



±
Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church
Catlow Hall Street, Oswaldtwistle
Lancashire
BB53EZ

Parish Priest: Rev Fr. S D O'Brien
Tel: 01254-232433



Sunday 5th September 2021
Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear brothers and sisters,

Before we reflect on the fifth and final Luminous Mystery of the Rosary this week, I would like to remind people about our parish feast on Wednesday. It will be a special day for prayer and thanksgiving to God. Thanks for our faith that continues to bring us before the Tabernacle, before His Real Presence. Thanks for the blessings we have surprisingly found during these difficult times. Thanks for the graces that He has given to us to be able to face the challenges the pandemic has brought. Thanks for all the parishioners who have kept the doors of St. Mary's open during the last 18 months. Thanks for those people whose work has been seen and those who have been busy under the radar.

A grateful member of our parish family sent the following words in a card for all those who have given their time and skills, in all shapes and forms:

***'To all the good people who made it possible for the church to stay open for Holy Mass;
The work you do is very much appreciated. Thank you.'***

I'm sure countless people have thought the same. Therefore on Wednesday I invite everyone to come to St. Mary's and put those thoughts into action, the action of prayer. Prayer of Thanksgiving.

At 6:30pm there will be the Rosary led by myself with a mini reflection for each of the five Glorious Mysteries. The intention will be for the future of our parish. That Catholics, young and old, will come back to the Mass and the Sacraments. That they too will feel the joy and peace which only Jesus can give and that lasts beyond this life.

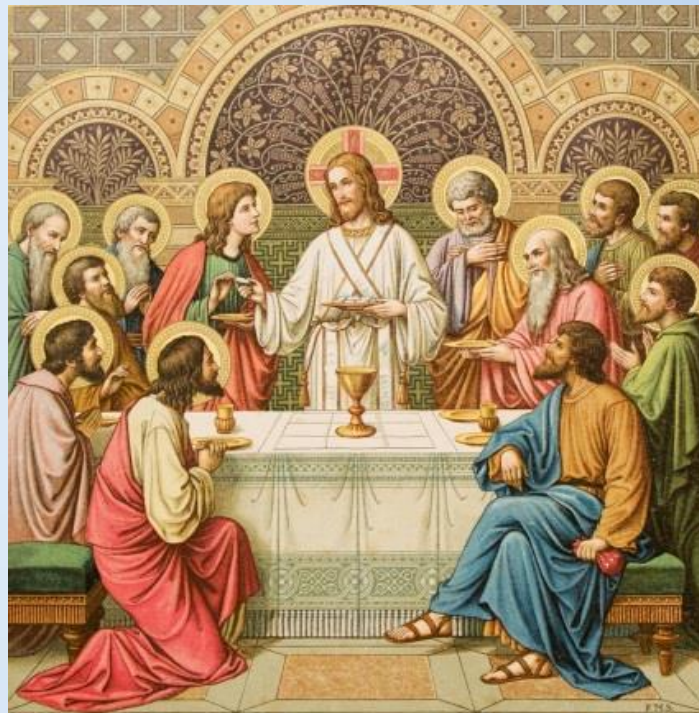
At 7pm there will be the celebration of Holy Mass in honour of Our Lady's Birthday. The intention at the Sacrifice will be Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving for all those who have given themselves to St. Mary's in all manner of ways over the last 18 months.

At 7:30pm there will be a procession to the grotto behind church. Here flowers will be laid before the statue of Our Lady to thank her for being our Mother and looking after our parish family during these uncertain times.

Everyone is invited, everyone is welcome. If you can only spare time for one of the above prayers then that's fine. If you can come to all three then that's great. By coming together on days like this we both encourage and support one other as brothers and sisters in the faith. We are a family.

Let's continue our Rosary reflection with the final Luminous Mystery – The Institution of the Eucharist.

‘Now as they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and when he had said the blessing he broke it and gave it to his disciples. “Take it and eat;” he said “this is my body.” Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks gave it to them. “Drink all of you from this,” he said “for this is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”’
(Matthew 26:26-28)



Cardinal Vincent Nichols wrote these words to help draw people into Jesus' very real love in the Eucharist.

So why does God give us the Eucharist as a sacrifice as well as a sacrament? One way of answering this question is to recall that God ultimately wants us to bring us to heaven, where, as St John tells us, “We shall be like Him.” Now the attribute that we most naturally associate with God is power, but the attribute that is most central to God's knowledge of Himself is love. “God is love,” as St John tells us. So becoming 'like God' does not simply mean sharing in the power of God, but most essentially sharing in the love of God, of loving as God loves. Now love is intimately connected with sacrifice, the notion of a sacrifice being associated with an outpouring of something that is precious to oneself for the sake of another person. So in the Mass, God gives us not only the opportunity to participate in the strength of God by means of a sacrament, but also in the love of God by means of a sacrifice. More specifically, in the Mass we participate in the perfect sacrifice, that of Christ on the cross in which the Son of God gave His life to save us.”

