

PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Reg. Charity 242380

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The Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A – 23 February 2014

Entrance: *O Lord, I trust in your merciful love. My heart will rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me*

Responsorial psalm: *The Lord is compassion and love*

Gospel: *Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!*

Communion: *I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High*

LENTEN MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER FRANCIS 2014 (part 1)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As Lent draws near, I would like to offer some helpful thoughts on our path of conversion as individuals and as a community. These insights are inspired by the words of Saint Paul: *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich"* (2 Cor 8:9). The Apostle was writing to the Christians of Corinth to encourage them to be generous in helping the faithful in Jerusalem who were in need. What do these words of Saint Paul mean for us Christians today? What does this invitation to poverty, a life of evangelical poverty, mean for us today?

First of all, it shows us how God works. He does not reveal himself cloaked in worldly power and wealth but rather in weakness and poverty: *"though He was rich, yet for your sake he became poor ..."*. Christ, the eternal Son of God, one with the Father in power and glory, chose to be poor; he came amongst us and drew near to each of us; he set aside his glory and emptied himself so that he could be like us in all things (cf. Phil 2:7; Heb 4:15). God's becoming man is a great mystery! But the reason for all this is his love, a love which is grace, generosity, a desire to draw near, a love which does not hesitate to offer itself in sacrifice for the beloved. Charity, love, is sharing with the one we love in all things. Love makes us similar, it creates equality, it breaks down walls and eliminates distances. God did this with us. Indeed, Jesus *"worked with human hands, thought with a human mind, acted by human choice and loved with a human heart. Born of the Virgin Mary, he truly became one of us, like us in all things except sin."* (Gaudium et Spes, 22).

By making himself poor, Jesus did not seek poverty for its own sake but, as Saint Paul says *"that by his poverty you might become rich"*. This is no mere play on words or a catch phrase. Rather, it sums up God's logic, the logic of love, the logic of the incarnation and the cross. God did not let our salvation drop down from heaven, like someone who gives alms from their abundance out of a sense of altruism and piety. Christ's love is different! When Jesus stepped into the waters of the Jordan and was baptized by John the Baptist, he did so not because he was in need of repentance, or conversion; he did it to be among people who need forgiveness, among us sinners, and to take upon himself the burden of our sins. In this way he chose to comfort us, to save us, to free us from our misery. It is striking that the Apostle states that we were set free, not by Christ's riches but by his poverty. Yet Saint Paul is well aware of the *"the unsearchable riches of Christ"* (Eph 3:8), that he is *"heir of all things"* (Heb 1:2).



Dates for Your Diary

Please come along and enjoy tea and coffee in the parish room after the Sunday morning Masses

**The numbers drawn for week 38 were 4, 46, 31, 6, 28, 32, 9 & 11 – one winner
Mrs Aileen Hepworth
Prize money for week 39 is £40.00 and four numbers to be drawn**

Second collection today: is for the parish redecoration work

Tuesday Devotions: the Divine Mercy Chaplet before Mass; the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary afterwards

National day of prayer and fasting for life: on Wednesday February 26th, please join us in a day of prayer and fasting for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this country, and to safeguard the pro-life movement from all attacks – both worldly and spiritual. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. See poster for more information

Soldier to Saint: is an explosive, original one-act play by RISE Theatre, packing a powerful punch and bringing to life the inspirational story of Saint Alban, Britain's first Christian martyr. Be immersed into the gritty world of London 2020 where religious expression has been made illegal. John Alban is an ordinary soldier whose life is about to change forever. As Christians are forced into hiding and rioting hits the streets, John strikes an unlikely friendship with a fugitive priest – a friendship that could cost him his life. The Belmont Parish is delighted to be hosting the professional theatre company, and their exciting, original one act play 'Soldier to Saint' at Hedley Lodge on Friday 28th March at 7.30 pm. The performance is suitable for ages 12+. For tickets priced at £6.00 please contact the Parish Office. Tickets are also available to buy online at www.risetheatre.ticketsource.co.uk

Wales and the Marches Catholic History Society: "The Wales National Great Irish Famine Memorial" a talk by Barry Tobin on Sunday March 2nd at 3pm. Venue: St. David's Sixth Form College, Tygwyn Road, Cardiff. All are welcome to this free talk. Further information: Tricia Coulthard. 02920595899. Also our website: www.wamchs.btck.co.uk

Mercy Above All: the Lent Retreat: we get to the heart of the simple, profound and radiant teaching of Jesus through Matthew's Gospel. March 3 – 6 with Dom Brendan Thomas at Belmont Abbey

40 Days For Life: from 5th March through to 13th April you are invited to join other Christians for forty days of prayer and fasting for an end of abortion. For those able to, you are also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a forty day vigil opposite the BPAS clinic in St Mary Street, Cardiff, from 8am to 8pm daily. If you would like to volunteer to help or would like more information, please contact Clare Jackson on 07580275698

