

ST PAUL'S

ST CLARE'S

Bulletin Highlights

The Baptism of the Lord

12th January 2020



Prayer in Time of Drought

O God, Lord of all creation, by whose power the whole earth came to be. Look upon our parched land, we pray, and bestow upon it abundant rain, that pastures, fields and paddocks, may by your goodness, thrive once more. We offer You this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

New Year's Resolutions



Have you made any New Year's resolutions? If not, there's still time, and Pope Francis has some ideas for you. These are the ten things that he called upon Vatican employees to do:

1. "Take care of your spiritual life, your relationship with God, because this is the backbone of everything we do and everything we are."
2. "Take care of your family life, giving your children and loved ones not just money, but most of all your time, attention and love."
3. "Take care of your relationships with others, transforming your faith into life and your words into good works, especially on behalf of the needy."
4. "Be careful how you speak, purify your tongue of offensive words, vulgarity and worldly decadence."
5. "Heal wounds of the heart with the oil of forgiveness, forgiving those who have hurt us and medicating the wounds we have caused others."
6. "Look after your work, doing it with enthusiasm, humility, competence, passion and with a spirit that knows how to thank the Lord."
7. "Be careful of envy, lust, hatred and negative feelings that devour our interior peace and transform us into destroyed and destructive people."
8. "Watch out for anger that can lead to vengeance; for laziness that leads to existential euthanasia; for pointing the finger at others, which leads to pride; and for complaining continually, which leads to desperation."
9. "Take care of brothers and sisters who are weaker ... the elderly, the sick, the hungry, the homeless and strangers, because we will be judged on this."
10. "Making sure your Christmas is about Jesus and not about shopping."

⇒ It's a good list: it's clearly rooted in Catholic teachings but presented in a way that all Christian people can embrace. Perhaps there might be just one or two resolutions that can be embraced!

Position Vacant ~ Cleaner & Gardiner

Estimated at about six hours /week, the parish requires a capable person – possibly retired from full-time work – to attend to some important duties around the church. Even if just for the short term, any assistance would be greatly appreciated. This rate of remuneration is based on six hours per week.



Prayers of the Faithful



After the Creed each week, the celebration of Mass continues with the General Intercessions, often referred to as the Prayers of the Faithful. It is at this time that there are particular petitions – usually prepared before Mass – read on behalf of the whole assembly, making supplication to God for the Church, for the world, for all people and their needs.

The people then participate actively by responding to the intentions with an appropriate petition. Traditionally, after the reader has completed each petition with "Lord Hear Us". The assembly would respond "Lord Hear our Prayer"

However, it is quite permissible to vary the "texture" of the intercessions according to different occasions, and to meet the spiritual needs of different groups. In our own parish, to provide extra focus upon the feast or liturgical season of the year, the response has been varied quite regularly. These responses have been taken from the Liturgy of the Hours.

So what is the Liturgy of the Hours? The Liturgy of the Hours or Divine Office are provided within the Breviary. Most commonly, the Breviary is in three volumes and contain an official set of prayers that marking the hours of each day and sanctifying the day with prayer".

The Liturgy of the Hours consist primarily of psalms supplemented by hymns readings and other prayers and antiphons. There are General Intercessions for each day, feasts and seasons of the year. There are a wonderful variety of responses to the petitions.

Together with the Mass, the Divine Office constitutes the official public prayer life of the Church. The Liturgy of the Hours also forms the basis of prayer with Christian Monasticism.

Celebration of the Liturgy of the Hours is an obligation undertaken by priests and deacons intending to become priests, while deacons intending to remain deacons are obliged to recite only a part.

The constitutions of religious orders generally oblige their members to celebrate at least parts and, in some cases, to do so jointly ("in choir"). The laity are under no public obligation to do so but may oblige themselves to do so by personal vow, and "are encouraged to recite the divine office, either with the priests, or among themselves, or even individually".

In our own parish church, because the IT facilitates assist quite considerably with worship, the responses for the Intercessions are changed throughout the year to provide variation and reflect the essence of the liturgical season. The Liturgy of the Hours provides an excellent source for this most desirable liturgical practice.



Touch of Humour

Paddy: "Hey look! There's a flock of cows"

Mick: "Herd"

Paddy: "What"

Mick: "Herd of cows"

Paddy: "Of course I've heard of cows! There's a flock of them over there!"