

St Francis of Assisi Church

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SUNDAY MASSES: Saturday 5pm, Sunday 8 & 10.30am.

(Confessions are available after each Sunday Mass)

WEEKDAYS: Monday no Mass, Tuesday to Friday 7am, Saturday 8am

Thursday 6-7pm - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



NEWSLETTER

10th September 2017

To prepare for Sunday Mass it is a good idea to read and give thought to the readings in your missal or Bible. Here are some questions to ponder.

First Reading [Ezekiel 33:7-9] When we see injustice in the world, how can we bring it to people's attention?

Second Reading [Romans 13:8-10] Which ranks highest: How much you love? How much you do?

Gospel [Matthew 18:15-20] Can you rely on God to grant your request in some way when you and another person agree to pray about something? Do you trust God's promise?

LET LOVE SPEAK

In this Sunday's gospel we are told, "If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him." I can imagine what our parish would be like if we all did that literally. First we would have a host of busybodies until in the end, nobody would be listening or talking to anyone. But obviously it means that we act with compassion and love, not just taking delight in putting other people right. We know from experience that deliberately facing a person with their wrongdoing or wrong inclinations can be the worst way of trying to win them over – and most especially from within the family. If they know they are loved by us, sincerely loved, then our lives will bear witness to the goodness of God and the holiness of his commandments more than our saying anything.

So often in bringing up children, parents are torn between the fear of not showing their children the importance of religious practice and driving them away from the Church by insisting too much. If the children know they are loved and at the same time realise what is important to their parents, this will be far more effective than laying down the law. You don't have to do use words to convey the holiness and love of God.

Our love and compassion must be sincere and not be for any other motive beyond love in itself. As Pope Benedict XVI wrote, "Charity cannot be used as a means of engaging in what is nowadays considered proselytism. Love is free; it is not practised as a way of achieving other ends. Those who practise charity in the Church's name will never seek to impose the Church's faith upon others. They realize that a pure and generous love is the best witness to the God in whom we believe and by whom we are driven to love. A Christian knows when it is time to speak of God and when it is better to say nothing and to let love alone speak."

APOLOGIES: for some unknown reason our internet camera has not been working for this last week or so. We are trying to rectify it.

SEPTEMBER IS BIBLE MONTH a time when we encourage our families to make an extra special effort to read the Word daily, celebrate the Word, draw strength from the Word.



As part of our reflection on the Word in September, there will be a candlelight spiritual session called **“Word for the Soul”** on **29 September, 2017 at 6pm in the Cathedral**. There will be Bible reading, prayers and singing. All spiritual groups in the diocese are invited to participate. Bring your Bibles and candles, and invite friends to attend.

MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT facilitated by Bishop Jason

Friday September 15th To Sunday 17th at the Marian Retreat House, Verdun, St. John.

All men, 18 years and over are invited to this special Retreat - to Pray and to Reflect, to Relax and to enjoy a delicious Barbecue and other tasty meals. **BD\$100 includes accommodation and meals.**

Come and invite a friend to attend.

To register call 231-9529 or email catholicmensretreat.bb@gmail.com

PARENTS OF SECOND-YEAR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

Meeting with Bishop Jason on Thursday September 21st at 6 pm in the Cathedral.

This is an important meeting, so please do your best to attend.

If it is impossible for either mother or father to come, please let Fr Michael know.

This meeting is to provide you with a preview of the Theology of the Body course the candidates will be taking this term.

NEW CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION

For those who are 12 years or older and those who are in second year of secondary school, we will soon be starting our two-year programme to prepare for Confirmation.

The programme has been well developed now, so that as well as finding it interesting and a support of their faith, those taking part form very close friendships.

Please let Fr Michael know as soon as possible if you wish to be Confirmed.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Our parish has become well-known for its Children's Choir, but this year a number of youngsters who sang in the choir have left the island. Those taking part really enjoy it. Our age range is 6 to 16, and we practice between the Sunday Masses starting at 9.45. No need to apply just come along to the church at that time.

COLLECTIONS Last week's collection came to **\$2,412.80**

Please would you pray for these people who are ill : Basil Cozier, Catherine King, Kenneth Miller, Annie Bend, Veronica Tavernier, Carlos Phillips, Phillip Alleyne, Lucille Alleyne, Joan Mahon, Mervin Mahon, Carolina Restrepo, Marie Edmund, Carlyle Glean, Taylor Pluna, Peter-Xavier Iweze, Lourdes Rouco, John Griffith, Teresa Hodge, Shimisha Butcher, David Gittens, Annie Bromham, Alison Howard, Noel Shirley, Natari Edwards, Carol Rowe, Marie Conibert, Jane Fontelle, Aurelija Vasilevskiene, Anna Teelan and Joyce Blennman.

All services held in St Francis Church may be viewed on the Internet: <http://iwcpinc.com/portfolio-view/church-st-francis/>

A shortened form of Fr Michael's homily can be found in the Advocate on Sunday

and after the Sunday on: *Michael A J Barrow Youtube*

