



Gaudete et exsultate: Pope Francis on dangers to holiness today

Gnosticism was one of the heresies that posed a serious threat to the Christian faith in the early centuries. One aspect of its thinking was the emphasis on 'knowledge'. "What matters most is what you know. No need to be charitable or do good works." ¹ "While unduly exalting knowledge or a specific experience it considers its own vision of reality to be perfect." (40) My sense is that Pope Francis is talking about a Gnostic mentality that can still prevail in the discourses within the Church at various levels and which is detrimental to fostering true 'holiness'.

This mentality is fed on our need for certainty and surety. When you know something for sure, when everything is well-defined, categorised and systematically outlined, when the boundary between right and wrong is clearly demarcated without leaving any grey areas, it gives a sense of security. But Pope Francis writes that such surety domesticates the mystery, whether the mystery of God and his grace, or the mystery of others' lives. "When somebody has an answer for every question, it is a sign that they are not on the right road." (41)

The English poet John Keats introduced the term 'negative capability' and explained it as the ability to be "in uncertainties, mysteries, doubts, without any irritable reaching after facts and reason". He argued that the secret to being an artist is to cultivate such a mind-set. Pope Francis notes that Church teachings are "not a closed system, devoid of the dynamic capacity to pose questions, doubts, inquiries... the questions of our people their suffering, their struggles, their dreams, their trials and their worries, all possess an interpretational value that we cannot ignore if we want to take the principle of the incarnation seriously." (44)

Pope Francis, who loves to talk about the God of surprises, has these beautiful lines in his letter: "Even when someone's life appears completely wrecked, even when we see it devastated by vices or addictions, God is present there. If we let ourselves be guided by the Spirit rather than our own preconceptions, we can and must try to find the Lord in every human life."

True holiness is allowing ourselves to be surprised by our loving Father, ready to be led into the unknown and by the unknown. Trust is the key and surety is a resistance.

¹ James Martin SJ, *America magazine*.

Fr. Lixon Cyriac

Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress "Adoremus" - Liverpool 7-9th September 2018



The bishops of England and Wales are holding a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool in September 2018.

Eucharistic Congresses are gatherings of clergy, religious and laity which promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Church. The last International Eucharistic Congress in England was held in 1908 when permission for a public procession of the Blessed Sacrament was refused.

On the Friday and Saturday, participants will engage in a series of sessions focusing on different dimensions of the Eucharist and the daily celebration and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. On Sunday, celebration Masses will be held and on the afternoon procession with the Blessed Sacrament will take place.

There are seven themes now emerging for the Congress:

1. Eucharist, 2. Adoration, 3. Scripture, 4. Ecclesiology (the Church), 5. Formation, 6. Music, 7. Mission.

The impact of the Congress needs to be absorbed and consolidated in parish and school, because that is where it matters most to each individual. At St. Augustine's we will be holding 24 hours Adoration, Holy Hours, prayer and a focus on Eucharistic Adoration in the parish to prepare for and support the Congress as a parish.

We will also be reflecting on the Congress themes in the newsletter over the coming weeks and months. Also post Congress, delegates will be providing feedback at parish and diocesan level. Fr. Lixon's reflection on Adoration scheduled for next Sunday's newsletter begins our preparation.

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
Year B Psalter Week 4
PARISH MASS BOOK
Readings: from page 109
Preface: page 68**

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 22nd 16th Sunday Yr B Ps Wk 4

7.00pm Confessions in Polish

7.30pm Mass in Polish

MSZA SWIETA 19.30

Outreach St John's Seminary

Refurbishment Fund – Student

accommodation at St John's Seminary, Womersley, has not been updated for 40 years. The seminary has appealed for help in refurbishing 30 of its bedrooms at a cost of £2000 per room. Many rooms have threadbare or no carpets. It would be wonderful if St Augustine's Parish could fund the refurbishment of at least one of the rooms.

MONDAY 23rd St Bridget, Patron of

Europe

12.30pm Ladies Lunch & Prayer Group - see notice for venue

WEDNESDAY 25th St James, Apostle

THURSDAY 26th SS Joachim & Anne

FRIDAY 27th

3.00pm Wedding - Church

SUNDAY 29th 17th Sunday in Ordinary
Time Yr B Ps Wk 1

Outreach Mary's Meals has a vision that every child deserves an education and enough to eat. They work in 15 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, providing a daily meal in a place of learning. This meets the immediate needs of hungry children and also encourages them to go to school to gain an education that can, in the future, be their ladder out of poverty. **A child is fed and educated for a whole school year for £13.90.** About the same cost as coffee and cake for 2 in Tunbridge Wells. Gift aid envelopes available. For more information see: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/who-we-are/>

