



ST MATTHEW'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, NORTHWOOD

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF NORTHWOOD AND NORTHWOOD HILLS

'Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations...' [Matt 28:19]

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (JULY 31ST - AUGUST 7TH)

DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Vanity of vanities; all is vanity.

"Vanity of vanities", says Qoheleth, "All things are vanity!" That line from the Book of Ecclesiastes rings as true today as on the day it was written. Vanity is one of the three root sins that plague humanity. Much of our economy is built on vanity, on helping people to maintain the right "image." Think of the money spent on cosmetics and trendy clothes and flashy cars amongst other things

How does vanity differ from the other two root sins of pride and sensuality? We could describe pride as the sin whereby we put ourselves first, ahead of God; sensuality is where we put things first; and vanity is where we put the esteem of others first.

Like the other root sins, vanity springs from insecurity. We place our security in what others think of us. We constantly seek the affirmation, praise and respect of other people. We want to be seen as "cool." Instead of focusing on Christ and letting him be the centre of our concerns, we look to be patted on the back by others. "What will they think of me?" is a perennial concern of the vain person. This differs from the situation where we may desire that our qualities be recognised in order that God be glorified and that we have more influence to bring about good. Having and guarding a reputation for honesty, for instance, might help us to attract others to join us in doing charitable deeds.

Vanity can also manifest itself in shyness. We might worry so much about being accepted that we close in on ourselves and avoid contact with people. Other forms of vanity include gossiping, boasting, "stretching the truth," and being paralyzed by human respect.

This root sin can also trigger sins against purity. In such cases, it is not the illicit physical pleasure that is sought as much as the feeling of being accepted by another. Alas, such "acceptance" often proves to be short-lived.

Commonly, vanity expresses itself in an undue concern for one's physical appearance. Or one might become easily discouraged by one's failures. Then too the vain person might give in to two-facedness or hypocrisy, abandoning his principles in order to "fit in." A person might seek friendships with high-profile people, for sake of gaining attention. Such friendships can quickly lead to jealousies and bruised egos.

How can someone fight against vanity? Let's offer a few strategies. The first deals with purity of intention. This means doing good things for the right reasons. If a person does a "good act" out of a desire for praise, the act loses its value in the eyes of God. The key is to do hidden acts of charity, the kind that only God sees. This builds intimacy with God and cultivates in us a healthy indifference to the praise of the world.

Another strategy against vanity is to cultivate love for Christ in others. That is, offer up good deeds to Christ. Learn to see him in others and love him in others. This awareness of the presence of Christ in others has motivated more than a few saints to heroic and universal charity. By universal charity we mean showing charity and kindness to everyone, regardless of their personality or temperament. This is no easy task. It is easy to be nice to someone who is likable. It is much harder to be nice to someone who is irascible or uncouth or ungrateful. That is why reaching out to a difficult person goes a long way in purifying our intentions. For at that point, we are charitable for love of Christ, not for love of praise.

Finally, we must learn to admit our mistakes quickly. This helps our humility and nurtures simplicity of heart. The sooner we get vanity under control, the sooner we live just for Christ.

With all my prayers and best wishes,

Fr Tom

CONTACT US

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northwood@rcdow.org.uk

Fr Tom Montgomery Parish Priest:

Email:

tommontgomery@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Office:

Contact Cheryl Myring or Siobhan Hogg

9:00 — 2:30pm Monday - Friday

Sunday School & Catechetics:

RE Co-ordinator: awaiting appointment

Hall Bookings: contact the office or

northwoodph@rcdow.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING

Colette Quirk
Elizabeth Scudder

EMAIL(S):

northwoodsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
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Our Sanctuary Lamps

burn for

The protection of the
Emifiele Family
(Blessed Sacrament)

and

Raymond Shaul RIP
(Our Lady)

Last Week's Offering

Loose Cash: £245.10 Planned Giving Envelopes: £227.18 Standing Orders: £284.00 Contactless Giving £122.88
Total Offering: £879.16

Mass Intentions

From the beginning of August there are lots of Masses available that have no intentions as yet. On this week's Mass intentions, those listed as "Priest's Intention" are Masses that have no intention allotted to them before the printing of this newsletter. If you would like to have a Mass offered for your intention, please contact the office..

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham

On Saturday 24th September (The Feast Day of Our Lady of Walsingham) Cardinal Vincent will lead the diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham. We are planning to share a coach with Eastcote parish. If you would like to take part in this pilgrimage, please give your name to the Office. The final details will be available next week.

