

# PARISH OF SAINT OSCAR ROMERO SEAFORTH AND WATERLOO

Worshipping in Our Lady Star of the Sea and St Edmund of Canterbury churches  
Serving the Catholic Community formerly served by the Parishes of Our Lady Star of the Sea,  
Saint Thomas of Canterbury and Saint Edmund of Canterbury  
Liverpool Archdiocesan Trustees Inc. Registered Charity No. 232709

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Dominic Curran: 1 Crescent Road, Seaforth Village, Liverpool, L21 4LJ  
Office Phone: **0151 928 2338** Parish e-mail: [olss@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:olss@rcaol.org.uk)

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Year B)

### Fr. Dominic's Desk:

I look to keep the newsletter down to one A4 sheet, so that there is less waste, as we look at the impact we have on the environment.

But this week as the rules continue to relax and we look forward to coming out of lockdown, for what we hope will be the last time, I felt it important to speak to the hope I hear and the hope I feel. So rather than reduce things down, as we begin to see the beginnings of new growth in nature, let us look to planting seeds that will lead to new growth in our Parish and communities.

In this season of Eastertide, the season of Resurrection, let us not so much look at going back to the old normal but allow God to raise up in, with and through us a new normal, a more compassionate, more loving normal.

I find this hope in the words shared by our Archbishop, in response to the hurt caused by a recent response by the CDF (The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith) in Rome. I find hope in the conversations I've had around Synod and the direction of the Church in our Archdiocese. I find hope in the conversations, both informal and more formal, about the future of our Parish of Saint Oscar Romero. I find hope in how people have been working together, the openness to working with different people, the living out of St. Paul's words that there:

*"be no competition among [us], no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of [their] own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead." (Phil 2:3-4)*

For us to truly grow as a Parish, this I feel needs to be our attitude; to look towards each other's good first. In a world infected by 'the virus of indifference' as Pope Francis calls it, we need to as he said "remind [ourselves] that our lives are a gift and we grow by giving of ourselves: not preserving ourselves but losing ourselves in service." What follows are some of the buds of new hope, the beginnings of new growth, of glimpses of the Resurrection, God is bringing about.

## God's Love has no Limits:

Just as it gave me hope that the Church was modelling itself more closely on Christ, becoming more welcoming to all when Pope Francis said "If a person is gay and seeks God and has good will, who am I to judge?" The latest Ad Clerum (letter to the clergy) gave me hope for the same in our Archdiocese as Archbishop Malcom shared the following words to the clergy of the diocese, which he has given permission to be shared with all the faithful.

His words are powerful *"we are stronger and more powerful witness to Christ because of our LGBT+ brothers and sisters"*, and *"we should learn from them and hear God speaking through that reality"*:

The recent response by the CDF to a dubium on the blessing of same-sex unions has caused some hurt amongst the faithful of the archdiocese and beyond. I have received correspondence myself on the issue, with one father writing in a letter that his son, who is gay, "is suffering because he has read about the recent pronouncement." I am sure that the sentiment of this parent will echo the sentiments of many parents, and I have no doubt that this suffering is felt acutely. I also know that some of you will have heard similar sentiments from people you minister to and, perhaps, you have felt it yourselves. It is important therefore that we reach out to all our LGBT+ brothers and sisters, to show them that they have a place at the heart of our Church, and our archdiocese. As Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane, has been reported as saying recently, the latest pronouncement should give us greater impetus to another conversation about inclusion. Indeed, our Synod is, in one sense, just this: staying faithful to Tradition, but being open, through our learning, reflection, prayer and discernment, to the new insights which the Holy Spirit offers to us about the depths and breadth of God's creation. We are a stronger and more powerful witness to Christ because of the presence of our LGBT+ brothers and sisters, indeed, because of the inclusion of all the people of God. Far from denying their experience, and the reality of their lives, we should learn from them and hear God speaking through that reality. We would be poorer without them. It is my hope and prayer that we will find new ways of expressing this inclusivity, understanding the language we use, and employing the talents of everyone, to witness more profoundly in our lives as priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful, a fundamental Gospel teaching: that God's love has no limits.

