

# Sixteenth Sunday of the Year

18 July 2010

## How to avoid God

We have defined ourselves by what we do, not by what we are. When first meeting a person we often ask "What do you do?" And we seem to be impressed by how busy they are. Somebody with a full diary, with a frenetic lifestyle and a backlog of texts on their mobile phone is considered a success. To have no time is thought of as a status symbol. But we may still not know who we are.

If we always respond to the urgent, we may end up missing the essential. By keeping busy we can easily stave off what we know we should really be doing. Where we set our priorities often says more about how we would like to be thought of than it does about who we really are.

It's easy to hear the episode about Jesus visiting Martha and Mary and to come out on Mary's side. She was the one who sat and talked while Martha was going frantic in the kitchen. The gospel tells us that Martha was "distracted" by all the work that had to be done for the meal and the entertaining.

But both Martha and Mary were needed. The guest did not come just for food but for company too. Mary played her part by entertaining Jesus and by allowing herself to be enriched as she listened to what he had to say. Martha's role was to get everything just right so that the meal would go without a hitch.



It might be a bit harsh to say that the whole occasion smacked of devotion on Mary's part and of duty on Martha's. But what is certain is that Martha allowed herself to be "distracted" by important things that could have waited until she'd shown the basic courtesies. Maybe she'd got into the habit of doing everything in the kitchen and then feeling sorry for herself and blaming others? She wouldn't be the first!

In our relationship with God, do we feel that we have always got to be doing something? Always active, proving our love of God? A faith without any sign of good works would be a lazy one. But if we never slow down enough to talk to God, to rest in God's presence and to listen for what God is trying to tell us, then we will end up running on very low batteries. And we might find that what we thought was crucial just turns out to be a way of distracting ourselves and avoiding God.

## Mass Intentions this week

Day	Church	Time	Intention
<b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</b>			
		Martha, it is Mary who has chosen the better part; it is not to be taken from her. (Luke 10:42)	
Saturday	St Bernadette's	5.30 pm	Mary Hall
	St Marie's	7.00 pm	Carole Almond
Sunday	St Bernadette's	9.30 am	Ellen Ann Ball
	St Marie's	11.00 am	Allan Garner
Monday	St Marie's	9.15 am	Steve Kelly
Tuesday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	Ann Rigby
Wednesday	St Marie's	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Requiem: Arthur Hesketh</b>
Thursday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	<b>Eucharistic Service</b>
Friday	St Marie's	9.15 am	<b>Eucharistic Service</b>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year</b>			
		Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples". (Luke 11:1)	
Saturday	St Bernadette's	5.30 pm	Winifred Hilton
	St Marie's	7.00 pm	Eileen Moore
Sunday	St Bernadette's	9.30 am	People of the Parish
	St Marie's	11.00 am	Margaret Laura Carney

**Clergy:** Father John Hindley  
St Marie's Presbytery  
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Standish, Wigan, WN6 0TB  
Telephone: 01257 423291

*Serving the Parishes of:*

**St Marie of the Annunciation**  
Standish

[www.stmariesstandish.co.uk](http://www.stmariesstandish.co.uk)

**St Bernadette** Shevington  
[www.stbernadetteshevington.org.uk](http://www.stbernadetteshevington.org.uk)

**Parish Office at St Marie's:**

Open 9.00 am to 12 noon

Monday - Friday

[jointparishes@gmail.com](mailto:jointparishes@gmail.com)

**Baptisms:** By prior arrangement.  
Information available from Fr John after weekend Masses. All baptisms take place during Mass. St Bernadette's first Sunday and St Marie's third Sunday of the month.

**Confessions:**

St Bernadette's: Sun 9.10-9.20 am.

St Marie's: Wed 6.30 - 6.50 pm.

Or by request.

**Funerals and Marriages:** By arrangement.

**Mass Requests:** Please place in an envelope and hand in to the Sacristy or to the Parish Office at St Marie's. Please indicate which church you would prefer, if any. If you would like a particular day please request early.

**Visits to sick and housebound:** Please inform Fr John if you know of parishioners who are sick or housebound and would like to receive Holy Communion.

**Hospital Visits:** If you wish to see a priest please let the hospital staff know.

**Repository:** Open at the back of church after each weekend Mass for greeting cards for most occasions, small gifts, prayer books, etc.

**Newsletter Notices:** Please e-mail to [jointparishes@gmail.com](mailto:jointparishes@gmail.com) or hand in to the Parish Office by Thursday morning.

**The Grapevine:** If anyone has any ideas or items for submission to the magazine please e-mail

[stbernadettesgrapevine@gmail.com](mailto:stbernadettesgrapevine@gmail.com)

**St Marie's Hall:** All bookings for hall usage should be made in advance with the Parish Office during office hours.

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## **This weekend:**

Sunday after 11.00 am Mass: **Tea and coffee** in the Church Hall.

