



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

A LIVESIMPLY and FAIRTRADE PARISH

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**SUNDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2021 — 28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**PSALTER WEEK 4, Lectionary Cycle B**

## WALKING TOGETHER

This Sunday in Rome (and next Sunday in every Catholic cathedral in the world) Pope Francis invites the Church in every land to begin a journey together – what he calls a 'Synodal Path'. (*Syn-Odos* in Greek literally means being 'on the same road'; in other words, 'walking together'.) Bishop Richard has written a Pastoral Letter about it which you can read or watch at <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-letters> if you're interested in the technicalities. But the most important thing is precisely the notion of 'walking together', as friends and fellow-disciples.

Although Synods over the last 50 years only involved only a few Bishops from each country and were shackled by Roman Control-Freakery (texts had to be submitted in advance and what could be discussed was strictly controlled), what Pope Francis is inviting the whole Church to do over the next 2 years is to listen together – to listen to each other, of course; but above all to listen together to the Word and the Will of God. At the end of the first century, the Book of Revelation urges its readers seven times: "*Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.*" The Spirit still speaks to each and every one of us. Let us make space in our hearts to hear that voice.

The 'Synodal Path' isn't a managerial exercise for the bishops but an adventure in trust involving all the faithful, an expression of confidence that the Lord continues to guide his flock; and also a realisation that old models of Church life don't work anymore – the Parish Priest 'running the parish' while everyone else gets on with their lives; Church as somewhere you go to rather than something you are 24/7; Faith as a series of doctrinal formulae that you need to know but don't really need to understand.

The rich man in today's Gospel (Mk 10.17-27) comes to Jesus with an urgent question: "*Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?*" That question is more urgent today – even if what 'eternal life' means probably seems less obvious in our secularised age than once it did. Church is where we share answers to that quest; where we realise that those answers come from beyond our own cleverness ("*I prayed, and understanding was given me*" – to quote our first reading, Wisd 7.7-11); that truth is a journey and that the journey is love.

Our own parish is on its own 'synodal path', walking together, rejoicing in each other's company, praying for wisdom, seeking new forms of ministry and new energy for mission. Join us – beginning with prayer. (See the invitation to join the *Mary's Mantle Consecration* overleaf.) May the Lord be our light and our joy. And may our patron saint, Mary the Mother of Jesus, lead us in our listening to the Spirit. **- Fr. Rob**

### MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

**Streamed Masses can be viewed at:** <https://bit.ly/2Lu1sN4>

Sat	6pm	Mapleton Family Intention (50th Anniversary)
Sun	9am	People of the Parish
	10.45am	Private Intention
<b>Mon</b>	<b>9.15am</b>	Brenda Ruddick-West RIP
Tue	9.30am	Private Intention
<b>Wed</b>	<b>9.30-10am</b>	<b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; Rosary</b>
Thu	9.30am	Special Intention
Fri	<b>11am</b>	<b>Requiem Mass for Jean Casey RIP</b>
Sat	6pm	People of the Parish
Sun	9am	Michael O'Mahony RIP
	10.45am	Anne Marie Godwin RIP

**We commend to the Lord** all who have died recently, especially Jean Casey, whose Requiem is on Friday; and Michael Gibbon and Anne-Marie Godwin, whose anniversaries of death fall at this time.

**Parish Prayer Intentions For October:** That we may each live gratefully, thanking God for the fruits of the earth and of human ingenuity; that political leaders attending the COP26 Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in early November may act courageously to safeguard the natural world and protect those most threatened by Climate Change; for prisoners and their families and for the victims of crime; for Pope Francis' prayer intention for October: "*that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.*"

**Prayers needed?** A book of prayer intentions is placed on the altar at all masses. If you'd like a name or intention added to the book, phone/e-mail Fr. Rob.

**Baptisms:** Congratulations and welcome to Cassius (baptised last Sunday), Zara (baptised this Sunday) and Annelise (to be baptised next Sunday) and to their families. In seeking baptism for their offspring, parents take responsibility of being 'the first (and best) educators of their children in the ways of faith'. Each of us, in turn, takes responsibility for supporting them in that adventure, by our friendship, prayer and example of Christian living.

**Thanks** to everyone who took part in the **Cafod Harvest Fast Day** on 1 October and gave to their climate-crisis appeal. If you haven't done so yet, you can still make a donation via <https://bit.ly/3FkpOzR>

**Re-igniting our Parish Purpose:** We had an excellent meeting of 25 parishioners on Tuesday to reflect on ways forward and will feed back shortly on next steps. Please continue to pray for guidance as we discern the way forward for our community to rebuild our mission in the post-pandemic world.

**Junior Church:** Our Children's Liturgy continues this weekend at **10.45am Sunday** mass for children who have not yet begun preparing for First Communion. We'll be very focused on keeping this Covid-secure. If you have queries, contact [juniorchurch@olchurch.org.uk](mailto:juniorchurch@olchurch.org.uk) or talk to Nicola O'Donnell or Nora Cleeve.