While I could talk at length about this subject in relation to Church teaching this is not the place for that. This is a place to say all are welcome, because we are all created in God's image and likeness, so all people are good. As science reveals how our sexuality is part of who we are created to be, and our faith tells us that we are created by God, what is of the created order is good. We must therefore, start with the fundamental goodness of each person who is attempting to live a life of integrity of who God has created them to be.

# All are Welcome in our Parish:

All are welcome here. The following is a prayer I have adapted through prayer:

Whoever you are,

**Christ welcomes you!**

With your gladness and your sadness,  
your success and your failures,  
your hopes and your disappointments.

Welcome!

May your stay here

re-animate your heart  
bring healing to your soul  
and please your eyes.

Whoever you are **Christ Welcomes you.**

And we,

the Church,  
the Body of Christ,  
in this place,  
welcome you to our Parish community.

A saying that has always rang true for me is:

*Before you speak, let your words pass through three gates:*

*Is it true?*

*Is it necessary?*

*Is it kind?*

The world would be a much kinder place if we just did this.

I believe, though, that while this is a good starting place, we need to go further, we need to become aware of our bias, both conscious and unconscious, that affects our words, our actions, and our thoughts.

We need to cultivate an attitude of welcome for all and challenge words and actions that do not welcome, that do not include others.

As part of this I was pleased that the safeguarding department of the Archdiocese sent out the guide to stopping LGBTQI+ Hate Crime and it will be available at the entrances and exits of our church buildings.

The words we use form our minds and hearts. Of all people we should be aware of the power of words, we who proclaim, 'The Word became flesh'. Let us use our words to build up others and welcome them into community, into relationship with us.

# We are a MillionMinutes Beacon Parish

## *Who are MillionMinutes?*

Million Minutes is a charity that enables youth action and advocacy activities, that give voice and support to young people (aged up to 25) to transform their lives and their world.

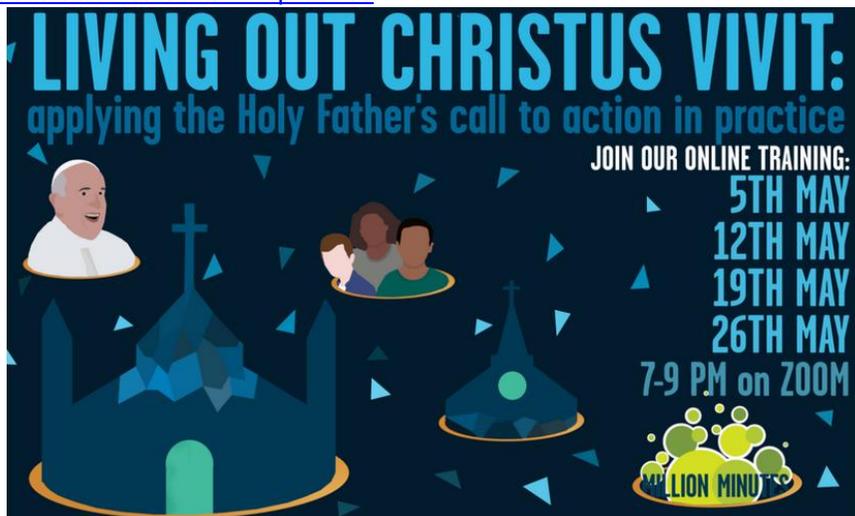
## *What does being a “Beacon Parish” mean for us?*

For a small number of parishes who want to take their commitment to young people further, MillionMinutes offer a two-year ‘Beacon Parish’ programme. So as a ‘Beacon Parish’ MillionMinutes will accompany us in developing our mission with young people.

