



St Patrick's

NEWSLETTER

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (p.594)

YEAR B

THIS SUNDAY'S REFLECTION

In the 1980's I made several overland trips to Lourdes in the South of France. Normally we would spend four or five days on each leg of the journey, taking in some scenery, fine weather and good French food on the way. Every year we would stay for at least one night with a family who lived in a small hamlet outside of the city of Tours, a place called Chanceaux-sur-Choisille. They had a small country house set in sprawling slightly unkempt grounds which were a haven for animals and birds, including some impressive peacocks and peahens. I always found it very easy to pray when I was there. There was something special about the place. For me, it really was a holy place – not in the way that great Cathedrals or Basilicas could be described as being “holy” – but holy in the sense that I never ever felt as close to God as I did when I was there. Even now, as I look back with the usual misty-eyed rose-hued perspective that we all have whenever we look back to the “good old days”, I remember how important my visits to that place turned out to be. I came away recharged and revitalised, energised and invigorated. I have found other places since, but none of them compare to Chanceaux-sur-Choisille.

In today's Gospel Mark tells us that Jesus had been to visit Simon's mother-in-law. “In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went of to a lonely place and prayed there.” Jesus saw the need to have moments in his life when he could be alone in the presence of God. Whilst it is true that we can find and pray to God anywhere – be it the kitchen, workplace or stuck in traffic – we need those private moments of quietude when He becomes the sole focus of our whole being. We need somewhere that is our “holy” place – our tabernacle. When we do find it, and we most certainly will if we look, then we will find the whole atmosphere of the place is pervaded with the divine presence.

We will also quickly learn that when we visit that place we become different. We will grow calmer and quieter. We will relax in His presence and we will see what it is that God offers us. It is very good to have this spot, a place where we can strip away some of the pretence that we normally use as a protective layer that keeps us from hurt. When we strip away this pretence a small miracle occurs – not only do we find God, but we also find ourselves. It's practically impossible to see your reflection is running water – but find some still water and look at your reflection. The more still and calm the water becomes then the truer the reflection. When our lives are full of clutter, when we have no time for ourselves, then we have no room for God. We never find Him and we never find ourselves.

The crowds made great demands of Jesus. St Mark tells us that when the disciples found him they almost rebuke him “Everybody has been looking for you”. They are almost saying “What do you mean by going off like this – everyone wants you”. Jesus will have none of it – not only does he head off to the neighbouring towns, but we also know from the other references in the Gospel that “he would always go off to some lonely place where he could be alone and pray.” Life will make similar demands on us. So much to do, so little time, but the best investment of our time is in pursuit of that lonely place, that holy place, our tabernacle where we can sit in His presence and drink of his life-giving water.

CENACOLO

Prayer Group meets in the Church every Monday from 7.00pm-8.30pm The group prays for those who are most afflicted by addiction and seeks to bring them to the healing love of the Lord. All welcome.

LEGION OF MARY

Meets every Wednesday 7-8.15pm

CONFESSION

Monday – Friday 12.15 – 12.40
Saturday 17.30 – 18.00

SOS PRAYER LINE



“Because nothing is impossible to God”.

Request for prayer answered personally by telephone 7 days a week 7pm-11pm

0207 434 9211

ADORATION

Monday – Friday 07.00 – 08.00
Monday – Friday 13.30 – 18.00
Saturday 19.00 – 21.00

DAILY PRAYER (Monday – Friday)

Morning Prayer 08.00
Evening Prayer 17.45

SUNDAY 05.02.12	11.00	Frank McCaffrey R.I.P
5th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	14.15	<i>Cantonese Mass</i>
	17.00	Parishioners
	18.00	<i>Spanish Mass</i>
MONDAY 06.02.12	12.45	Damian de Aspey R.I.P
<i>SS Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs</i>		
TUESDAY 07.02.12	12.45	Matilda R.I.P
WEDNESDAY 08.02.12	12.45	Fr Stephen Bartlett R.I.P
<i>St Jerome Emiliani</i>		
THURSDAY 09.02.12	12.45	Friends & Benefactors
FRIDAY 10.02.12	12.45	Mr Renaghan R.I.P
<i>St Scholastica, Virgin</i>		
SATURDAY 11.02.12	16.00	<i>Portuguese Mass</i>
<i>Our Lady of Lourdes</i>		
	18.00	

