

Seventeenth Sunday of the Year

25 July 2010

Jackpot Prayer?

A woman who was on a diet came into work with a huge chocolate cream cake. When her friends asked if she had stopped dieting she told them that God wanted her to have the cake. "I saw it in the bakery and prayed to God to let there be a parking spot outside, if he wanted me to have the cake. And on the 10th time round, there was the parking place!"

Prayer is a strange thing. Some people feel the need to tell God a shopping list of things that they want, as if he didn't already know what they need! And often we ourselves don't realise what we really need and we pray for things that we think will make life better, but which everyone else knows will be our ruin. The same happens when an alcoholic prays for a bottle of whisky.

There are those who tend to think that prayer is like a religious fruit machine, a divine one-arm-bandit. You put your request in, pull the handle and eventually you hit the jackpot. Of course, this would be to treat God like some sort of robot that did not have our welfare at heart. It's the sort of prayer that people make to win the lottery.



So it's hardly surprising that people talk about unanswered prayer. The very thought that God would completely ignore us when we turn to him is ridiculous. But scripture tells us that sometimes we are asking for the wrong thing or with the wrong motives and that's why we don't receive what we want. Prayer is always answered; it's just that sometimes the answer is "no", or it comes in a way we didn't expect.

When we look at the prayer that Jesus taught us, the Our Father or the Lord's Prayer, we notice that there is a lot of emphasis at the beginning on God's will being done in all things, and the values of God's kingdom permeating our thoughts and actions. Maybe if we remained open in our prayer, telling God of our needs and desires, but asking him to help us become conformed to his will, then we would start to change our approach to prayer, wanting to be part of God's plan rather than getting him to change his plans to suit ours. Prayer would become a request to change us.

And maybe that's why we have to wait until the second half of the Our Father before we get round to asking for things...

Mass Intentions this week

Day	Church	Time	Intention
17th Sunday of the Year			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
Monday	St Marie's	9.15 am	Eucharistic Service
Tuesday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	Irene Kelly
Wednesday	St Marie's	7.00 pm	Maurice O'Mahoney
Thursday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	Frank & Wyn Magrath (Diamond Wedding)
Friday	St Marie's	9.15 am	Carole Almond
18th Sunday of the Year			Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even if he has more than he needs. (Luke 12:15)
Saturday	St Bernadette's	5.30 pm	Patricia Margaret O'Neill (L.I.S.C.F)
	St Marie's	7.00 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	St Bernadette's	9.30 am	Winifred Sturgeon
	St Marie's	11.00 am	Stephen Whelan

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

Serving the Parishes of:

St Marie of the Annunciation
Standish

www.stmariesstandish.co.uk

St Bernadette Shevington
www.stbernadetteshevington.org.uk

Parish Office at St Marie's:

Open 9.00 am to 12 noon

Monday - Friday

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 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

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

Liverpool Roman Catholic
Archdiocesan Trustees Incorporated.
A registered charity. Number 232709.

This 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.

This week:

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

Next Weekend:

Please note that tea and coffee will **not** be served after 11.00 am Mass.

Thank you for your offerings

St Marie's	£958.96
St Bernadette's	£769.98

At the back of Church.....

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

Bonus Ball

No.20 - Sheila Prescott - £19.

200 Club – July results

1st £50, No. 121, K Winstanley;
2nd £20, No. 86, W King; **3rd £15**, No. 133 J Jenkinson; **4th £10**, No. 39, J A Walker. Cheques are available in the sacristy.

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.

CAFOD Sponsored Walk

St Bernadette's CAFOD Group thanks all walkers and sponsors who supported the CAFOD Walk in June and particularly parishioners of both Churches for their very generous sponsorship of Fr John.

The amount raised was £1,799, of which £1,228 was gift aided resulting in a final total to £2,141.84.

Ladies Section

The meal at The Owls, Standish on Tuesday 3 August for St Marie's Ladies Section has been booked for 7.00 pm. Please be present no later than 6.30 pm. Contact Marjorie, tel. 424332.

Questions of faith and liturgy

Q. What are the three Holy Oils?

A. There are three kinds of sacred oil, all of which signify the work of the Holy Spirit and symbolise it in that oil "serves to sweeten, to strengthen, to render supple" The three Holy Oils are the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of Holy Chrism and the Oil of the Sick.

Day for Life

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has asked that a second collection take place at all Masses this 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.

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.

Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Please remember in your prayers those from the Archdiocese taking part in the pilgrimage to Lourdes which began on Friday 23 July:

'God our Father, help all people to find their true vocation in life and so find happiness. May those who answer the call to the priesthood and the religious life, generously follow in the footsteps of St Bernadette and give glory to your love in their lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.
St Bernadette, pray for us.'

Papal Visit

Details of two events during the Papal visit are as follows:

1. An evening Vigil in Hyde Park, London on Saturday 18 September (5.00 pm to 9.00 pm). Each Pastoral Area has been allocated 100 places.
2. Mass of Beatification of Cardinal Newman in Cofton Park, Birmingham on Sunday 19 September (9.30 am). 75 places.

Ten places from each parish are available for London and ten for Birmingham. Transport by coaches, arranged by national organisers. The cost for Birmingham is £25 which covers the cost of the coach. The cost for London 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. Please Fr John know as soon as possible if you wish to attend either event.

Please also remember Pope Benedict in your prayers as he prepares for his visit:

'God of truth and love, your Son, Jesus Christ, stands as the light to all who seek you with a sincere heart. As we strive with your grace to be faithful in word and deed, may we reflect the kindly light of Christ and offer a witness of hope and peace to all.

We pray for Pope Benedict and look forward with joy to his forthcoming visit to our countries. May he be a witness to the unity and hope which is your will for all people. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.'

Dates for your diary

Monday to Friday, 16 to 20

August: **Holiday Club** for children aged 5-11 years, during mornings at St Anne's parish centre, Shevington.

Wednesday, 15 September:

Healing Service at St James', Orrell.

Mass at 7.30 pm. Contact Cath 01942 824365.

Wednesday, 20 October: **Healing**

Service at St James', Orrell. Mass at

7.30 pm. Contact Cath 01942 824365.

Wednesday, 17 November:

Healing Service at St James', Orrell.

Mass at 7.30 pm. Contact Cath 01942 824365.

Wednesday, 15 December:

Healing Service at St James', Orrell.

Mass at 7.30 pm. Contact Cath 01942 824365.

Please note that items for the newsletter are subject to editing having regard to the space available.