Youth Retreat: from the 7th-9th March, AWAKEN, the National Retreat for the youth of Wales will be running at St. David's College, Cardiff. Join with hundreds of young Catholics aged 16-35 and experience an incredible weekend of great music and talks from renowned speakers. The event is primarily for young people between the ages of 16- 35. This retreat is a truly unique opportunity to grow in your faith. For Further Information: email: info@youth2000.org or call: 020 7221 2124 or Facebook: www.facebook.com/youth2000

Pastoral Care Project: a week of Prayer & Awareness of Dementia 12-19th March; please show your support for your Brothers and Sisters by praying for all those who experience the effects of Dementia. Resources for Prayer Groups etc are available to download from www.pastoralcareproject.org.uk the Pastoral Care Project website

In Benedict's Footsteps: a pilgrimage to places associated with St Benedict – Rome, Subiaco, Monte Cassino – from 12th to 19th October 2014. Please see Fr Cenydd for more details

Teacher Vacancy at OLSM: Our Lady and St Michaels School Abergavenny are looking for a practising Catholic teacher to cover 2 days a week in Year 5 from March 1st to the end of the summer term. Interested? Please phone Head Teacher Rosalind Trigg on 01873735080 for more details

Hospital visits: if you need to receive the sacraments in hospital please contact Fr Cenydd as normal

Seventh week of Ordinary Time

Psalter: Week III

Today:

9:30 am Thanksgiving (AC)
11:30 am William Johns
6:30 pm

Monday 24 February 9:30 am Mass – Łukasz Maziarski
Feria

Tuesday 25 February 7:00pm Mass – Holy Souls
Feria

Wednesday, 26 February 9:30 am Mass – Łukasz Maziarski
Feria

Thursday, 27 February 9:30 am Mass – Łukasz Maziarski
Feria

Friday, 28 February 7:00 pm Mass – Jim Smith
Feria

Saturday, 1 March 9:30 am Confessions
St David, Bishop 10:30 am Mass – Joseph Wood

Sunday, 2 March (Eighth Sunday of OT)

9:30 am June Lapsley
11:30 am Thanksgiving (CB)
6:30 pm Celebrated by Fr Michael Evans

Please pray for:

The sick, especially Ann Morris, Brian Morris, Alice Jones, Sue Watkins, Julie Martin, Shelaigh Fawcett, Dymphna and John O'Neil, Andrew Walker, Natalie Chadwick, Sylvia Jones, Sylvia Aiello, Chris Turville, Eva Zakrzewska, Pat Franklyn, John O'Donahue, Sr Catherine Jackson OP, Joe Carroll, Dorothy Dzioba, Stan Morris, Joan Sheeran, Glyn Matthews, Sam Thomson, Ian O'Donahue, Dr Mike O'Kane, Madeleine Went, Anna Foggo, Catherine Rollings, Margaret Anderson, Sheila Seamarks, Rosemary Turnbull-Tarn and all in our prayer book

The recently dead, especially Barry Britton, Janet McNamara, John Hodgson, Jason Houten, Łukasz Maziarski, Ivan Champion, Karen Royer, Ann Meaker, Peter Tonner and Mary McGowan

Those whose anniversary falls in the month of February, including: William Johns, Bill Morris, Agnes Cooper, Emil Bieler, Mary Mulraine, Joan Keogh, Lucy Dale, Michael Wadley, David Stanton, Alexandra Podmore, Joseph Lambert, Paul Harrison, Mary Anderson, Jay Bourne, Elizabeth McColgan, Phyllis Price, Trevor Tipping, Margaret Jones, Edward Dzierza, Teresa Govett and Alice Deans

Love may not make the world spin around, but it certainly makes a lot of people dizzy

There is always a lot to be thankful for if you take time to look for it. For example, I am sitting here thinking how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt

At an antiques auction in Leeds, a wealthy American announced that he had lost his wallet containing £5,000, and that he would give a reward of £50 to the person who found it. From the back of the hall a Yorkshire voice shouted, "I'll give £100!"

Rota Schedule for 28 February to 6 March 2014

Flower Arrangers: L Brazewell

Cleaners: Volunteers

Ushers: 9:30am A Rollings & volunteer

11:30am D Lissaman & D Schofield

6:30pm C Milsom & M Netting

Readers:

9:30am F Keogh

11:30am V Thomas

6:30pm R Maloney

Eucharistic Ministers:

9:30am H Fishlock, T Bray, (F Keogh)

11:30pm E Cotterell, M Davies, J McGowan

6:30pm R Jones, J Winter, C Sharland

Altar Linen:

A Whitehead

Polish Information:

Następna Msza Św w języku polskim odbędzie się w niedzielę, 23 lutego godz 16:00

Finance:

The collection on Sunday, 16th February came to **£357.43** – thank you

