



Parish of Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul

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29th January 2023 – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

POPE FRANCIS – Catechesis On Discernment: 2. An example: Ignatius of Loyola

One of the most instructive examples is offered to us by Saint Ignatius of Loyola, with a decisive episode in his life. Ignatius was at home convalescing after injuring a leg in battle. To dispel the boredom, he asked for something to read. He loved tales of chivalry, but unfortunately, there were only the lives of the saints at home. Somewhat reluctantly, he adapted, but in the course of reading, he began to discover another world, a world that won him over and seemed to compete with that of knights. He was fascinated by the figures of Saint Francis and Saint Dominic and felt the desire to imitate them. But the world of chivalry also continued to exert its fascination on him. Thus, he felt within himself this alternation of thoughts — those of chivalry and those of the saints — which seem to be on par with one another.

Ignatius, however, also began to perceive some differences. In his Autobiography — in the third person — he wrote: “When he thought of worldly things” — and of chivalrous things, of course — “it gave him great pleasure, but afterward he found himself dry and sad. But when he thought of journeying to Jerusalem, and of living only on herbs and practising austerities, he found pleasure not only while thinking of them, but also when he had ceased” (Chapter 8); they left him a trace of joy.

In this experience we note two aspects, above all. The first is *time* : that is, the thoughts of the world are attractive at the beginning, but then they lose their lustre and leave emptiness and discontent; they leave you that way, empty. Thoughts of God, on the contrary, rouse first a certain resistance — “But I’m not going to read this boring thing about saints” — but when they are welcomed, they bring an unknown peace that lasts for a long time.

Here, then, is the other aspect: the *end point* of thoughts. At first the situation does not seem so clear. There is a development of discernment: for example, we understand what is good for us not in an abstract, general way, but in the journey of our life. In the rules for discernment, the fruit of this fundamental experience, Ignatius laid down an important premise, which helps to understand this process: “In the persons who go from mortal sin to mortal sin, the enemy is commonly used to propose to them apparent pleasures” — to reassure them that everything is fine — “making them imagine sensual delights and pleasures in order to hold them more and make them grow in their vices and sins. In these persons the good spirit uses the opposite method, pricking them and biting their consciences through the process of reason” (*Spiritual Exercises* , 314). But this will not do.

There is a history that precedes one who discerns, a history that it is indispensable to know, because discernment is not a sort of oracle or fatalism, or something from a laboratory, like casting one’s lot

on two possibilities. The great questions arise when we have already travelled a stretch of the road in life, and it is to that journey that we must return in order to understand what we are looking for. If in life we make a little progress, then: "But why am I walking in this direction, what am I looking for?", and that is where discernment takes place. When he found himself wounded in his father's house, Ignatius was not thinking of God at all, or of how to reform his own life, no. He had his first experience of God by listening to his own heart, which presented him with a curious reversal: things that were attractive at first sight left him disillusioned, whereas in others, less dazzling, he perceived lasting peace. We too have this experience; very often we begin to think about something, and we stay there, and then we end up disappointed. Instead, when we carry out a work of charity, do something good and feel something of happiness, a good thought comes to us, and happiness comes to us, something of joy. It is an experience that is entirely our own. He, Ignatius, had his first experience of God by listening to his own heart, that showed him a curious reversal. This is what we must learn: to listen to our own heart, to know what is happening, what decision to make. To make a judgement on a situation, one must listen to one's own heart. We listen to the television, the radio, the mobile phone. We are experts at listening, but I ask you: do you know how to listen to your heart? Do you stop to ask: "But how is my heart? Is it satisfied, is it sad, is it searching for something?". In order to make good decisions, one must listen to one's own heart.

MASSES FOR THE WEEK				
Sunday	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Francisco Fernandes	OL
<i>Tea & Coffee after both Sunday Masses</i>				
Monday	<i>Ferial</i>	12pm	Requiem Mass for Brian Locke	OL
<i>Access to Our Lady's for weekday Mass is through the entrance to the right side of the church</i>				
Tuesday	<i>St John Bosco</i>	9:30am	James Hay R.I.P.	OL
Wednesday	<i>Ferial</i>	9am	Sr Frances Pollard R.I.P.	OL
Thursday	Presentation of the Lord			
Friday	<i>St Werburgh</i>	9:30am	Alice & Arthur Cooke R.I.P.	SP
Saturday	<i>Ferial</i>	12pm	Billy Boylan R.I.P.	OL
Sunday	5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9:30am	People of the Parish	SP
		11am	Bernard Gomes R.I.P.	OL

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick

Jean Nolan, Ann Jones, Vera Granton, Richie & Lily Baker, Joan Jones, Margaret Walsh, Christopher Browne, Louisa Tower, Julia Ward & Bernadette Williams

Those who have died

Eileen Brown, George Perry, Brian Locke & Canon John Marmion

OUR PARISH VISION & MISSION

We are a warm & welcoming community of faith rooted in the love of God revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Belonging is at the heart of what we do as members of the body of Christ. We believe worship is not just found in prayer, it's something expressed in everything we do.

