

Seventh Sunday of the Year

19 February 2012

The Quality of Mercy

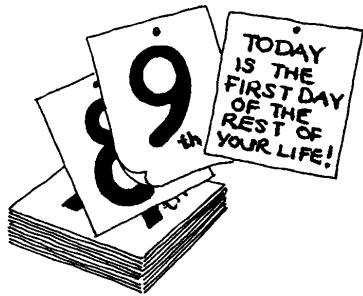
Why do we find it so hard to forgive? Why are our newspapers quick to label people as demons of society and suggest that they be locked away as long as possible? Why are politicians sure of getting votes if they talk tough?

Inside each one of us there's that little child that comes into the room and says, 'Mummy, Mary's broken a cup.' The implication is that she should be punished. It's only as we get older that we are able to see ourselves in Mary's place and to realise that we too are not perfect. We too can break cups as well as hearts.

Awareness of our own faults and failings makes us more sympathetic to other people. There but for the grace of God (and sometimes even despite it) go I. And it is this growing awareness of our own fragility that makes us able in adulthood to be more feeling towards others who stray. This feeling is what Christians call mercy.

Without mercy and forgiveness we would be left only with cold and unfeeling justice. We would never have

any room for manoeuvre because we would live in a tit-for-tat society that would create a mountain of revenge, resentment and unfinished business. Justice might be functional but mercy and forgiveness are humanising; they proclaim a love greater than sin.



Christians believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. Forgiveness is at the heart of Jesus's message, so much so that his cure of the

paralytic is linked to the deepest cure of all: the forgiveness of his sins. And when people refuse to forgive it means that they are not prepared to accept their own fallibility, for if they really knew how much God had forgiven them in their lives they would be unable to withhold forgiveness from others.

And that's the nub of it. When I forgive someone else I am not being noble or magnanimous. Forgiveness is a never-ending gift that God has given me, and I am simply handing on the gift. Whenever I need it again, it will be there.

Mass Intentions this week

Day	Church	Time	Intention
7 th Sunday of the Year			No need to recall the past, to think about what was done before... It is I who must blot out everything, and not remember your sins. (Isaiah 43: 18.25.)
Saturday	St Bernadette's	5.30 pm	People of the Parish
	St Marie's	7.00 pm	Golden Jubilee: Archbishop Patrick Kelly
Sunday	St Bernadette's	9.30 am	Jacqui Rushton (Anniversary)
	St Marie's	11.00 am	John H Platt
Monday	St Marie's	9.15 am	Jack Sadleir (Illness)
Tuesday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	Gerald Hitchin (LD)
Ash Wednesday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	Frank Magrath
	St Marie's	7.00 pm	Billy Joe Edwards
Thursday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	William Rothwell (Anniversary)
Friday	St Marie's	9.15 am	Roland Williams
First Sunday of Lent			I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again. (Genesis 9:11)
Saturday	St Bernadette's	5.30 pm	Thomas Pope
	St Marie's	7.00 pm	Tony Cosgrove
Sunday	St Bernadette's	9.30 am	People of the Parish
	St Marie's	11.00 am	Edmund Kidd (Anniversary)

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

Serving the Churches 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

www.twitter.com/stmstb

Baptisms: By prior arrangement. Information available at weekend Masses. All baptisms take place during Mass. St Bernadette's first Sunday, 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: Place in an envelope and hand in to the Sacristy or to the Parish Office at St Marie's. Please indicate your preferred church, if any. Please also specify the reason for the intention, i.e. recently deceased, anniversary etc. For a particular day, please request early.

Visits to sick and housebound:

Please inform Fr John if you know of sick or housebound parishioners who would like 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.

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:

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

Sunday: **Songs of Praise** at St Bernadette's at 3.00 pm.

Sunday: **Annual Civic Mass** in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool at 3.00 pm. The Mass will also mark the Golden Jubilee of the ordination of Archbishop Patrick Kelly as a priest. All are welcome.

This week

Monday: **'Walking in the Spirit'** course in St Marie's Hall at 7.30 pm. The title of the session is 'Equipped by the Spirit'. All are welcome.

Tuesday: **'Thank you' party** in St Marie's Hall at 7.30 pm for helpers at St Bernadette's and St Marie's.

