

# Fifth Sunday of the Year

5 February 2012

## Sign of things to come

‘Life is but a breath and my eyes will never again see joy.’ We can all sympathise with Job. He feels so downhearted that nothing seems worthwhile any more. And from time to time we can all end up asking what’s the point of life and whether it’s worth all the effort. We take our fair share of knocks and it’s easy to stay down rather than pick ourselves up and dust ourselves down.

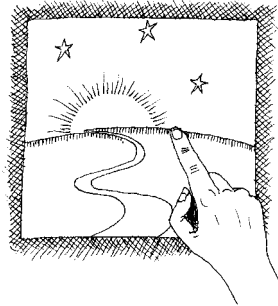
That’s why the cures that Jesus worked came as such a bombshell to a people that had grown cynical about life. St Mark tells us that from the outset of his ministry Jesus attracted large crowds eager to see him perform cures on those who were sick.

Of course, Jesus was no doctor. But it was as if, for the crowd, these miracles validated his preaching claims. Anyone can preach, but someone who can back up their preaching with healing is surely worth listening to. And for Jesus these cures were not the be-all and end-all of his mission. They were signs of something else: the setting up of the kingdom of God.

From the start Jesus never claimed any credit for these miracles. He was up-front about where he got his power

from: his Father. And it was his Father who had sent him to inaugurate a new way of life, a new style of living according to the values of the kingdom which was about to come.

Two thousand years on the Church continues this mission of proclaiming the kingdom to a world that is often as weary as Jesus’s listeners. In the midst of war, scandal, opposition and sheer human frailty we keep in mind that we are not trying to compete with other agencies, with governments or lifestyle promoters. Our message is radically different from any other. It says that God intends us to live in a way that puts others first, that thrives on self-sacrifice after the fashion of Christ and that has no time for the self-centred idealism of much of what advertisers and spin-doctors present us with today. For Christians are in the world but not of it. That’s because, warts and all, they are part of the kingdom of God. And as Jesus’s audience found out, despite the problems that each day might bring, the kingdom is very near.



## Mass Intentions this week

Day	Church	Time	Intention
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year	The whole town came crowding around the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another. (Mark 1:33)		
Saturday	St Bernadette’s	5.30 pm	Jean Law ton
	St Marie’s	7.00 pm	John Nolan
Sunday	St Bernadette’s	9.30 am	People of the Parish
	St Marie’s	11.00 am	L.I.S.C.F.
Monday	St Marie’s	9.15 am	Harvey Marwick
Tuesday	St Bernadette’s	9.15 am	Frank Almond (Birthday Anniversary)
Wednesday	St Marie’s	7.00 pm	Golden Wedding (Dorothea & Michael McGuire)
Thursday	St Bernadette’s	9.15 am	Reginald Naylor (LD)
Friday	St Marie’s	9.15 am	Fr Michael Knight (LD)
6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year	A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: ‘If you want to, you can cure me.’ (Mark 1:40)		
Saturday	St Bernadette’s	5.30 pm	Mary Almond
	St Marie’s	7.00 pm	Roy Johnson (Anniversary)
Sunday	St Bernadette’s	9.30 am	Ruby Wedding (Margaret & Tony Quinn)
	St Marie’s	11.00 am	People of the Parish

**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](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)

[www.twitter.com/stmstb](http://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](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.

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

## **This weekend:**

We welcome Canon Brendan Alger who will be saying all Masses while Fr John is away from the parish.

### **Special collection at all Masses for the Catholic Education Service.**

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

Sunday: **Vocations Team monthly discernment meeting** at St Mary's Lowe House, St Helens at 5.00 pm, followed by the Youth Alive Mass. Contact Fr Preston, 01942 673753.

## **This week**

Wednesday: **Standish Church Men's Fellowship** meeting at the Globe Inn, Standish at 8.00 pm. "Archiving Wigan's Heritage" is the talk, followed by a buffet supper. Cost £10. Please phone Stan, 426638 to order the buffet. All profit to charity.

Friday: **Coffee morning** in aid of Standish-Remel Link in St Marie's Church Hall from 9.30 am to raise funds to help pay for outings and activities for children from Belarus visiting Standish in June. The children will be staying with host families in our parish community. All welcome.

## **Next weekend:**

Saturday: **Soulcare Meditation**, a taste of silence, listening prayer at St Teresa's, Upholland, 10.00 am-1.00 pm.

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

Sunday: **Service for the celebration of Marriage and Family** at St Mary's, Leyland at 3.00 pm. Principal Celebrant, Archbishop Patrick Kelly.

Sunday: Archdiocesan Mass for **World Day of Prayer for the Sick** in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King at 3.00 pm. Celebrant, Bishop Tom Williams. All welcome.

**Thank you for your offerings**  
£1,580.56.

## **Bonus Ball**

No.1 - CK/VJ - £18.

## **CAFOD**

CAFOD collection at St Marie's next weekend. The Lenten Fast Day will be on Friday 2 March with the CAFOD collection on 3 and 4 March. Fast day envelopes will be available the previous weekend.

## **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. The parish has been asked to provide the leader, two readers, musicians and refreshments. Contact Krystyna Pilkington, 425347.

## **Ministry of Reconciliation**

Fr John McLoughlin will be leading a series of three informative talks for all parishes in the Pastoral Area on Tuesdays 7, 14 and 21 February, 7.15 pm to 9.00 pm at St John Rigby Catechetical Centre (St. Richards Parish, Liverpool Road, Skelmersdale), entitled Christ's Ministry of Reconciliation. Free entry, donations welcome. Reconciliation truly is a sacrament for our time!

## **Queen's Diamond Jubilee**

The parish is to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Monday 4 June in the 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.

## **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.

## **Church Development Fund**

Subs can be paid after Masses at St Marie's this weekend. Please ensure that subs are paid in full.

## **Children's Liturgy Group**

St Bernadette's Children's Liturgy Group is to hold a 'Come and join us, see what we do and how' event at 17 Newgate Avenue, Appley Bridge on Wednesday 15 February at 7.45 pm for anyone interested in becoming a leader or helper of the Group. Contact Mary B, 253380 or 07790 964846 or e-mail marybhill17@btinternet.com.

## **Thank you party**

Helpers at St Bernadette's and St Marie's are invited to attend a 'Thank you' party in St Marie's Church Hall on Tuesday, 21 February at 7.30 pm.

All helpers are requested to sign the list at the back of Church if they intend to be present.

## **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.

There is also a one day meeting on Saturday, 18 February for people who would find difficulty in attending the six meetings. This will use some of the material from the full course.

## **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 **St Marie's Sanctuary Lamp** For guidance.

## **Baptisms**

This weekend, we welcome a new member to our Catholic Church community when Thomas Joseph Maddison is baptised during the 9.30 am Mass. Congratulations!

## **Dates for your diary**

Sunday, 19 February: **Songs of Praise** at St Bernadette's at 3.00 pm.

Sunday, 19 February: **Annual Civic Mass** in the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King 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.