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Mass Times

Sunday Masses

Sat 5.30 pm Vigil Mass

Sun 8.00 am

9.30 am Family Mass

11.15 am Sung Mass

5.45 pm (1st Sun Youth Mass)

Weekday Masses

Mon, Tues, Thurs 7.30 & 10.00 am

Wed 7.30 am, 12.30 pm,

7.30 pm Extraordinary Form

(1st Wed monthly ONLY)

4.30 pm Burrowswood

(2nd Wed monthly ONLY)

Fri 7.30, 10.00 am & 7.30 pm

Sat: 8.00 and 10.00 am

Reconciliation

Sat 10.30-11.30 am. 4.30 - 5.15 pm

Also by appointment.

BAPTISMS - We are pleased to welcome **ris, Olivia, Aimienne & Aiden** to our parish community.

WEDDINGS - Congratulations to Carmina & Jonathan we wish them a long and happy married life.

PLEASE PRAY FOR the repose of the souls of **TERENCE DOUBTFIRE - NANCY HAGERTY - IVY BOND - SARAH LUNN - JO JENKINS - JOHN MURRAY and MARI CARMEN ARAGON.**

Please also remember the sick and housebound in your prayers.

Crescent Road Car Park Refurbishment

We have just received notice that the Monson Road Car Park will be closed to the public **EVERY WEEKEND IN AUGUST**. Drivers are asked to use the other town centre car parks. For parishioners attending Mass on these dates this means that our car park will be in much demand. We appreciate that this will cause inconvenience especially to parishioners who have baptisms and/or weddings booked throughout August and you are also asked to also remind your guests that Calverley Crescent is private property and parking is not allowed.

AYLESFORD PRIORY events

JULY

Sat 28 ALL NIGHT VIGIL, 10.00 pm Mass, Adoration, Rosary, Stations of the Cross, Benediction and concluding with Mass of the Sunday. Depart 6.00 am.

Sun 29 CARIBBEAN PILGRIMAGE, 12 noon Mass

Bp. Patrick Lynch. 3.30 pm Rosary, Adoration and Benediction.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

“What can be more excellent than prayer; what is more profitable to our life; what sweeter to our souls; what more sublime, in the course of our whole life, than the practice of prayer!”

St. Augustine of Hippo

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

Packs of Gift Aid envelopes are still waiting to be collected from the Church Office. If you haven't received your box or are expecting one please check with Daniele or Sue during office hours.

OFFERTORY

Offertory	£1726.01
Outreach : Samaritans	£590.35
CAFOD	£23
Mitapeep	£36.65

Thank you for your generosity.

**Congratulations and Thank You
to Deacon Kevin Dunne
who celebrates 30 years of Ordination and
Jean Dunne 30 years as The Parish Sacristan**

Thank you both from St. Augustine's clergy and parishioners. Please pray for Jean and Kevin who have given so much to the parish over the years.
May the good Lord bless you both.

CLERGY HOLIDAYS

From 3rd August until 21st September inclusive there will be no Mass at 7.30 p.m. on Fridays, with the exception of 7th September when Mass will begin the 24 hours Adoration in support of the Eucharistic Congress. Friday evening Masses will resume on 28th September. Also, during August there will be no public Evening Prayer at p.m. on Sundays.

**Ladies Lunch & Prayer Group
Monday 23rd July**

The Tower House, Rusthall at 12.30

Please note the change in date and venue.

We will meet in Anne Jenner's garden Please see the notice in the Narthex or ring Ann TW 529911 for directions.



Special Parish Mass

Saturday 1st September at 5.30pm

We are proud to be an international church and once again we shall be celebrating the fact that St. Augustine's is a truly Catholic and Universal Church at this Mass. Over the years we have been blessed to have priests and laity from across the globe. We wish to take the opportunity to invite the parish to this mass and to celebrate this with us. It is hoped that as many people as possible will be able to make this their choice for Sunday Mass.

As usual afterwards, everyone is invited into the hall for refreshments. If you could bring a 'finger' dish representing your nationality this would be greatly appreciated.



Please put this date in your diary.

We would also be grateful to anyone who could help set the hall up the afternoon beforehand and help during the party. Contact Paul Lambert TW 531093

PARISH FAMILY DAY

Many thanks to all the Parishoners for their valuable contributions and participation in making the Parish Family Day a great success. The afternoon was both a celebration of oneness of the parish family and the diverse backgrounds we are all from. The wide variety of sumptuous international food proved the culinary master skills of the parish; the open mic revealed the artistic gems; the games and activities for the children and youth and parishioners chatting and mingling all made the bright afternoon a really memorable one.



