

Parish of St Winefride, Lymm

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Thank you for connecting via the website to read this newsletter. It is easy for me to assume that everybody keeps in touch, but I still get messages from people who haven't got t'internet, miss out on progress reports, and don't know about successful arrangements that are in place for weekend Mass. On the other hand I was asked to include this message of gratitude from one of the more mature parishioners. *"Dear Fr Elder, We 'oldies' are rightly side-lined from service at present and it's very strange after decades of being the 'doers', to now be only on the receiving end! We just want to say a huge 'Thank you' to you and all your 'Dream Team Task Force', especially Martin Roberts. You have all created such a welcoming, yet scrupulously safe system, which has made us feel surprisingly at ease. We are very grateful"*. I am delighted to pass on this message.

The theme of the readings at mass this Sunday is not forgiveness, as last week, but more gratitude – mainly gratitude to Almighty God. We can sometimes feel envious of others who are better off, or who are thanked and appreciated more than us. Those labourers in the vineyard who got special favourable treatment, a day's wages for an hour's work, have raised feelings of resentment in the hearts of many real people, not just the characters in the parable. Yet all of us have plenty to thank God for. Our prayers should not always be 'Please God...' but 'Thank you Lord...' Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right and just. Facetiously, we are indeed grateful we don't live in Oregon (a blazing inferno covering 800,000 acres,) or Florida (a hurricane and four months' rainfall in 4 hours!), and it all being a conspiracy by the Democrat party... Nearer to home, we pray for the safety of our children who have started back at school, for the grace of wisdom for government ministers and head teachers, and for all to be sensible.

Thank you all for phoning and booking a place at Mass. Happily have a full house for the Saturday evening Mass, but there is still room at Sunday/Mass. Don't forget, phone Wednesday afternoon from 2.00pm onwards, until 10.00pm. 'Where two or three of you are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of you'.

Sad to report the death of Mr Michael Wright, from High Legh, who was the long-time organist at St John Henry Newman parish, though he did occasionally play here at funerals. We offer his wife our deepest sympathy and ask God to grant him eternal rest.

Mass has been offered for J Norman & family, for the Cooke family, for the repose of the souls of Sally Cooke and Mrs M Watson, and for all sick parishioners, and this weekend for Covid sufferers and John A Malpas.

A kind lady vacuumed the church today. Are any other church cleaners happy to get back into action? I'd love to hear from you. Best wishes again. **Fr Tony Elder**