- The question we are looking at is how do we engage with and walk alongside young people in our community?
- How do we provide opportunities for young people to enrich our community, to enable them to flourish?
- We are not looking at increasing how many young people attend church.
- We are looking at enabling young people to be the church, be the image of God they are called to be, to our community and to the world.

After the Synod on young people, in October 2018, Pope Francis wrote an encyclical called Christus Vivit (Christ is Alive). MillionMinutes is offering 4 part training on this inspirational document that aims to help us broaden the horizons of youth ministry, opening the door for new opportunities to work with young people. Come and Join us as we discover some of the riches of Christus Vivit and how we can live it out in our Parish:

<https://millionminutes.org/events/2021/3/12/living-out-christus-vivit-applying-the-holy-fathers-call-to-action-in-practice>



## **Synod Zoom meetings with Synod Members:**

The Synod members who worship in our Parish, including myself, will be participating six Zoom meetings, to reflect on the Recommendations going forward to Synod, that they are going to vote on.

As we reflect on the story behind each of these recommendations, both the story collated by the Synod office and the story we each have heard, it would be great if others are also present to listen, reflect and share where they see the Holy Spirit calling the church in our Archdiocese at this time. The more ears that hear the story of the concrete recommendations and reflect in their voices, those stories, will lead us to hear all notes, sharps and flats that make up God's voice.

Meetings will take place on Tuesday nights 6:30pm – 8:00pm, from April 27 –

June 1: Meeting ID: 933 1509 6072

Passcode: 327786

---

### **Parish Year of Romero**

After our Zoom meeting, it was decided that most events would be best after June when the lockdown is relaxed. There would then be nine months between July and 24, March 2022, so what was suggested is that we have a liturgical event each of the nine months. Around these liturgical events we are hoping other social events will take place to bring us together as a new Parish, and help us grow and deepen our understanding of Saint Oscar Romero. He is a relatable, inspirational Saint who, the more I read about, the more I realise we have to learn from, and be inspired by.

The first event planned will be a memorial Mass, on the 14<sup>th</sup> July as we come out of lockdown, to remember those of our Parish and loved ones of Parishioners who have lost their lives during this Pandemic.

Oscar Romero, would read out the names of those who had gone missing in the previous week, in hearing people's names, he named the grief and suffering of the families and community. This seems an essential thing for us to do in very different circumstances but a time when pain and grief has not been able to be named, shared and collectively felt and processed as we would want, and as is healthy. More information about this will be made available in the coming weeks.

God Bless Fr. Dominic

---

## Thought by Saint Oscar Romero:

My aim, as far as lies within our church's power, is to bring about justice and truth and to give voice to those who are not heard.

*(3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter, 1978)*

## First Holy Communions

Parents have naturally been asking what the plan is, both for the delayed celebrations from last year's Y4 (Y5 now) and the current Y4. I am meeting the catechists via Zoom and once decisions over what is possible have been made we will share it in the newsletter.

---

## **Baptisms:** *(Latest Government update)*

### From Step 3 - no earlier than 17 May

- most significant life cycle events ***can resume***, limited to no more than 30 people. This will include events such as weddings, wakes, private ***baptisms***

### Step 4 - no earlier than 21 June

- At Step 4, the government aims to remove all limits on life cycle events and other gatherings. This will be subject to the outcome of the scientific Events Research Programme, which will include a series of pilots using enhanced testing approaches and other measures to run events of larger sizes.

---

## Called: Sacrament of Confirmation:

In Autumn 2021 the Archbishop is hoping to begin confirming young people in Year 8 and above in our Archdiocese.

If you/your child would like to register for preparation for the sacrament please go to [liverpoolcalled.co.uk](http://liverpoolcalled.co.uk) and complete the registration form (which can be found at the top right of the website) and your local Confirmation co-ordinator will contact you to inform you of the next stages of the preparation process.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Year B)**

**Resp. Psalm:** Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord.

**Gospel** Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, explain the Scriptures to us.

**Acclamation:** Make our hearts burn within us as You talk to us. Alleluia!

## Collection envelopes available:

As I said last week I'm sorry for the mistakes with the envelopes (no 'Waterloo' on the front of them and no second collection envelopes). Changing them would be more difficult so, they are available at the back of Star of the Sea church (if you need yours brought over to St Edmund's please e-mail the parish office).

