

Our Lady of Light & Saint Osyth

“If you want God to hear your prayers, hear the voice of the poor. If you wish God to anticipate your wants, provide those of the needy without waiting for them to ask you. Especially anticipate the needs of those who are ashamed to beg. To make them ask for alms is to make them buy it.”

~ St Thomas of Villanova ~

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“The faithful do not reap a quick harvest: they have to wait for it to ripen slowly because if God rewarded them quickly, religion would be a career and not the worship of God.” ~ 2nd C homily



“Always prepare yourself well for this Sacred Banquet. Have a very pure heart, and watch over your tongue, for it is on the tongue that the Sacred Host is laid. Carry Our Lord home with you after your thanksgiving, and let your heart be a living tabernacle for Jesus. Visit Him often in this interior tabernacle, offering Him your homage, and the sentiments of gratitude with which divine love will inspire you.”

~ St Paul of the Cross ~

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“We are all sinners. But God heals us with an abundance of grace, mercy and tenderness.” ~ Pope Francis

National Shrine of Our Lady of Light, Spouse of the Holy Spirit

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD ~ 13TH JANUARY, 2019

Canon Peter Writes...

Pope Francis catechesis on The Commandments/ The Ten Words continued: “Our series of catechesis on the Commandments brings us today to the Sixth Word, which addresses the sentimental and sexual dimension, and states: ‘You shall not commit adultery’. The immediate call is to fidelity, and indeed no human relationship is authentic without fidelity and loyalty. One cannot love only as long as it is ‘convenient’; love is truly manifested beyond the threshold of one’s own personal advantage, when one gives unreservedly. As the Catechism states: ‘Love seeks to be definitive; it cannot be an arrangement “until further notice”’. Fidelity is an attribute of a free, mature and responsible human relationship. Friends, too, reveal themselves as authentic because they remain so in all circumstances, otherwise they are not friends. Christ reveals authentic love; the One who lives in the boundless love of the Father is, on this strength, the faithful Friend who welcomes us even when we err, and who always wants good for us, even when we do not deserve it.

“Human beings need to be loved unconditionally and those who do not receive this acceptance carry a certain incompleteness within themselves, often without knowing it. The human heart seeks to fill this void with surrogates, accepting compromises and mediocrity that have only a vague flavour of love. The risk is to call certain bitter and immature relationships ‘love’, with the illusion of finding the light of life in something that, at best, is merely a reflection of it. Thus it can happen, for example, that one overestimates physical attraction, which is itself a gift from God, but aims to pave the way for an authentic and faithful relationship with the person. As Saint John Paul II used to say, the human being ‘is called to a full and mature spontaneity of relationships’, which is ‘the gradual fruit of discerning the impulses in one’s own heart’. It is something that is acquired, because every human being must ‘learn with determination and consistency what the body signifies’.

“The call to married life, therefore, requires a heartfelt discernment of the quality of the relationship and a period of engagement to confirm it. To approach the Sacrament of Marriage, the engaged couple must establish the certainty that the hand of God is in their bond and that He precedes and accompanies them and will enable them to say: With the Grace of Christ I promise to be faithful to you always. They cannot promise each other fidelity ‘in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health’, and to love and honour one another all the days of their lives, solely on the basis of good will or of



the hope that it 'will work out'. They need to ground themselves on the solid terrain of God's faithful Love. And this is why, before receiving the Sacrament of Matrimony, there should be a careful preparation, I would say a catechumenate, because with love one's entire life is at stake, and one does not kid around with love. And the responsibility falls on those who do this: on the parish priest and on the bishop. The preparation must be mature and it takes time. It is not a formality: it is a Sacrament. But it must be prepared with true instruction.

"Indeed, fidelity is a way of being, a style of life. One works with loyalty, one speaks with sincerity, one remains faithful to the truth in one's thoughts, in one's actions. A life woven of fidelity is expressed in

all dimensions and leads to being faithful and reliable men and women in every circumstance.

"However, to achieve such a beautiful life, our human nature is not enough. God's fidelity needs to enter our being, to infect us. This Sixth Word calls us to turn our gaze to Christ whose fidelity can remove from us an adulterous heart and give us a faithful heart. In Him and only in Him, is there love without reservations and second thoughts, absolute and unmitigated giving, and the tenacity of full acceptance.

"From His death and resurrection comes our fidelity, from His unconditional love comes steadfastness in relationships. From communion with Him, with the Father and with the Holy Spirit comes communion among us and the ability to live our bonds in fidelity."

To be continued.

