader, with Apollo, with Dionysus. Tonight I have danced with God!" Gertrude Mueller Nelson

I hope that we will all enjoy out Lenten journey. It is the same call as last year; repentance, fasting and giving alms. Each one of us has to choose that path that will be suited for us. In order to help us make choices I have arranged some fixtures for the six weeks and some variables.

Each **Friday**, after the mid-day mass, there will be **soup and bread** in the house. I am happy to make the soup for the 8th Feb. and am looking for volunteers to provide a pan of their own favourite each week after that. (please contact me for dates!)

Deacon Joe is offering to arrange a **Silent Exposition & Benediction** offered for the needs of the parish community. Thursday 7th, 21st of Feb and 6th of March. It will be an opportunity to take time-out and prepare for the journey to Easter

There will be **Stations of the Cross**, lead by various members of the parish. These will be on different days and at different times in order for many parishioners to attend.

There are copies of the Lent edition of **My Day by Day** that proved successful during the season of Advent. The booklet contains all the readings of mass for Lent and fits inside the pocket for use when a few moments spare time present itself.

Sr. Jo will be continuing with an hour of prayer and reflection **At Your Word Lord** in the convent each Friday evening. If you have not been able to get there then it might be an excellent season to start.

Each week there will be an **informal gathering** in the presbytery to look at some of the scriptures that we hear during the Sunday's of Lent. The time and day will change so that more people will have a chance to gather.

There will be a **Reconciliation Service** on Tuesday 18th March at 7pm. If anybody would prefer to celebrate the sacrament of forgiveness "face to face" then please contact me and make an appointment.

Lent is the traditional time when we "give something up". This is always a good thing to do. But please read the list above and see if there is something extra you could do to help prepare to celebrate the Risen Lord at Easter



Liturgy of the Word

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

Next Week

Genesis 2:7-9
 Psalm 50
 Romans 5:12-19
 Matthew 4:1-12

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 February Bernard Leonard, Francis Duffy, Martin Burke, Evelyn Kelly, Martha Matthews, Muriel Howard, Mary Jones, Robert Williams, Florence Mullins, Victor Ellis, Louisa Fahey, Fredrick Adams, Helen Ruane, Eric Edgar, Angela Breen, William Berryman, Cornelius Walker, Marjorie Freeman Arthur Kilner, John Feeley, Miriam Holder, Michael Rowell, Daisy Hodges, Mary Parson, Martha Lloyd, Catherine Mahoney, Thomas Casey, Thomas Jones, David Charles, Elizabeth Jones, Mary Noonan, Mary Coadey, Mary Johnson, Lily Mills, Kathleen Hartnell, Margaret Hughes, Edith Warnick Vincent O'Neil, Sarah Smith, Esther Edwards, Catherine Wilson, Elizabeth Tearle, John Mullins, Samuel Dille, Jessie Hawkins, Andrew Brooke, Reginald Smith, Kathleen Osborne, Ellen Pike



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