In this luminous mystery of The Institution of the Eucharist let's ask God to help us never take this Sacrament for granted. Let's pray that we may always see the person of Jesus in the Host rather than an object. An object we take habitually because its part of our routine. Let's pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to mould our hearts so that we may see Love Himself in the Blessed Sacrament and be transformed into His vessels of mercy for the world around us.

Masses & Liturgies for the Coming Week...

Wednesday 8th September

St. Mary's Parish Feast Day

6:30pm The Holy Rosary

7pm Mass. The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:30pm Procession to the Grotto in Thanksgiving

"If you ever feel distressed during your day, call upon our Lady, just say this simple prayer:

'Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.'

I must admit, this prayer has never failed me." - Blessed Mother Teresa

Thursday 9th September

10am Votive Mass of the Holy Eucharist

"What wonderful majesty! What stupendous condescension! O sublime humility! That the Lord of the whole universe, God and the Son of God, should humble Himself like this under the form of a little bread, for our salvation" St. Francis of Assisi

Friday 10th September

6pm Mass. Saint Ambrose Barlow, Priest & Martyr (Feast)

St. Ambrose Barlow was born in 1585 at the still standing Barlow Hall in Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester (Fr. Stamp's new parish). He became a Benedictine monk after his studies at Douai and Valladolid, before returning to Manchester to work for the many Catholics of this region. He was famed for his preaching and love of the poor and walking long distances in order to fulfil his ministry. He was imprisoned at least four times before his final arrest and execution at Lancaster in 1641. His skull is preserved at Wardley Hall (our Bishop of Salford's home), and his jaw bone at St. Ambrose, Chorlton-cum-Hardy.

Saturday 11th September

9am – 9:45am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

10am Votive Mass for Our Lady (Celebrated in the Lady Chapel)

"Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much.

You can never love her more than Jesus did." St. Maximilian Kolbe

6:30pm Vigil Mass for The Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 12th September

10am Mass for The Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Following guidance from the diocese, we are still strongly encouraged to wear face masks in church and continue with the NHS Test & Trace system. Thank you for continuing to make St. Mary's a safe and prayerful place for the Glory of God.

Parish Feast – Our Lady of Oswaldtwistle

On Wednesday 8th September the Universal Church celebrates The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Our Lady's Birthday). For us as St. Mary's this Feast day marks when our parish church was consecrated formally in 1948. The memorial stone that records this event is at the side of church (Hawthorn Ave by the small side gate). It was also on this day, through parishioners generous contributions, we restored the statue of Our Lady of Oswaldtwistle and blessed her in 2018. This year on the 8th September there will be Mass at 7pm. The Mass intention will be for all those parishioners who have worked to keep our church open during the Covid pandemic. It will be a Mass giving thanks to God for our parish family and the work people do, big or small, public or behind the scenes. Everyone is invited and everyone is welcome. Let's raise the roof in praise and thanks to God.

Our Lady of Oswaldtwistle, Pray for us.

The Holy Mass in Spanish

Invitation to Spanish Mass:

Salford Cathedral, 250 Chapel Street, M3 5LE.

Every third Sunday of each month at 2pm

Next mass on Sunday 19th September 2021.

All are welcome to join. Refreshments will be served after Mass for sharing.

Information: salfordcathedralenespanolmisa@gmail.com / Mobile: 07475468128

Invitacion a Misa en Español

Catedral de Salford, 250 Chapel Street, M3 5LE

Todos los terceros Domingos de cada mes a las 2pm.

Próxima misa: Domingo 19 de Septiembre 2021.

Todos están bienvenidos a la Misa, Refrigerio compartir siempre al final de la Misa.

Información: salfordcathedralenespanolmisa@gmail.com / Mobil: 07475468128

Readers and Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Thank you to all those who have emailed, written and telephoned to continue to volunteer their time and services as Readers and Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. You'll be contacted in the next few weeks by Jonathan Berry and Liz Burton who have kindly offered to facilitate these areas of parish life. I think it's also important that words of appreciation are said to those who are unable to continue because of changes caused by the pandemic which has affected so many peoples routines, families and personal lives. Thank you for what you have done.

The Covid Vaccine

“Bishop John is urging all adults, who are able to do so, to be vaccinated. Pope Francis has reminded people of the duty to be vaccinated if they are able. The Church is clear that all Catholics can take any of the vaccines on offer with a clear conscience. Even if you are at a low risk of becoming seriously ill, being vaccinated will lower the risk of transmitting the virus to somebody else who might then have a severe reaction or even die. It is particularly important that those in our parishes, clergy and lay-people who visit those who are housebound or otherwise vulnerable are vaccinated.”

Reopening of Salford Cathedral Centre Facilities

We are delighted to announce that Cathedral Centre Books has now reopened. The shop is open 8.30am - 3.30pm Monday to Friday. Orders can be also placed via the shop website or over the phone on 0161 817 2208. The Cathedral Centre Café has also reopened and is open to the public 8.30am - 1.30pm Monday to Friday.

God Bless and keep praying.
Our Lady of Oswaldtwistle, pray for us.
Saint Joseph, pray for us.

Fr. O'Brien

