

ST. BERNARD'S PARISH BULLETIN

4th March 2012

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

"Day of prayer for candidates for the Sacraments"

MASS; page 7 / Mass Page 151/ Creed 11/ Euch Prayer 3

Hymns: 365, 354, 711, 657

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THIS WEEK IN CHURCH

Sunday	4 th March	Second Sunday of Lent Stations of the Cross	10.00am 6.00pm 4.00pm	Mass
Monday	5 th March	Mass of Lent	9.00am	Mass
Tuesday	6 th March	Requiem: Irene France Mass of Lent	10-00am 6-700pm 7.00pm	Exposition & Confessions Mass
Wednesday	7 th March	Mass of Lent (Ss Perpetua & Felicity)	9.00am	Mass
Thursday	8 th March School Mass	Mass of Lent (St John of God)	9.00am	Mass
Friday	9 th March	Early Mass of Lent " An hour with the Lord" (St Frances of Rome)	6.30am 6.30-7.30pm	Mass Exposition and confessions
Saturday	10 th March	Mass of Lent	12 noon 11.00-12 noon	Mass Exposition and confessions
Sunday	11 th March	First Sunday Of Lent Stations of the Cross	10.00am 6.00pm 4.00pm	Mass

+ I offer our prayers and sympathy to the family and friends of Irene France, who has died, may she rest in the peace of the Lord. +

Holy Father's Intentions for March:

- Contribution of Women. That the whole world may recognise the contribution of women to the development of society.
- Persecuted Christians. That the Holy Spirit may grant perseverance to those who suffer discrimination, or death for the name of Christ, particularly in Asia.

MY dear people, the picture of the Prodigal Son by Rembrandt, is perhaps one which has become his most popular over the last few years; our copy is very good but we obviously don't get the excitement of witnessing the artist's brush strokes close up and smelling the richness of the canvas. Even so what we do get is the sense of homecoming which is at the heart of the story, and perhaps that is where we should focus today. There is not a sin or weakness that God will not forgive if we only turn to him, no matter how bad we feel about ourselves or even others known to us, God is more than willing to welcome us: "there is more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner!" A lot of those we are worried about at times are really not all that far away, it's not that they are lost, but more likely that they are playing in another street. Patience is the key, patience and prayer. It is also important that we don't become resentful like the other character in the story, but rather ever open to all possibilities. God never gives up on us, we should teach us never to give up on ourselves or on others. You know when you close a door on someone it takes a lot of effort to open it again. That is why it is important always to give folks a go, yes at times you may feel like a door mate, but there is nothing like a door mate which has welcome written on it. At times we can feel we are being taken for granted at others that we are being used and at others being promised change that does not last: there can be disappointments but I am reminded from the story that long before the son came home the father was on the lookout for his return. Long before the change occurred in the boy, the father was already optimistic that his prayer would be answered. Could that be our challenge today as we pray for our own prodigals? Did someone once pray for our return? God is so full of surprises perhaps our Lenten journey may be that he wants us never to give up, always to keep the door open, after all you never know when we may need to sneak in! God Bless mjk

Lenten Alms: the box to collect your sacrifices is in front of the picture of the Prodigal Son, and this year will go towards the work of Cornerstone and the Morning Star Hostel.

LENT 2012: BIBLE STUDY begins this Wednesday 7th March and then 14th, 21st, and 28th in the Parish Hall. Commencing at 7-30pm; this year they will be led by Pastor John Owen: A good initiative for Lent.

Stations of the Cross: don't forget Sunday's at 4pm, plenty room for all.

Rosary: after Mass, on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday thanks to the Legion for taking on this responsibility.

CONFESSIONS: don't miss out on the extra Confession times; don't leave it till the last minute.

Bidding Prayers: could our wonderful team of Bidding Prayer composers please make sure I have them be Friday evening please. Thank you.

Masses received this week: Patrick Grennan, Bridie Hall, Kevin Breckon, Joe Jones, Joseph Conrey, John Joseph Neary, Edward Moore, In hon. of the Sacred Heart, Albert Joyce, Marguerita Jones.