Saturday, 12 th January <i>St Aelred of Rievaulx</i>	9.00am 9.45am 10.10am-10.40am 11.00am 1.30pm	First Holy Communion Session beginning in the church Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Midday Prayer CONFESSIONS Mass ~ George Chubb RIP (K Murphy) Mass in Malayalam preceded by the Rosary
	4.00pm-4.40pm 5.00pm	CONFESSIONS & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Vigil Mass ~ Michael Colmer RIP (Tom & Eileen Murphy)
Sunday, 13 th January <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	8.30am 10.30am	Mass ~ Mary Hyde RIP (Leacy Family) & All Parishioners Mass ~ Denis O'Keeffe RIP (Shirley O'Keeffe)
Monday, 14 th January <i>Beginning Week 1, Year 1</i>	9.45am 11.00am	Novena to Our Lady, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Midday Prayer Mass ~ Elizabeth (Bernie) Michael RIP
Tuesday, 15 th January	*9.30am	Mass at St Clare's ~ Aidan Leacy Intentions <i>All Parishioners welcome</i>
Wednesday, 16 th January		<i>No Mass or Exposition</i>
Thursday, 17 th January ~ <i>St Anthony, Abbot</i>		
Friday, 18 th January	11.00am	Requiem Mass for Sylvia Cowen
Saturday, 19 th January <i>St Wulstan</i>	9.45am-10.40am 9.45am 11.00am	CONFESSIONS Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Midday Prayer Mass ~ Liz Dearman RIP (Family)
	4.00pm-4.40pm 5.00pm	CONFESSIONS & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Vigil Mass ~ Tommy Murphy & Michael McHugh RIP (Teresa & Keith)
Sunday, 20 th January <i>Second Sunday of Year C</i> <i>Peace Day</i>	8.30am 10.30am	Mass ~ Angela Andrews RIP (Ann Killen) & All Parishioners Mass ~ In Thanksgiving (Dorothy Umeh)

TEA AND COFFEE are available after the Sunday morning Masses. Everyone is welcome.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF GIOVANI LUIGI FACCINI who was called Home by almighty God recently. Remember his family, too, in your prayers.

SISTER CARMEL wishes to convey her thanks to all the parishioners for their prayers and good wishes. She is making good progress and is feeling a great deal better.

READERS' ROTAS are ready to be picked up at the back of the church.

PARISHIONERS' CHRISTMAS CARDS Please check and pick up any cards addressed to you in the basket on the table at the back of the church by the notice board – they will be removed this Sunday, 13th January.

PARISH LOTTERY December 29/30: Bonus Ball No 21. No winners.

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Being a Companion of God

When you have learnt to know the true God, you will have a body immortal and incorruptible, like your soul; you will gain the kingdom of heaven, you who lived on earth and knew the king of heaven; freed from passion, suffering and disease, you will be a companion of God and a co-heir with Christ, for you have become a god.

All that you had to suffer as a man, God gave you, because you were a man. All that belongs to God, He has promised to give you, because you have been deified and have become immortal. This is what it means to know yourself, to recognize the God who made you: to know and to be known is the lot of the man called by God.

And so, men, do not be hostile to one another, do not hesitate to return. Christ who is God, supreme over all, has arranged to wash man clean of sin and to make our old nature new. From the beginning He called this old nature His image, and in this way gave you a sign of His love for you. If you obey His sacred commandments, if you become a good follower of Him who is good, you will become like Him, you will be honoured by Him. God is not lacking in anything, and He made you also a God for His glory. ~ St Hippolytus

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“When mind and heart are united in prayer and the soul is wholly concentrated in a single desire for God, then the heart grows warm and the light of Christ begins to shine and fills the inward man with peace and joy. We should thank the Lord for everything and give ourselves up to His will; we should also offer Him all our thoughts and words, and strive to make everything serve only His good pleasure.” ~ St. Seraphim of Sarov

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“Waiting is essential to the spiritual life. But waiting as a disciple of Jesus is not an empty waiting. It is a waiting with a promise in our hearts that makes already present what we are waiting for. We wait during Advent for the birth of Jesus. We wait after Easter for the coming of the Spirit, and after the ascension of

Jesus we wait for His coming again in glory. We are always waiting, but it is a waiting in the conviction that we have already seen God’s footsteps. Waiting for God is an active, alert—yes, joyful—waiting. As we wait we remember Him for whom we are waiting, and as we remember Him we create a community ready to welcome Him when He comes.” ~ Fr Henri Nouwen

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“The words that we do not say become prayers. That is our strength, and we can do some good only by this great method of silence. We speak to God about those to whom we do not speak. ... It is necessary for us to have no more fear of ourselves or of others. It is necessary to look real life in the face. This profound, prolonged look is what God will give us, for God is at the basis of everything. This desire (or this love) is what we seek. This is where God calls us. One arrives at this point only after a long journey that separates us from creatures and from ourselves. ... The great science and the great light here below is silent love. ... In silence, sadness is looking at oneself; joy is looking at God. This is why we have silence: it is necessary to get out of oneself, to think of God instead of thinking about self.”

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PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord of the Harvest, bless young people with the gift of courage to respond to Your call. Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.

Inspire all of Your disciples to mutual love and giving - for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.

Instil those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to You.

Unite us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with You in building Your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace. Amen.

- Pope Francis ~

Adapted from the Message on the 51st World Day of Prayer for Vocations

~ A Carthusian

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~ Items for the Newsletter to be delivered to the presbytery or by email by 10.00am on Wednesday ~

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