SAINT JOSEPH LAMP

This week the lamp burns for Canon John Marmion R.I.P. at Our Lady's and for Eileen Brown R.I.P. at Saint Paul's. The Envelopes are at the back of each church for requests. A £5 donation is requested.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2023

For Parishes that placing communion at the centre, they may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

PARISH

PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS – for the young people of our parish, that they will know God's love.

BISHOP MARK will be making his 5-year visitation to our parish on Sunday 19th February, he will celebrate both the Sunday Masses & preach at them. We look forward to welcoming him back again!

TUESDAY TEA & COFFEE AFTER MASS – Tea & Coffee will be in the Saint Joseph chapel after Tuesday morning Mass for both parishioners & school parents. On Friday (3rd February), we will begin offering Tea & Coffee at Saint Paul's before Friday morning Mass.

ROSARY SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES 2pm, Saturday 11th February in the parish of Saint John the Evangelist, New Ferry. Fr Michael will be giving the homily.

FUNDRAISING – we are hoping that several of the Young Adults from our parish will be attending World Youth Day next summer in Lisbon. After Christmas we will be launching Fundraising Social Events to help raise the funds to get them there. World Youth Day costs £1200 per pilgrim! We will also use the funds to help send some of our older Youth Group members (Year 9 & above) to the National Meeting of Young People in March at the SSE arena in Wembley.

There is a suggestion box at the back of each church, please include your name & contact details with any suggestion!

OUR LADY & SAINT EDWARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL – congratulations to all the staff & pupils on their recent OFSTED inspection where they received a judgement of being a good school. This means that all three of our parish primary schools have been inspected in the last year & been judged as good!

EASY FUNDRAISING – Please support our Parish on Easy Fundraising – you can raise **FREE** donations when you shop online at over 6000 retailers (inc. car & home insurance). It's simple & takes 2 minutes to sign up at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> then search for Holy Cross, Our Lady & Saint Paul.

IRISH CEILI DANCING – Keep fit & have fun every Friday 12pm–1:30pm at Wirral Change, Saint Laurence's Drive CH41 3JD (The old Saint Laurence's school building).

CATENIANS – The Birkenhead circle meets each month at Prenton Golf club to enjoy each other's company & to support one another & our families. Membership is open to Catholic men who are aged 18 & over. If you would like to know more, please contact p.davenport.123@btinternet.com

KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA – the order believes in charity, unity & fraternity, over many years they

have helped priests, parishes & our Catholic schools & many projects internationally. Membership is open to Catholic men who are aged 18 & over. Please contact Tony Connolly on 07950 392193.

THE UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY NEWSPAPER Order your Digital 4 weeks FREE introductory offer by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

PARISH FINANCE – 8th JANUARY

Offertory £521.30 Zambia/Eye Fund/Caritas £34

Thank you for your generosity

CHARITY

TABLET BLISTER PACKS – there is a box at the back of Our Lady's for any empty tablet blister packs. These will be taken to Superdrug where they're used in support of Marie Curie charity.

SOCIAL SUPERMARKET – there is now the opportunity both at Saint Paul's & Our Lady's to pick up any essential items from the stock generously donated by local charities & supermarkets which is located in the community room in Saint Paul's & the porch area near the West Door in Our Lady's.

WIRRAL FOODBANK – Please continue if you are able to support Wirral Foodbank through donations of tins & toiletries. Donations can be left at the back of Saint Paul's or outside the Saint Joseph chapel in Our Lady's.

STAMPS – The stamps are sent off to the RNIB to support their work with those suffering sight loss. There is a box at the back of church for any used stamps you have.

GLASSES – thank you to all those who support the Eye Fund charity through their weekly white envelope donation. Another easy way to support the work of the eye fund is to donate any old glasses which you have via the box at the back of Our Lady's church. These are given to help the work of the Wirral Society of the Blind & partially sighted based at Ashville Lodge on the edge of the park.

Opportunities for Faith Development in 2022 & 2023

- ❖ **Diocese of Shrewsbury Mission for Catechesis** have with the help of the Franciscan Catechetical Institute created online courses to help people understand & explore their faith better. All the courses are online. Please take a leaflet home with you which explains what the courses are including one on the “Foundations of Faith” & how to access them.
- ❖ **A gentle Introduction to Catholic Thought & Church Teaching** – 3rd Saturday of each month 3:30pm – 4:30pm in Our Lady's presbytery. We will be using as our guide *Catholicism in the Third Millennium* by Thomas Rausch SJ. *Chapter 7: Sin, Forgiveness & Healing. Saturday 18th February 2023*
- ❖ **Lent Reflection** – 10am – 1pm, Saturday 25th February in Saint Paul's, two talks with space for personal quiet reflection & group discussion, Mass at 12pm with adoration until 1pm & the opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The day of reflection will be led by Canon Christopher Matthews.
- ❖ **Lent course** – Journey to the Empty Tomb by Paula Gooder; Tuesdays in Lent, 7pm in Our Lady's presbytery (28th February; 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th March).