---

## Donations to the Parish & Catholic Charities:

While appreciating we are currently living through very difficult times financially for many people, we also know quite a few people have asked how they can financially continue to support the parish or catholic charities. If you are able and wish to contribute financially to the Parish or CAFOD or Missio, then you can do so on-line by:

### Parish:

- Our Lady Star of the Sea and St. Thomas of Canterbury:  
<https://donate.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/our-lady-star-of-the-sea-seaforth>
- St. Edmund of Canterbury:  
<https://donate.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/st-edmund-of-canterbury-waterloo>

### Catholic Missionary and outreach Charities

- Missio/the red boxes: <https://missio.org.uk/donate/>
  - CAFOD: <https://cafod.org.uk/Give>
- 

### SVP (Society of Saint Vincent de Paul) Local Catholic outreach.

In these times if you feel able to support our SVP a collection box will be there each week as you leave our church buildings.

---

### **ALTAR WINE/BREADS:** *(A donation given in memory of a loved one (suggested £10))*

**April:** Joe Rowe, **May:** Lisa Connor, **June:** Peter Boyle

---

**THIS WEEK'S LAMP INTENTIONS:** *Lady or Sacred Heart Altar Lamps at Star will only be lit when intentions have been requested.*

**OLSS: Sanctuary:**

---

### PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:

**Sick:** All the sick of the parishes, their relatives, friends and all those caring for them.

**Especially:** Billy White, Peter Cushing, Ann Hogg, Margaret Kerbey, Mary Dillon, Sharon Gilmour, Lyn Summerfield, Geraldine Ferris

---

**Lately Dead:**

**Anniversary:** Philip Carey, Mary O'Toole

---

# MASS & LITURGY TIMES

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Year B)

### Vigil Mass for 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Saturday 17 April 2021)

4:00 pm **OLSS Church** Peter Boyle (Anni)

5:30 pm **St. Edmunds** Magdalen Ferris

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Sunday 18 April 2021)

9:45 am **St. Edmunds** U.C.M. & Adamson Family, John Davies and James Lomax.

11:30am **OLSS Church** People of the Parish

### Monday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Eastertide. (*Monday 19 April 2021*)

10:00 am *Live Streamed only from*  
*St. Edmunds* Magdalen Ferris

### Tuesday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Eastertide. (*Tuesday 20 April 2021*)

8:30 am *Live-Streamed only from*  
*Our Lady Star of the Sea* Marion Hutt (LD)

### Saint Anselm of Canterbury, Bishop, Doctor. (*Wednesday 21 April 2021*)

10:00 am *Live-Streamed only from*  
*St Edmunds* A successful confinement (MC)

### Thursday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Eastertide. (*Thursday 22 April 2021*)

8:30 am *Live-Streamed only from*  
*Our Lady Star of the Sea* Nick Short (LD)

### Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Saint George, Martyr

7:00pm **St. Edmunds** Paul and Sue Kendall

### Solemnity of Saint George, Martyr. (*Friday 23 April 2021*)

8:30 am *Live-Streamed only from*  
*Our Lady Star of the Sea* John Ashcroft

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (Year B)

### Vigil Mass for 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Saturday 24 April 2021)

4:00 pm **OLSS Church** Mary O'Toole

5:30 pm **St. Edmunds** People of the Parish

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Sunday 25 April 2021)

9:45 am **St. Edmunds** Elizabeth & Joseph Reynolds & Mary Dean

11:30am **OLSS Church** Tony Rankin (LD)

---

ENROLLED IN PARISH MASS ASSOCIATION:

---