Centenary Celebrations

We will have a year of celebrations which will begin on the 100th Anniversary of the laying of our Foundation Stone on **Saturday 21st October 2023** with a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Vincent and will end on the anniversary of the consecration of our church on **Sunday 13th October 2024**. There will be various events planned. The first meeting of the Centenary Committee took place on Thursday 21st July. If you would like to join the planning committee please have a word with Elizabeth Scudder who is the chairman of the committee or Fr Tom.

Visit Of The Relics Of St Bernadette To The UK:

In September and October this year, the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage across England, Scotland, and Wales for the very first time. This very special event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes in a church or cathedral near them. The relics will be in the Diocese of Westminster from Saturday 3rd to Wednesday 7th September, Monday 17th to Tuesday 18th October and Friday 28th to Sunday 30th October. For full details of the tour, visit www.stbernadette.org.uk

Details of the celebrations in the Cathedral can be found on the poster in the porch. If you wish to attend the service of anointing of the sick, please speak with Fr Tom to organise a ticket.

Mother and Toddlers Group.

A mother and baby/toddler group will be coming to St Matthew's in the Autumn! They plan to meet between 9.30-11am once a week (day to be confirmed) to chat and pray whilst the children play. Tea/coffee/biscuits will be provided. Any toy donations would be greatly appreciated! (If you want to make a financial donation to buy equipment please put your donation in an envelope marked "Mothers and Toddlers" or make a payment on the contactless card machine. If you have toys to donate please let Father Tom know.

If you think you would like to come along and join us, please message Lizzy on: 07814312669 We are looking forward to meeting other parents and children in the parish! .

Confirmation Applications

Forms are available for those who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next year. Please complete a form and return to Fr Tom by posting it in the presbytery letterbox. The forms are for those who are at school (Year 9 and above). If you are an adult wishing to receive Confirmation, please speak with Fr Tom directly.

World Youth Day 2023 – Looking To Lisbon

World Youth Day 2023 will take place in Lisbon in the beginning of August 2023. Diocese of Westminster Youth Ministry with support from Cardinal's Appeal is offering a limited number of places on this pilgrimage with a 50% discount to young people between the ages of 16-25. Any 16 year olds who apply will need to be finishing year 12 by the start of World Youth Day pilgrimage. These young people will commit to a series of preparatory sessions from September 2022, to prepare them to assist in support roles during the pilgrimage, such as by acting as small group leaders, and also offer formation to them which will be helpful in living their faith post-World Youth Day. More details can be found at <https://dowym.com/programmes/world-youth-day-leadership-training/> or by contacting Westminster Youth Ministry at youth@rcdow.org.uk. Please apply by 31 July 2022.

CAFOD Gap Year Opportunity for Young Adults

Will you take the first step? CAFOD's Gap year programme, Step into the Gap is a great opportunity for Young Adults aged between 18-30 to immerse themselves in interactive experiences, develop leadership skills while exploring their faith, and meeting new people. This is a chance to reflect on your role in global society while spending a year inspiring others to act for the poor and most marginalised. Based in the UK in a retreat centre or Catholic Secondary school with accommodation, travel and stipend included. More info for Sept 2022 at cafod.org.uk/gapyear

Hillingdon Foodbank Wish List

Thank you to everyone who supports the Foodbank. In these difficult times, it is certainly more sacrificial in helping others. If you would like to donate anything please feel free to put any of the following items in the container in the porch. They Urgently need - Sugar in small packs, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Meat and Fish, Jam, Honey, Long life Milk, Rice pudding or Custard in tin or small packs, Toilet Roll paper, Toiletries (Shampoo, conditioner, etc.), Sauces, Cleaning Supplies, Laundry supplies.

Sponsor a Lamp

You can now sponsor the seven day lamp that burns before the Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady. A prayer intention will be attached to the lamp for that week (which printed in the newsletter). A donation of £10 for each lamp is suggested. There are lots of prayer intention slots available.

DATE FOR THE DIARY

St Matthew's Day

We will celebrate the feast of our Patron Saint on Wednesday 21st September with a Mass in the evening followed by a party in the Hall. Our guest preacher will be Father Maximilian Wayne OFMConv **Please mark the date in your diary!!.**

Readings for Sunday Mass

First reading

Ecclesiastes 1:2,2:21-23

Vanity of vanities, the Preacher says. Vanity of vanities. All is vanity!