**October 8-15** is **Baby Loss Awareness Week**. There is a plaque in the Lady Chapel which is intended as a focus for remembrance and prayer. We must never minimise the pain of miscarriage and infant death. If we can be any support contact Fr. Rob or [bereavement@olchurch.org.uk](mailto:bereavement@olchurch.org.uk). For more information see <https://bit.ly/3ahpDH2>

**This is Prisoners' Week**, a week of prayer for those in prison and all those affected by crime. There is a Retiring Collection at all masses (and donations can be made via the parish website, too). Attached to the newsletter are prayers offered by chaplains, serving prisoners, police officers, victims of crime, prison leavers, family members and communities – use these to walk with them in a journey from despair to hope this week. See [www.prisonersweek.org](http://www.prisonersweek.org) and [prisonfellowship.org.uk](http://prisonfellowship.org.uk) for more info. **Andy Keen-Downs, CEO of the Prison Advice & Care Trust**, writes: "The recent BBC drama *Time* (available on *BBC iPlayer*) captures the truth of so much of what is wrong with prisons. But also, one or two examples of what is right. Although *Time* is not easy to watch, it is an excellent drama with excellent performances from Sean Bean and Steven Graham, and not entirely without a note of redemption. I would encourage anyone interested in prisons to watch it. We have to call for an end to the use of prison as a place we send people who need clinical and therapeutic healthcare to address trauma and mental illness. It's time for change."

**Monday** is the feast of **Pope St. John XXIII**. Mass is at **9.15am** so that a class from St. Paul's school can attend. This week we welcome **Class 2M** to worship with our daily congregation.

**Taketime meditations** are a calm, compassionate space to meet God. Our Taketime group also offers the opportunity to explore your faith with others. 8-8.45pm **every Wednesday** via zoom. Please email [meditations@olchurch.org.uk](mailto:meditations@olchurch.org.uk) for the zoom link. Go to <https://taketime.org.uk/> to try the meditations at home.

**Our First Communion Children** meet next Saturday (October 16) from 4.45pm.

**It's not too late** to join in the **Mary's Mantle Consecration:** A 46-day self-directed spiritual retreat for busy people, built on daily recitation of the rosary, weekly fasting and an act of personal consecration, which we began on Thursday (Feast of the Rosary) – a journey of 46 days (ending on the Feast of Christ the King) during which we pledge to pray 5 decades of the rosary and read a short reflection every day and to fast once a week (from bread and water to meat-free diet, depending on your circumstances and health). If you'd like to receive the daily reflection, e: [olmarysmantle@gmail.com](mailto:olmarysmantle@gmail.com). If you'd like to join the **WhatsApp** group, text 07900 138492.

**October** is, traditionally, **'The Month of the Rosary'**. If you don't know how to pray using the Rosary, then remember that it works at various levels. It is a deliberately repetitive prayer – a **mantra** – which serves to still the mind and to allow us to enter into a meditative state. It is also a way of reflecting on the Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus (using various 'staging posts' to stop and consider – joyful, sorrowful, glorious and, following Pope John Paul II's additions, luminous). For a simple guide, see <https://bit.ly/3ldHsNr>

**First Communion 2022 Preparation:** Our next course of preparation for Holy Communion for children in Year 3 or above begins in January. **Sign-up forms** are available in the narthex – please return by half-term.

**Keeping Each Other Safe:** Be mindful that the pandemic is not over and that some are very vulnerable, even after being 'double-jabbed'. **Sanitise** your hands on entry, **wear a mask** unless exempt (especially when singing) and **give people space**. We're all working together to keep OLOL covid-secure. If you have any concerns e: [office@olchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@olchurch.org.uk) / t: 020 8398 2191.

**Preparing for COP26:** As we prepare for the international climate conference in Glasgow in November, we'll give a few suggestions of things we can do to make a difference (on the principle of 'Think globally, act locally'). This week, consider how you can **prepare your garden for wildlife to survive winter** <https://bit.ly/3Alt89Y>

**Duke of Edinburgh volunteering opportunity** with Junior Church, Sundays at our 10.45am mass. Contact Nicola at [juniorchurch@olchurch.org.uk](mailto:juniorchurch@olchurch.org.uk) or 07539835686.

**Finding Wholeness and Prayers for Healing** - *Churches Together In The Dittons* are holding a service at St. Christopher's church, Claygate Lane, Hinchley Wood **next Sunday (Oct. 17) at 4pm**. All are welcome.

**Simon Rawsthorne completed his 72-mile run** for the British Red Cross "Miles for Refugees" on the very last day of the month! Thanks to all who donated for your kindness and generosity in helping him raise **£1025** for this great cause! If you would like to make a donation there's still time - see <https://bit.ly/3aew6CC>

**Parishioner Gerard Kinsella** ran the **London Marathon** last weekend in 4 hours 11 minutes and is fundraising for DEBRA (supporting families of those living with EB, genetic skin conditions causing the skin to blister and tear at the slightest touch.) Gerard has raised over **£5,000** for the charity - if you wish, you can donate at <https://bit.ly/2Yma1jr>

**Short Pilgrimage to Walsingham & East Anglia:** 12-14 December with the Pilgrimage People, staying in Walsingham and visiting Norwich and Ely cathedrals. £270pp incl half board, accommodation, coach travel and entrances. Contact [info@pilgrimagepeople.org](mailto:info@pilgrimagepeople.org) or call 0800 612 3423. Book by 29 October - places limited.