



THE MESSENGER

St Joseph & St Nicholas Moorends

Issue 6

December 2002

WHEELCHAIR FOR LOURDES

In October a coffee morning was held to raise money for the provision and maintenance of the wheelchairs, which are freely available in Lourdes, for the disabled pilgrims of our diocese. During the last two pilgrimages, three of our parishioners were able to have chairs and helpers for the five days they were there.

The sum of one hundred and fifty pounds was raised, and with a little extra from the Wheelchair Fund we were able to purchase a large chair.

The low price is made possible because of the kindness and goodwill of Clarke & Partners of Sheffield, who supply wheelchairs to the hospitals. As the N.H.S. take delivery of a new batch, Clarke & Partners collect the used ones, refurbish them, and then they sell them to the diocese as cheaply as they can. There are now ninety-seven wheelchairs in the basement of the large Alba Hotel in Lourdes awaiting the pilgrims of next year. Our chair will be number ninety-eight, and will carry an inscription saying it was presented by our parish. It will be going to join the others in May.

As newer ones replace the older chairs, those no longer needed in Lourdes, go on yet again to help make life easier for other people. An old ambulance became available and recently thirty-four wheelchairs have gone in it to an area in the old Soviet

A s 1e.m61



NEW MYSTERIES OF THE HOLY ROSARY

On November 24th this year, the 24th anniversary of his election to the Papacy, the Holy Father added 5 new mysteries to the Rosary. We have the Glorious, the Joyful and the Sorrowful mysteries; now we have THE MYSTERIES OF LIGHT. We shall use them here at Moorends on Tuesday evenings in rotation with the other mysteries. The Holy Father wants us to use them with special intention for world peace and for family life; these are causes, which are obviously very dear to his heart and to ours.

Why new mysteries? I think we must see these new mysteries in the context of a move to renew and stress the importance of something we might be in danger of losing, and that is Catholic Devotion. We all remember the devotions, which we observed in the past; the Rosary itself, Eucharistic Adoration, First Fridays, Novenas, the forty hours devotion, and many others. Some of these are still observed, some have been renewed, and new devotions and practices have been introduced over the last few years; the laity are encouraged to join in the Daily Office of the Church, especially Morning and Evening Prayer; prayer groups and bible studies are a common feature of Catholic Church life, but we must never neglect the traditional classic devotions. It is not surprising that many young Catholics find great strength from silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Youth 2000, the movement for young Catholics in this country, have used this devotion with great success at their gatherings especially at their pilgrimage to Walsingham each year.

We know the Mass is right at the heart of our life as Catholics, and that we must never replace it with anything else; yet other devotions spring from the Mass and we must use them to nourish our spiritual lives. It is in this context that the Holy Father has drawn our attention to the Rosary, by adding the new mysteries.

THE MYSTERIES OF LIGHT ARE.....

- 1 THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST IN THE RIVER JORDAN
- 2 THE WEDDING AT CANA
- 3 CHRIST'S PREACHING OF THE KINGDOM AND THE CALL TO REPENTANCE.
- 4 THE TRANSFIGURATION
- 5 THE LAST SUPPER AND THE GIFT OF THE EUCHARIST.

What links these events together? The word is REVELATION. Each of these moments in the life of Jesus tells us something more about our God. They, as it were, shed LIGHT on who our God is, what he is like, and how Jesus is the focus of his presence among us. REVELATION means shedding light upon.....and that is what these mysteries do, they shed light upon that greatest of all mysteries, the coming of our God into this world.

The Holy Father has asked that when we use these mysteries, after the announcement of each one, and the portion of scripture has been read, that we pause for a moment just to fully take in what we have heard. Maybe this is why we need to renew our devotions; maybe in the past we have become so used to the words that we haven't paused to listen to what they are saying; perhaps we need that little bit of silence and recollection that we have lacked, in our desire to do our duty.

For anyone who is interested I have a tape that will explain the new mysteries in greater depth, and no doubt CTS will be publishing a booklet on the new mysteries in the near future.

