

Parish of St Winefride, Lymm

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Newsletter 5 March 2021

Greetings everyone. A couple of sunny days earlier in the week were enough to cheer up me and quite a few other people too, with snowdrops everywhere and the bright yellow daffodils struggling to venture out into the rather cold world, but reminding us that 'meteorological spring' is here and generally things can only get better. The Bishop sent me details of a suggested muted celebration of Easter, which will certainly take some thoughtful planning. People usually seek forgiveness for their sins at this time of year. I'm willing to organize a socially-distanced and hygienically safe opportunity for confessions. When would be the best time for that? Saturday does not seem to be too popular, to judge from the last twelve years. Suggestions please. Of course you can make your own appointment any time. And if more people want to come to Mass (some had to be turned away from our two Masses this week), by asking for 9.00am when you phone on Wednesday afternoons we can return to three services.

Lent is observed traditionally by the three strands: of **Prayer** (spending more quality time with God), **Fasting** (restraining and disciplining our appetites in some appropriate way), and **Alms deeds** (sharing what we have with those who have not). It was encouraging to find that at least the CAFOD collection (just from those at church) amounted to **£1106!!!** That does not include the amount donated online, which of course we will never know. (To give online directly, go to www.cafod.org.uk or by post to 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB. May God bless you all for your thoughtful generosity.

GOOD LUCK TO OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR TEACHERS RETURNING TO SCHOOL THIS WEEK. KEEP SAFE, EVERYBODY.

Please pray for those who are unwell at present, and for those whose task it is to care for them; and also for the repose of the souls of those who have died. I have to record the death (peacefully at home on Tuesday) of **George Riley**, a long-time member of the SVP and a daily Mass-goer. His funeral is next Friday afternoon. May he rest in peace.

It is already the third weekend in Lent. In the readings at Mass we are reminded of the terms of that Covenant God made with Moses, the Ten Commandments, after the reminder last week of the earlier Covenant with Noah and the rainbow in the sky. Then our thoughts are turned gently towards the 'New and Eternal Covenant', with Paul saying how it is a crucified Christ that he preaches, and John's gospel having Jesus obliquely referring to his future death and resurrection. The main alteration to the Covenant is that even if we don't keep to our side of the bargain by obeying the Law, God's mercy can still be shown to those who want it. Blessed be God forever.

CONGREGATION PARTS OF THE MASS

Entrance: **My eyes are always on the Lord, for he recues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.**

Psalm: **You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.**

Acclamation: **Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory. I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Whoever believes in me will never die. Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory.**

Communion: **The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young, by your altars, O lord of hosts, my king and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.**