Sick: please commend to your prayers the sick and housebound of the Parish especially, Bishop Terence Brain, Vickie Connell, John O'Brien, Alan O'Donnell, Fr. Vincent Cavey, Peter Burton, Tullio Biasetti, Lannis Agnew, Anthony Callaghan, Pat Preston, Eileen Connor, Christopher Makin, Clare Keane, Marguerita Jones, Nora Adams, Mary Philbin, Ciera Hulbert, Ellen Leech, Adam Cooke, Antonio Puro, Sr. Susan Whitehead, Kitty McIntyre,

The Sacrament of Baptism: if you have a child for baptism, please let us know ASAP, so we can make the usual arrangements. Our next meeting for Baptism will THIS Tuesday 6th March in the Presbytery at 7.30pm.

Getting married this year? Thank you to all who have been in contact over the last few weeks: the list of those getting married here this year can be seen on the board at the back of Church. If you are planning to get married next year and have not seen Father yet, please give him a call.

Special Anniversaries: If you are celebrating a special wedding anniversary during the year, 25th, 40th, 50th or 60th please let Father know as during the year we will be having a special celebration. So far three couples have given details, final call this week.

REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

- **YOUNG AT HEART** - Mondays - Parish Hall 1.00pm to 3.00pm
- **LEGION OF MARY** - Parish Hall - Tuesdays - 7.45pm
- **DIVINE MERCY** - Sacristy - Thursdays - 7.30pm.

JOURNEY IN FAITH: if you are interested in becoming a Catholic or knowing more about our faith Thursday March 8th 2-3pm in the Presbytery.

Thank you to all who came along to the quiz night, the packed hall allowed for a terrific, competitive, atmosphere. The total raised was £455, which will go towards equipment needed for the Parish Hall. Well done everyone. A BIG THANK YOU Our next event will be A RACE NIGHT. Watch this space for further information.

Social and entertainment Group: if you are interested in helping in putting together the Parish Diary and helping out, please do come along to our first get together on Monday 12th March in the Parish Hall at 7.00pm.

Caritas Diocese of Salford, the charitable arm of the diocese, is looking for runners to join Team Caritas in the Great Manchester 10K Run on 20th May. If you're interested in helping raise vital funds for disadvantaged people in your diocese, please contact Mary, the Fundraising Officer, on 01618172252 or fundraising@caritassalford.org.uk

CAFOD: This Lent **CAFOD** invites us to help people living without one of God's most precious resources - clean water. Please return your envelopes, **Fairtrade** Raffle, books & bric-a-brac, continuing in the Parish Hall today **Sunday 4th March** in the Parish Hall. Every £1 we raise will be **matched** by the Government. - a tremendous opportunity!

It's **FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT** & **Fairtrade** makes a huge difference to farmers far away who supply us with food - please support them whenever possible. A film on YouTube explains it all brilliantly www.fairtrade.org.uk in 2 minutes.

ST. JOSEPH'S VICTORIA PARK, Past pupils **MASS & RE-UNION**, St. Margaret Mary's, New Moston, Saturday 17th March at 3.00pm

PARISH MINISTRIES GROUPS

		Offertory	Eucharistic Ministers Sunday 10.00am	Counting	Tea /Coffee
This week	4 th March	4	1	4	3
Next week	11 th March	5	2	5	4
		Eucharistic Ministers Sunday 6.00pm	Eucharistic Ministers Weekdays	Cleaning	Eucharistic Ministers Tuesday 7.00pm
This week	4 th March	1a	2	1	3
Next week		2a	3	2	4

Signed Mass Cards can be obtained from Bridie Close, 44 Shawbrook Rd, during the week or on Sundays from the Bookstall (back of Church) or the Piety Stall (Parish Hall). Items for the Bulletin can be left at the Presbytery or emailed to anniateresa@hotmail.com by Thursday for inclusion the following Sunday.

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS

Manchester Royal Infirmary - Fr. D. Egan tel: 276 4247 (MRI) and 224 1895 (home).

The Christie - Fr. M. O'Brien - tel: 446 3097

Wythenshawe Hospital - Fr Saji Kuriakose and Sr Bernadette - tel: 291 2297.

Alternatively ask the ward staff to inform the Chaplain.