FR PANNELL

GRACE

The message found in the word GRACE means "Gods Riches Available in Christ for Everyone" and to receive these riches and our eternal life we simply open our hearts to God and He will fill them with the peace of the Holy Spirit.

THE SEA IS...

The sea is a lapping creature
trying to catch its prey,

The waves are crashing cymbals
on the sandy sea bay.

The spray is like a shower
inviting you inside,



BETHANIE HARRINGTON

You can swim like a fish
giving all the shells a ride.

The sea makes swirling ripples
around the sea shore,

The sea is a lapping creature
trying to catch more!!

Did you know that there are no strangers, only friends who have not yet met?

IN YOUR WORKING LIFE YOU CAN EXPECT TO MEET SEVERAL PEOPLE WITH AUTISM...

... WILL YOU RECOGNISE THEM?

In your working life, especially if you are in the field of medicine, education, or social work, you can expect to meet many people with autism. If you work with people with learning disabilities, you will meet many more. Children and adults with autism look the same as other people, but they behave in strange and puzzling ways.

Autism is a disability, which disrupts the development of social and communication skills. Up to 75% of people with autism have accompanying learning difficulties but, whatever their general level of ability, they share a common difficulty in making sense of the world in the way others do.

The degree to which people with autism are affected varies, but the following are common characteristics:

Difficulty with social relationships

Children and adults with autism often seem indifferent to other people even their parents. The ability to develop friendships is impaired, as is the capacity to understand other people's feelings.

Communication problems

People with autism seem to lack the ability and understanding necessary to engage in meaningful communication. Language is slow to develop, if it develops at all. Speech patterns are often peculiar. Words are used inappropriately, and the tone of voice is often formal and monotonous.

People with autism find it hard to recognise or interpret the messages and signals most of us take for granted: facial expressions, gestures and tones of voice.

Difficulty in the development of play and imagination

Children with autism do not develop creative 'let's pretend' play in the way that other children do.

Resistance to change

People with autism often become obsessed with particular objects or behaviours, focusing on them to the exclusion of everything else. In marked contrast to these are the 'islets of ability'. Some people with autism, who may be severely disabled in most ways, will display talent for, say, music, art, mathematics or mechanics.

The question everyone asks is 'What causes autism?' Unfortunately, it is also the most difficult to answer because the pattern of behaviour from which autism is diagnosed may not result from a single cause.

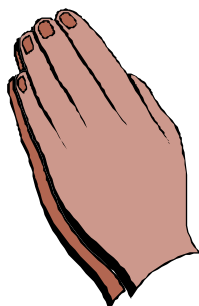
Most research suggests a physical problem affecting those parts of the brain that process language and information received from the senses. There may be some imbalance of certain chemicals in the brain. Genetic factors may be involved. There is strong evidence that the condition has a physical origin and not an emotional one.

Autism touches the lives of over 115,000 families in the UK with a possible 200,000 more affected by the associated condition - Asperger syndrome (an expression used to describe the disability in more able people with autism). All need support and understanding.

Autism affects four times as many boys as girls. It is found among all races, nationalities and social classes. There is no known cure. However, with appropriate education and support services, people with autism can be helped to live their lives with as much dignity and independence as possible.

I SAID A PRAYER

I said a prayer for you today
and know God must have heard-I felt
the answer in my heart although
He spoke no word!
I didn't ask for wealth or fame
(I knew you wouldn't mind)
I asked Him to send treasures
of a far more lasting kind!



I asked that He'd be near you
At the start of each new day
To grant you health and blessings
And friends to share your way!
I asked for happiness for you
in all things great and small-but
it was for his loving care I prayed
for most of all.

MAINTENANCE REPORT

Since the last report I have pleasure in advising that the maintenance committee has sanctioned and undertaken the following necessary repairs and alterations.