Wednesday: **Ash Wednesday**. Ashes will be distributed at 9.15 am and 7.00 pm Masses.

Friday: **Stations of the Cross** at St Bernadette's at 7.00 pm, followed by **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** at 7.30 pm.

Next weekend:

Sunday: **Coffee morning** after 9.30 am Mass. Proceeds in aid of the Wigan Lourdes Association.

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

Thank you for your offerings
£1,650.32.

Bonus Ball

No.6 - D Almond - £31.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

The parish is to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Monday 4 June in St Marie's Church grounds. There will be stalls, food, drink, children's entertainer, bouncy castle etc. Food & drinks will be free. The celebration will end with the lighting of a beacon and a small firework display.

To fund the celebration, a number of fundraising events will be held, which please support.

Baptisms

We welcome new members to our Catholic Church community when Honey Jane Alker and Chloe Jessica Lee are baptised during the 11.00 am Mass. Congratulations!

Getting Married in Church?

Marriage preparation in the diocese is now being provided by Marriage Care. For couples considering getting married in Church, please come along to one of the weekend Masses and collect a leaflet, which contains all the information and the dates available. Marriage Care will deal with the marriage preparation side. When you come and collect the leaflet, Fr John will arrange a time to see you about the wedding service arrangements and documentation etc.

Hoe Down

There will be a 'Hoe Down' in St Bernadette's School Hall on Saturday 24 March at 7.30 pm. Music by The Old School Band. Proceeds to Angela Price Hambantota Preschool Appeal. Tickets priced £10 includes buffet supper.

Recovering and Moving on after Divorce

The Archdiocesan Pastoral Formation Department is offering a series of six weekly meetings to offer support to Catholics who are divorced or separated or experiencing the breakdown of a long term relationship. Christians of any other denomination, or of none, are very welcome. The groups are small and confidential. There is no charge.

Meetings commence on Monday 20 February, 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm, Aigburth Area, Liverpool 17. Contact Frances on 0151 727 2195.

RCIA Support for Journey VII

An evening for parish RCIA teams to reflect on the importance of using the liturgical cycle in their formation processes at Holy Rosary, Altway, Aintree on Tuesday 13 March at 7.30 pm. Refreshments from 7.00 pm. There is no charge. Bookings on a 'first come, first served basis'. Contact Julie Cassidy, 0151 522 1040 or e-mail j.cassidy@rcaol.co.uk.

Funny Money

If you are going abroad in the near future, please remember the foreign coin collection in St Bernadette's porch when you return and consider donating any unwanted currency.

Proceeds to the Wigan Lourdes Association.

Women's World Day of Prayer

Women's World Day of Prayer is on Friday 2 March and the service in Shevington will be at St Bernadette's at 7.30 pm. The speaker is Margaret Jennings. All welcome.

Rite of Election 2012

Are you free on Sunday 26 February? If so, the Archdiocesan Liturgy Commission Music Dept. invites you sing at the 'Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion' at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King at 3.00 pm. See poster in the Church porch or contact Anne Preston, 07913006537, email: anne.preston@ntlworld.com

Ladies Section

Ladies Section Annual General meeting and Bring and Buy in St Marie's Hall on Tuesday 28 February at 8.00 pm. Subs for 2012 are now due.

Congratulations

Congratulations to John and Shirley Doherty who will be celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Friday 24 February.

Thank you

Sarah and Matthew Moss wish to thank all parishioners for their prayers and thoughts during the illness of their son, Adam. The family has been overwhelmed by people's kindness.

Adam has made remarkable progress over the past few days so much so that he has been allowed home, although he still has some way to go in terms of recovery.

Development Fund

February results:

£100 - 340, Pat Kenyon: **£50** - 87, M Braddock: **£50** - 427, John Pimblett: **£50** - 495, Tom Griffin: **£40** - 46, R Price. Please collect cheques from sacristy. Next collection of subs on 3/4 March.

Dates for your diary

Saturday, 10 March: **Retreat Day** at LACE, 10.30 am - 3.00 pm, led by Archbishop Patrick Kelly for adults preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation Easter 2012. Those interested should contact their RCIA team to ensure a place has been booked.