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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

21st January 2018

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 [Jonah 3:1-5,10] What was God looking for in the Ninevites?
What is God looking for in you?

Second Reading [1 Corinthians 7:29-31] Does our culture help or hinder your detachment from possessions (gadgets, house, family, or what?) ?

Gospel [Mark 1:14-20] After being chosen, Simon, Andrew, James and John went on to make mistakes. Do you have to be perfect to be called? In what way does Jesus call you?

CHOSEN BY CHRIST

I don't think Jesus would have taken to Twitter, where the aim seems to be to get as many "likes" as you can. Jesus made it clear to his disciples, "You did not choose me – I chose you." That explains why people found that, unlike others, Jesus spoke with authority. The rabbis and other religious leaders did not choose their disciples; if they had followers, it was because people chose them, as on Twitter. Jesus' choice was deliberate and St Luke tells us that before selecting his twelve apostles he spent a night in prayer.

He chooses us not because of what we have to offer but because he wants us. His choosing us is beautifully expressed in Deuteronomy 7, "It was not because you were greater than any other people that the Lord set his heart on you and chose you, for you were the least of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you." Jesus chooses his disciples because he loves them.

Being called by Jesus means first of all to be with him, growing always closer to him. The expression used in the gospels is that they "followed" him and Jesus himself used that expression, but in practice it became clear that he was asking them to be with him. Following Jesus means to be with him, to be his friend, to love him and be loved by him.

Being called by Christ and responding to his call is not a single event but throughout your life growing in love of Christ, being with Christ and staying with Christ, and always running back to him when you've messed things up.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Every year at this time all Christian denominations pray particularly for healing divisions between the churches. Although we all follow Christ and give him our hearts and although for the most part (though not entirely) we all believe the same thing, we find it impossible to worship and work as one Church.

Although our divisions are no longer as bitter and angry as they were once, it is still a tragedy that we do not have the unity that our Lord wanted and prayed for. During this week we will pray particularly to overcome the divisions between the churches.

PRAYING FOR VOCATIONS

The number of men being ordained priests has dropped dramatically in the last few years. We need to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. As a way of praying, we are suggesting that each family should take home for a week at a time a chalice which is used at Mass, knowing that it has held the body and blood of Christ.

And during that week the family would pray for vocations.

Any prayer can be used and we will offer prayer-cards which might help.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

10.30 Mass on Sunday is a Family Mass during which the children go into the hall for their own liturgy during first part of the Mass. They enjoy it and it gives them a good foundation in the faith, a feeling for the Church as a community. We are most grateful to the people who have agreed to run it. **We need help** – not so much to teach them, as we have a good team already to do that, but we need helpers to be in the hall during the children's liturgy to keep an eye on the very young ones (3 - 4 years-olds).

If you could help with this, say once a month, please have a word with Fr Michael.

PRISON VISITING

There are two or three groups of people who currently go with a priest to conduct a sort of service-cum-discussion with men and women in prison. This has been very well received by them, but occasionally a great disappointment when our visitors can't come. We need more volunteers to avoid such cancellations. It would involve giving up a Saturday afternoon once or twice a month. If you think you could help or would want to talk about it first, please contact Fr Michael.

Permission has now been given by the prison authority to have Mass celebrated for the Catholic prisoners.

WORKSHOP FOR CATECHISTS *next Saturday* "Catechesis and Discipleship."

Saturday 27th January from 2pm to 6pm in The Upper Room at the Cathedral

All Catechists are invited to attend this very helpful workshop, conducted by Fr. Vibert Stephens and Sr. Margaret Mary

CHRISTOLOGY A Certificate Course of Five Saturdays *starting next Saturday*

SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY – SATURDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 9am – 12pm

Who do YOU say that I am?

Who is Jesus Christ?

Who is Christ for us today?

Facilitated by Reverend Dr. Winston Layne in the Upper Room, St. Patrick's Cathedral

To register - email: formationinstitute@gmail.com or tel: 426-3510

COLLECTIONS The Offertory collection for last Sunday: **\$4,676.50**

Please would you also pray for these people who are ill : Bonita Morgan, Jeremy Troulan, Sebastian Peichl, Richard Roach, Shenicia Hurley, Stanislaus Alexander, Jacqueline Coles-Austin, Dorothy de Gale, Norma Laura Herrera, Paddy Melville, Kenneth Miller, 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, Shimisha Butcher, David Gittens, Annie Bromham, Alison Howard, Noel Shirley, Natari Edwards, Carol Rowe, Marie Cornibert, Aurelija Vasilevskiene 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*