1. The flat roof of the extension to the rear of the Presbytery has been re-boarded and felted at a cost of £1639.00.
2. The dormer bathroom window to the front of the Presbytery has had a new boarded and felted roof, and new plastic windows. Total cost of £839.90.
3. New gates have been hung outside the Sacristy giving added security and privacy. Cost approx £320.00.
4. A broken soil pipe to the side of the Presbytery has been repaired at no cost.
5. Security lighting to the rear and side of the Church has now been installed giving more protection to the Church and better visibility to parishioners. These lights are sodium, low voltage and on a light sensor, which operates from dusk till dawn. Because they are "long life" they are quite inexpensive to run—around 50p each per week. The Presbytery is about to receive similar treatment, doing away with the old halogen lighting. Total cost of £581.92.
6. I don't know, at the time of going to press, whether the Church will have been decorated or not, but this necessary procedure will be carried out shortly, at a cost of £1520.00.
7. The plastering has been completed at a cost of £1620.00.
8. There is one other job that is under consideration, which may also have been completed by the time the decorating is finished, and that is—additional lighting inside the Church which will give soft illumination to the Stations of the Cross, and hopefully, a kinder light to read by. The existing halogen lighting will be cast upwards to light the rafters. We will eventually spot light the statues and Tabernacle. The aim of this is to give a warmer atmosphere, befitting the praise that is given in this, our House of God.

A very warm thank you to all who have supported and encouraged our efforts throughout the past year, especially those who helped clear the side of the Church (awaiting completion—weather permitting) and all those working quietly behind the scenes. God Bless,

DAVID MATTHEWS

TO ALL WHO WILL BE EIGHTY THIS YEAR

Today, Dear Lord, I'm 80
and there's much I haven't done,
I hope, Dear Lord, you'll let me live
until I'm 81.

But if I haven't finished
all I want to do
Would you let me stay awhile--
until I'm 82?

So many lands to visit,
so very much to see—
Do you think you could manage
to make it 83?
The world is changing very fast,
there is so much in store,
I'd like it very much to live
until I'm 84.

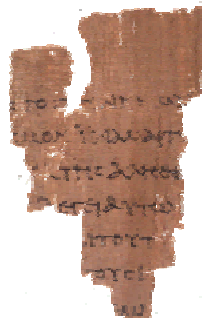
And if by then I'm still alive,
I'd like to stay till 85.
There's more air travel—can you fix
for me to last till 86.

I know Dear Lord, it's much to ask
(and it must be nice in Heaven)
But I would really like to stay
until I'm 87.

I know by then I won't move fast
and sometimes will be late,
But it would be so pleasant to be
around at 88.

I will have seen so many things
and had a lovely time.
So I'm sure that I'll be willing
to leave at 89.

THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY



On the nineteenth of October, sixteen of our parishioners, who are following the Journey in Faith programme on Thursday evenings, visited the John Rylands Library in Manchester. This wonderful building is one of the finest examples of modern Gothic architecture in Europe, and houses the rare book and manuscript collections of the third largest academic library in the United Kingdom.

The purpose of our visit was to see the small fragment of papyrus on which is written part of St. John's Gospel. This is believed to be the earliest surviving manuscript of the New Testament and is dated in the first half of the second century. Our guide, Anne, also had on display other priceless manuscripts and books which are not readily available for public viewing. We all felt that we had been granted a rare privilege on this day.

Later we paid a visit to St. Anne's Church in Ancoates, where Father Philip Price, who had prepared tea and refreshments for us, made us very welcome.

SHEILA SMITH

The fruit of silence is prayer,
The fruit of prayer is faith,
The fruit of faith is love and
The fruit of love is silence.

MOTHER TERESA

PARISH BAZAAR

Saturday November 16th was the day for the parish bazaar held in the Community Centre at Moorends. It was rather a miserable damp November day, so all credit to the brave souls who turned out to support this biggest fund-raising effort in the parish. There were the usual stalls, including the ever-popular Bottle Tombola Stall, which always attracts.

Almost as the stalls were packing up two rather elderly people came into the hall. They were not regular parishioners and possibly strangers to Moorends for they said they had been wandering round trying to find the hall. Well – one large bottle of Grants whisky was still left on the bottle stall. This lady bought one ticket – and lo and behold – she won the whisky. Rather makes you think of the labourers in the vineyard where the ones who worked an hour got the same pay as those who had worked all day. On their way out the couple, beaming with pleasure, stopped to tell me how glad they were they had found the bazaar.