MUSIC for 11am Sunday Mass

Entrance Hymn **No. 348:** *Praise to the Lord the Almighty*

Mass: **Missa Aeterna Christi Munera** by G.P da Palestrina (1525-1594) (*Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Benedictus*)
(*Agnus Dei - Plainchant Missa No XI "Orbis Factor"*)

Psalm Response: **Praise, praise the Lord, who heals the broken hearted.**

Offertory Motet: **Ave Maria** by Jacob Arcadelt (1505-1568) arr PL Dietsch (1808-1865)

Communion Motet: **Ave Verum** by E.Elgar (1857-1934)

Trans: *Hail the true body, born of the Virgin Mary: You who truly suffered and were sacrificed on the cross for the sake of man.
From whose pierced flank flowed water and blood: Be a foretaste for us in the trial of death.*

O sweet, O merciful, O Jesus, Son of Mary.

Recessional Hymn **No. 284:** *Now Thank We All Our God*

Recessional Voluntary: **Sonata No 3** by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

OPEN HOUSE

Open House has resumed and is running as normal on a Tuesday and Thursday evening
If you are interested in volunteering and being part of this outreach service
please be in touch with the parish office.

ST PATRICK'S EVANGELISATION SCHOOL - SPES



Last week we engaged in lectures based on the writings of St. Paul. Our inspiring lecturer, Fr. Richard Parsons, really brought the work of St. Paul to life. As one of the first evangelists, St. Paul had a deep passion for spreading the Christian faith and we can certainly learn from his example. Next week we will have lectures on the theme of 'Evangelisation and Apologetics.' We also look forward travelling to Leeds to participate in a Youth 2000 retreat next weekend. Please pray for us as we continue to pray for you. God bless.

ST PATRICK'S NOTICES & OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY (22ND FEB) - Mass will be at 8am, 12.30pm, 1.05pm and 6pm. It is a day of fasting and abstinence. 1st Sunday of Lent retiring collection will be in support of CAFOD

ST PATRICK'S DAY - This year will be the first time that we will have celebrated St Patrick's Day in the restored church. Friday 16th March 6pm Vigil Mass, Saturday 17th March Masses at 8am, 12noon after which there will be a parish party in the community centre. Please bring food and drink to share. And also Mass at 6pm.

CHURCH CLEANING – Thank you very much for all who helped at the last session, there must have been about 12 of us in the church and it made a great difference. We have a beautiful church but it does need serious maintenance and cleaning and these monthly volunteer efforts are very important. The next session will be on **Wednesday 8th February 2012 6-8.30pm** please put it into your diary.

140TH DAY OF FOUNDATION - The Congregation of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God are celebrating with Holy Mass at St Patrick's Church, Soho Square, the 140th day of Foundation on 11 February 2012. You are cordially invited to this event at 2pm and to light refreshments afterwards in the Parish Community centre.

ARCHBISHOP'S MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY - Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 26 May 2012 at 3.00 pm - The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th and 60th+ wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2012. If you qualify, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

AFTERNOON'S TRAINING SESSION IN THE PRACTICE OF LECTIO DIVINA on Saturday, 10th March. The training will be given by Dom David Foster from Downside Abbey. It is an opportunity for participants to deepen our prayer lives through the Word of God. All are welcome to attend. The session takes place in the Hinsley Room at Westminster Cathedral from 1-6pm and we are asking for contributions of £10 to include lunch. We would ask guests to tell us of their wish to attend by emailing young.friends@mail.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE CHARITY CPCP- full counselling training giving and we are beginning training soon. We begin with basic and advanced counselling skills. Also if you have finished with your baby items or could by any baby toiletries etc please donate them for someone who has no money for these things. We can collect. Contact Agnes Rees 02076385440 or E: agnes.rees@citypregnancy.org.uk