Departure Mass for the **Lourdes Pilgrimage** at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King at 3.00 pm. All welcome.

## **This week:**

Tuesday: Meeting of the **Lay Apostleship of Christ the Returning King** in St Marie's Church at 7.30 pm to say the rosary and share intercessory prayer for our world, nation, parish and homes. Anne's monthly message will be read out. This is an open meeting and anyone who would like to attend is most welcome to do so.

Friday: Start of the Liverpool Archdiocesan **Pilgrimage to Lourdes**.

## **Next Weekend:**

**Second collection at all Masses to support the annual Day for Life.**

Sunday: **Coffee morning** after 9.30 am Mass. Refreshments will be served. Proceeds to Nugent Care. All welcome.

Sunday after 11.00 am Mass: **Tea and coffee** in the Church Hall.

## **Thank you for your offerings**

St Marie's	£852.60
St Bernadette's	£576.76

## **Apostleship of the Sea**

St Marie's	£178.86
St Bernadette's	£168.36

## **Baptisms**

This weekend, we welcome new members to our Catholic Church community when Grace Ellen Gater, Joe Patrick Morrissey and Ava Elizabeth Wood are baptised during the 11.00 am Mass. Congratulations!

## **Car Boot Sale**

Thank you to everyone who supported the car boot sale, which raised £522.41 towards church funds. A special 'thank you' from Joan Johnson to everyone who baked cakes and helped her with the refreshments stall, which raised £116.82 towards the Over 60's Christmas Party.

## **At the back of Church.....**

- Living Faith booklets for adults and children, July to September 2010.

## **Questions of faith and liturgy**

**Q.** What is the difference between the way a Priest wears the stole and the way a Deacon wears it?

**A.** A priest wears the stole like a scarf around the neck; a deacon wears it diagonally across one shoulder, left to right.

## **Day for Life**

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has asked that a second collection take place at all Masses next Sunday to support the annual Day for Life. This year's theme, 'Lord, for your faithful people, life is changed not ended' focuses on the meaning of Christian death and care for those who are dying.

Day for Life 2010 aims to present the Church's teaching on death; it will highlight the importance of the Sacrament of the sick, of praying for the dead and of accompanying the dying person as they journey towards God. It will also point towards the consoling presence and support of the community of faith and all of those who 'have gone before us marked with the sign of faith.'

The proceeds from the collection will assist the work of The Anscombe Bioethics Centre (formerly the Linacre Centre for Healthcare Ethics) and other life-related activities supported by the Church.

## **Bonus Ball**

No.37 - Frances Farrimond - £16.

## **Recovering and moving on after divorce**

The Pastoral Formation Department offers a series of six weekly meetings on recovering and moving on after divorce to support divorced and separated Catholics and those experiencing the breakdown of a long-term relationship. Christians of other denominations, or none, are welcome.

The next series starts on Monday, 11 October in the Aigburth area, Liverpool 17. There will also be a **ONE DAY MEETING** on Saturday, 18 September for those who are unable to attend the six meetings. The groups are small, confidential and free of charge. To book a place (essential) or for further details, contact Frances Trotman on 0151 727 2195.

## **Papal Visit**

Information has been circulated via Pastoral Area Leaders about access to two events during the Papal visit:

1. An evening Vigil in Hyde Park, London on Saturday 18 September (5.00 pm to 9.00 pm). This incorporates a procession of banners from every parish in England and Wales. Each Pastoral Area has been allocated approximately 100 places.

2. The Mass of Beatification of Cardinal Newman in Birmingham's Cofton Park on Sunday 19 September (9.30 am). Approximately 75 places for each Pastoral Area.

It is anticipated that there will be 10 pilgrim places from each parish in the Pastoral Area available for London and 10 for Birmingham. The pilgrims will be transported by coaches, arranged by national organisers. The cost for Birmingham pilgrims is £25 which covers the cost of the coach. The cost for the London Pilgrimage is £10 to cover the cost of a pass on the London Underground and a pilgrim pack. The cost of travel to London is not included. Names of pilgrims are required by 30 July, so please give some thought as to whether or not you would wish to attend either event and let Fr John know as soon as possible.

## **CAFOD**

CAFOD collections at St Marie's take place during the first weekend of every month. The next collection will be on 7 and 8 August.

## **St Marie's Church Hall**

A new lock has been fitted to the outer door to St Marie's Church Hall. A number of keys have been cut for use by leaders of the various Groups and Organisations who use the Hall on a regular basis. To enable the Parish to keep a record of the number of keys issued, would leaders please contact the Parish office to obtain a key. On no account must keys be cut other than as authorised by Father John. Thank you.

## **Dates for your diary**

Monday to Friday, 26 to 30 July: **2010 Living Theology** summer school at Liverpool Hope University. Contact tel. 0151 298 1911 or e-mail: d.reynolds@sfxchuchliverpool.com.