Eileen (O'Neill) had been busy making lots of piccalilli, pickled onions and red cabbage, as well as marmalade and jam. Having had a go at some of these things myself, I know how much work is involved. This stall is the biggest money raiser as Eileen has an ongoing demand for her produce throughout the year and many contacts in the area, not just within the parish, who buy her wares. Along with the homemade produce, Eileen also runs the repository, which provides cards for all religious occasions, holy pictures, ornaments and devotional goods. This is particularly useful as many of the things, such as rosary beads, are not so easy to find elsewhere.

Food for the mind was provided by the bookstall while more consumable goods were to be found on the cake stall, the Chocola – chocolate raffle – and other stalls. Very many thanks to all who generously donated chocolate for the raffle. On other stalls were beautifully hand-knitted goods and a young people's stall selling cosmetics and jewellery. This was an initiative of Emily Walker and her friends – young people who know what their own age group want. Bethanie Harrington, another young parishioner, also had a stall. The white elephant stall proved a good hunting ground for bargains (does anybody know why such stalls are called white elephant stalls? Why not a more colourful one such as purple?) Puzzles and pretty little Christmas gifts were on another stall; there was a fine hamper to raffle, so there was a lot to buy. The fina

CANDLELIGHT PEACE VIGIL

(Taken from the Candlelight Peace Vigil organised by the McAuley Catholic High School on November 18th 2002)

“The world is hanging by a thread, that thread is prayer, which links the world with God.”

This vigil was an attempt to focus on the need and deep desire for peace and the dire cost in human suffering of war, whose effects persist for generations. A huge amount of work had been put in by the students at McAuley whose initiative it was. The haunting music of John Taverner sung by the choir recalled the liturgy of the Orthodox Church and the readings emphasised two things essential to peace – justice and love. These two are characteristics of God, which we seek to show to a beautiful world disfigured by human greed. It is not “outside” oneself that these qualities grow but in the human heart of each individual. Each person is a unique individual able to make a free choice to love and serve God in justice and peace. Perfect love casts out fear – and many are at this moment afraid of a potential war. We need to pray with St. Francis: LORD, make ME an instrument of YOUR PEACE.

Profound thanks go to the students of McAuley for taking this initiative and raising awareness of the vital need for justice, love and peace among our local parishes.

KATE HEYWOOD

CHRISTMAS FRUIT CAKE RECIPE

(A must for a “Merry” Christmas)



Ingredients:

1 cup water
1 cup sugar
4 large eggs

2 cups dried fruit
1 tsp salt
1 tsp baking soda

1 cup brown sugar
8 oz nuts
Juice of 1 lemon

1 bottle whisky

Method:

Sample the whisky to check for quality.

Take a large bowl.

Check the whisky again. To be sure it is of the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink. Repeat.

Turn on the electric mixer, beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl.

Add one tsp. sugar and beat again.

Make sure the whisky is still OK. Cry another tup.

Turn off the mixer. Break two eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the dried fruit.

Mix on the turner. If the fried druit gets stuck in the beaters, pry it loose with a drowscriver.

Sample the whisky to check for tonsisticity.

Next sift two cups of salt or something, who cares?

Check the whisky.

Now sift the lemon juice, and strain your nuts.

Add one table. Spoon. Of sugar, or something, whatever you can find.

Grease the oven.

Turn the cake tin to 350 degrees.

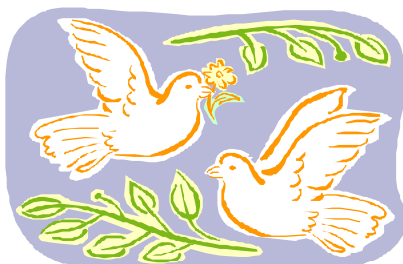
Don't forget to beat off the turner.

Throw the bowl out of the window.

Check the whisky again and go to bed.



Jack Daniels



LOVE

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous;
Love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish.
It does not take offence and is not resentful. Love takes
no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth.
It is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope and to endure
Whatever comes.