

**Catholic Church Communities of
St. Anne & Blessed Dominic and St. Vincent de Paul**



Newsletter

Parish Priest: Fr. Jean Paul ILUNGA

Telephone: 01744 342993

Parish Office: 40 Monastery Road, St. Helens WA9 3ZD Telephone: 01744 811935

Email: parish58@rcaol.org.uk Website: www.stanneblesseddominic.org

Parish Office Hours: Monday and Friday: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

This Sunday:	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
28 th April 2024	Sunday Cycle: Year B	Weekday Cycle: Year 2

THIS WEEKEND					
Saturday	27 th April	5 pm	M	St A&B	Peter Foster, Patricia Dunne
Sunday	28 th April	9:30 am	M	St V	Teresa Arnold
		11:00 am	M	St A&B	People of the Parish
Wednesday	1 st April	12noon	M	St A&B	Thomas Elliot
Friday	3 rd May	12noon	M	St A&B	Maria Daly
Saturday	4 th May	5:00 pm	M	St A&B	Esther Burrill
Sunday	5 th May	9:30 am	M	St V	Parish children for 1st Holy communion
		11:00 am	M	St A&B	People of the Parish

Please remember in your Prayers:

Lately died: Maria Daly, Patricia Dunne, David Trigg, Thomas Elliot.

Anniversary: Esther Burrill, Annie Hill.

Lord, Your Friend Whom You love is Sick:

Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Emily Felber, Keith Shuttleworth, Mandy Bennett, Helen Smith, Louise Kowolik, Barbara Burns, Irene Johnson, Annie Lee, Kathleen Valentine, Joe Delaney, Alex Downey, Sam Glover, Alex McMillan, Alan McMillan, Anne Whitehouse, Moyra Lyon, Christine Terry, Isobelle McDonald, Sister Mado Kabut, Pat Burns, Laura Mahon, Terry Drury, Brian Fortune, Anna Potter, Maria Wallace.

Mission Appeal

We welcome Sr Asmeret of the Comboni Missionary Sisters who has come to make the appeal this weekend. There is retiring collection at all Masses. Thank you for your continued support for evangelisation through missionary work.

Scripture readings are about how partake in the divine life. In Jesus, God lives in us and us in him. Jesus as "the True Vine" illustrates this truth beautifully.

"I am the vine. You are the branches". And to bear fruit we must be pruned, so that we can bear even more. Is it I who bear fruit, or is it Jesus who bears fruit? It is Jesus in me, and me in Jesus; we are one in each other. Together we bear fruit and give life. This relationship is the heart of the Gospel, that is what Jesus came into this world for: communicating life to one another. God is life and gives life. We, too, are called to give life. And in order to give life, we must be pruned.

The vine is pruned. The prunings are all the moments of loss and grief; loss of work, relationship, reputation, health, all those accidents that seem to take away life. We feel crushed, depressed, broken. We are like vines in winter: pruned back to a small stump of wood; appear to be completely without life. But when spring arrives, tiny buds appear, and then the leaves, and then the grapes: There is life!

Each of us lives those dark moments of loss that bring grief. It is never easy when the vine of our lives is cut back and life disappears. Jesus is telling us that there is pruning, yes, but it is in order that we might bear more fruit. We must pass through various crises to find the life of the Spirit. The danger for us is to attach ourselves to forms of life that are not the life of Jesus and the Spirit. We need to let ourselves be drawn into communion with God in order to receive the life of God. We need to become like Jesus.

While Jesus was suffering and in pain, he was always in relationship with his Father. He never leaves this relationship of love. He is always with his Father, saying, "Not my will, but yours." All that he desires is the will of his father. Although to become like Jesus can also mean for us to enter into anguish and agony as he did, we are called to do the will of Jesus and the will of the Father, and to trust that he is always there with us and in us.

Wednesday 1st May 2024: 10 years since the Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon was installed as Archbishop and Metropolitan. Please let us support him with our prayers in his heavy responsibility to lead us in our archdiocese of Liverpool in these challenging times.

Thursday 2nd May: First Confession for children preparing for their First Holy communion in our parish communities. Venue: St Vincent de Paul church, Derbyshire Hill Road, Parr.
Time: 4:30 pm. **First Confession is mandatory.**

Saturday 4th May: Feast of the English martyrs. They came from every walk of life; there are among them rich and poor, married and single, women and men. They are remembered for the example they gave of consistency in their faith, and courage in the face of persecution.

Friday 10th May: Asylum, Refugee and Trafficking workshop.
Following the Catholic Bishops' Conference publication of "Love the Stranger", Bishop Tom Neylon is inviting us to learn more about asylum seekers, refugees and trafficked people.
Venue: St Margaret Clitherow Centre, Sefton Park, L17, 1AA; Time: 10.30 – 4:00 pm.

Visiting the Sick and Housebound. Please let Fr Jean Paul know if any sick or housebound needs receiving the sacraments of healing (Confession and Anointing of the sick).