For so it is that a man who has laboured wisely, skilfully and successfully must leave what is his own to someone who has not toiled for it at all. This, too, is vanity and great injustice; for what does he gain for all the toil and strain that he has undergone under the sun? What of all his laborious days, his cares of office, his restless nights? This, too, is vanity.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 89(90):3-6,12-14,17

O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

You turn men back to dust
and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night.

O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

You sweep men away like a dream,
like the grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades.

O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants.

O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands.

O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

Second reading

Colossians 3:1-5,9-11

Since you have been brought back to true life with Christ, you must look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is, sitting at God's right hand. Let your thoughts be on heavenly things, not on the things that are on the earth, because you have died, and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed – and he is

your life – you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.

That is why you must kill everything in you that belongs only to earthly life: fornication, impurity, guilty passion, evil desires and especially greed, which is the same thing as worshipping a false god; and never tell each other lies. You have stripped off your old behaviour with your old self, and you have put on a new self which will progress towards true knowledge the more it is renewed in the image of its creator; and in that image there is no room for distinction between Greek and Jew, between the circumcised or the uncircumcised, or between barbarian and Scythian, slave and free man. There is only Christ: he is everything and he is in everything.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your word is truth, O Lord:
consecrate us in the truth.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 12:13-21

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glorify to you, O Lord.

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied, 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time." But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

Please contact us with any additional names you may wish to be added to these lists which are updated weekly, and accept our apologies for anyone we have omitted.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE UNWELL:

Those sick with COVID throughout the world, Ron Picardo, Vince Thapermall, Martha Felleppa, Fr Duncan Adamson, James Wilson, Pauline Rushowski, Patricia Lee, Sinead Bushnell, Hayley Duncan, Michael Tolputt, Audrey Potts, Tracy Bessant, Jo Smith, Brendan Smith, Mary Tierney, Michael Keating, Rafael Pino, Julius Fayiti, Anna Kelly, Justin, Margaret Downing, Victor & Gilda Kumarathasan, as well as others for whom we have been praying together recently.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED RECENTLY:

Lilia Valutyte, Victor Mikhail, Valeriano Lencioni, Dominic Leung, Roger Furniss, and all who have died as a result of war and conflict.

AND THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARY OCCURS AROUND THIS TIME:

Susan Byers, Mary Wolczynska, Betty Cowie and Irene Loftus.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK (JULY 31ST - AUGUST 7TH)

SUNDAY 31ST JULY	EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	09:00 TERESA SLATTERY RIP
	11:15 PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
	18:00 MARINA VASANTHENY CHRISTIE RIP
MONDAY 1st <i>St Alphonsus de' Liguori</i>	10:30 SUSAN BYERS RIP (ANNIV) 12:00 - 16:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
TUESDAY 2nd <i>Feria</i>	10:30 HOLY SOULS 12:00 FUNERAL MASS OF VALERIANO LENCIONI RIP 14:00 - 16:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
WEDNESDAY 3rd <i>Feria</i>	NO PUBLIC MASS - CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER
THURSDAY 4th <i>St John Mary Vianney</i>	19:00 ALL PARISH CLERGY 18:00 - 18:45 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
FRIDAY 5th <i>Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major</i>	10:30 SPECIAL INTENTIONS OF DONNA HOLLAND 12:00 - 16:00 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament*
SATURDAY 6th <i>The Transfiguration of The Lord</i>	10:30 FR DUNCAN ADAMSON (IN SICKNESS) 11:00 - 11:50 (Confessions available) 17:00 - 17:45 (Confessions available) 18:00 PRIEST'S INTENTION
SUNDAY 7TH AUG	NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
	9:00 NO INTENTION YET
	11.15 NO INTENTION YET
	18:00 PEOPLE OF THE PARISH

Holy Father's Prayer intention for AUGUST :

During the month of **August** this year Pope Francis has asked us all to pray: for small and medium sized businesses: in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating and serving their communities.

* **EXPOSITION:** Whilst every effort will be made to ensure that this will take place at the times noted, circumstances may dictate that it be curtailed or cancelled at short-notice if Fr Tom is not available to facilitate it. We apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause.

Items for the Newsletter.

If you would like something to be in the newsletter. Please email Fr Tom (email address on front page) by 12 noon on Wednesday



You can make a donation to the parish
by using this QR code