

Parish of the Assumption of Our Lady

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BULLETIN B 49 – 31TH OCTOBER 2021 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

My dear brothers and sisters,

Last Sunday's concert was a real treat. It's amazing how beautiful the human voice can sound, how uplifting and like all good things very moreish. The Sonare Choir have said that they would love to come back to our lovely Church. So watch this space.

Today at our 10am mass we are receiving five new members into the Catholic Church they are; Ray Parks, Audrey Saunders, Pauline Gillet, Abigail Ashborn and Ian Testro. Please do keep them in your prayers.

On the subject of prayer, the Bishops conference has asked us to pray for God's blessing on the COP26 meeting in Glasgow which begins today and continues until 12th November. There are some prayer cards in church today, please take one, I have printed the prayer below in case we run out of the prayer cards.

I am pleased to announce the return of the Quiz Night, Marc Gravenor will be our Quiz Master again, the date for your diaries is Saturday 20th November at 6.30pm, we should be finished by 9.00pm, so not too late for us older ones. There will be a maximum of 6 people to a team, minimum age is 13. The cost is £5 per person and on this occasion we bring our own food and drink. Please see the list in the porch to register your interest.

God bless you all.

Fr. John

PS. DON'T FORGET OUR CLOCKS GO BACK THIS WEEKEND

TIMES OF THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

Sun	31	All Saints	1000 Mass 1800 Mass	Our Reception Candidates People of the Parish
Tue	2	All Souls Day	1900 Mass	Holy Souls
Wed	3	feria	1000 Mass 1020 Adoration	Holy Souls
Thu	4	St. Charles Borromeo	1000 Mass 1020 Adoration	COP 26
Fri	5	feria	1000 Mass	Holy Souls
Sun	7	32 OT	1000 Mass 1800 Mass	People of the Parish

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fr. John will be available to hear confessions on Tuesday at 6.30pm and Thursday at 10.30am

Prayer for the COP26 climate summit

Loving God,
We praise your name with all you have created.

You are present in the whole universe,
and in the smallest of creatures.

We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us
as stewards of your creation.

May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as they
seek to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society.

Instil in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions
for the poorest and most vulnerable,
and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son. Amen

GOSPEL REFLECTION

How many saints have you met during the course of your life? Some of you may be able to think of a few straight away. But others among you may be a bit surprised at that question. Yet many of us will have met some and have known the privilege of being in the presence of saints. The saints we're thinking of and celebrating on this feast day are not necessarily the great saints we see in our statues and pictures, like Thérèse of Lisieux or Alphonsus Liguori.

The saints we especially think of today are those people who have made an enormous difference in our lives through their utter kindness, their words of encouragement, their ability to offer us forgiveness, the deep love we have felt from their heart. Those people who have been able to reach out to us, even when we feel we have deserved it little or not at all. Those holy people we have had the blessing of having in our lives, for a while, or perhaps for just one moment. They have gone to God and we remember them today.

It is clear that something very important is going to be given to us to think about by the way the Gospel prepares us: "Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them." We are being prepared for the teaching that the Lord is now about to give and a real preparation is necessary for what he is about to say. Some of the teaching is very consoling and comforting: "Happy the gentle" and "Happy those who mourn". But some is more challenging: "Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account." The power of the teaching of Jesus Christ remains to this day and is something we all have been called to follow and embody in our daily lives. Be it in your home, or your office, or your supermarket, or your classroom, or your garage, wheresoever you are, as followers of Jesus you are to be the hands, the feet, the heart, the mouth, the breath of Jesus. No one else can be Jesus in your place, except you: that is why you were called and that is why you received the power in the sacraments of baptism and confirmation.

Being a saint in today's world is beautiful but tough. Living in the world today is beautiful but tough. If we live as saints of the modern age – in other words, as the followers of Jesus – many people observing us may think several things. They might think we are mad and senseless, giving credence to all this nonsense. They might laugh at our foolish notions. But some will watch us and wonder as they see something remarkable going on in our lives. Whatever people think must never take away the truth that is Jesus Christ and the joy of life in his presence. St Alphonsus, when he was giving a retreat to young Redemptorists in formation, said to them, "If you have not come here to become a saint, there is the door there."

During the whole of our lives we have the project of becoming a saint. No one becomes a saint overnight. Each one of us will fall but we must get up again. Then we will fall again, and then we will get up again. All of us will stumble along the way, but in company with and supported by the Lord, and with the Church giving us the sacraments to help us, we will grow closer to our goal and, please God, will become saints.

As you leave the church today, try making a simple resolution for yourself that no one need know, and make that resolution something that will help you become the saintly person that God invites you to be. Perhaps your resolution might be something along these lines: I resolve to be an apostle of peace, at peace with myself and able to bring peace to others. Or: I will be someone who lives with gratitude for every big or small blessing that comes my way. Or: I will be a person who has been blessed with good ears and I will listen to the stories of those around me. All these resolutions, which only we as individuals can make, will make us all stronger, holier people, worthy children of God.