"Parish Family day was very enjoyable and I loved the delicious food from lots of different countries. I liked the games and I enjoyed the face painting the most. My 4 year old sister often asked me to read the prayer book which she made in the art and craft area, as she was also excited with what she had done". Eileen Febby Jacob, Year 4.

"I experienced the family-fun day of St. Augustine's not only through the eyes of a performer, but also as a person who helped prepare the event itself! Filled with food, games, prizes and much more, the family fun day was a blast for all ages and I would absolutely love to do it again! Not only did it allow people to show off their musical talent, but it also gave your toddlers several amazing costumes. All in all, the St Augustine's family-fun day was an epic experience, and I would love to do it all over again". Sebastian Sprigge, age 11.

Special thanks to Paul & Doreen Lambert, Febby & Sunitha Jacob, Sheila Sprigge, Luisa Pollini, Mark & Elaine Dennison, Chris & Victoria Terrell, Eva Szarowicz, Adam & Paulina Kasperek, Jane Hughes, Ann Jenner, Nicholas Pointer, Laurence, Stefanie Donovan, Veronica, Maureen, Mary, Marcella, Caroline and Sherine & Anuj Mathew for organising the wonderful day.



Adoremus, a three-day Eucharistic Congress will take place in Liverpool from 7- 9 September this year. Every diocese in England and Wales has been invited and the invitation extended to ALL the parishes within the dioceses as well as schools and religious bodies. The 7 themes of the Congress have been listed elsewhere in this newsletter. According to Archbishop Vincent Nichols, “Adoremus will be a unique opportunity for the Church to gather and reflect on the centrality of the Eucharist and particularly to explore the place of Eucharistic Adoration.”

Friday 7th is a Theological Symposium with 3 seminars and 3 workshops. Saturday 8th is a 6 hour stage programme of prayer, talks, music and concludes with Adoration. The final day is two pilgrimage Masses in the Cathedral followed by a Eucharistic procession.

What does it involve being a delegate from the parish? It involves listening to the seminars, taking part in the workshops and arena events, taking notes on topics being discussed. At the end of

each seminar we’ve been asked to consider a series of questions aimed at capturing our thoughts and feelings at that moment and write down the response:

Q1 What did I hear?

Q2. What stays with me?

Q3. How can this Eucharistic Congress make a difference to my parish?

After the Congress we must get together as a parish team and produce a brief report based on our joint findings. This report will be forwarded to Southwark and put before a ‘Listening Team’ of the great and the good who will work through all the feedback from Southwark delegates over the next few months. The findings of the team will then feedback to diocesan and national level and identify pastoral building blocks for the future of for our parishes, schools, deaneries and diocese.

We will also be giving feedback to the parish and deanery at some point. Be assured we will work hard and do our best for the parish.

The last International Eucharistic Congress in England was held in 1908 when permission for a public procession of the Blessed Sacrament was refused. I personally feel very privileged to represent our parish and take part in such an event which is historical in the life of our country and I am sure the other team members feel the same.

By Doreen Lambert



Westminster Cathedral -
Benediction was given
from the balcony -
Eucharistic Congress 1908

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - by Deacon Kevin Dunne

Frequently asked questions:

What is the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament?

Eucharistic Adoration is a practice in the Catholic Church, in which the Blessed Sacrament is displayed in a Monstrance on the Altar and adored by the faithful. Christian meditation performed in the presence of the Eucharist outside Mass is called Eucharistic meditation.



What is the Blessed Sacrament?

The Blessed Sacrament, is the unleavened bread [no yeast added] consecrated by the priest at Mass and reserved in the Tabernacle.

What is a Tabernacle?

A Tabernacle is a locked container (see picture) in which the consecrated bread, we call the Host is kept.

What is a Monstrance?

The word Monstrance comes from the word “Demonstrate”.

The Monstrance, is where the consecrated Host is displayed.



Why do Catholics adore the Blessed Sacrament? As Catholics, we believe that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist. Therefore Blessed Sacrament is given the same adoration and devotion that is accorded to Christ.

Why should Catholics spend time before the Blessed Sacrament? He is really there!

Jesus said “I myself am the living bread come down from heaven”. Jn6;35

Behold I will be with you always even to the end of the world because I have loved you with an everlasting love, and constant is my affection for you. Mt 28:20; Jer 32:3

Where your treasure is, there is your heart. Could you not watch one hour with me? Mt 6:21; 26:40

Each hour you spend with Jesus will deepen his divine peace in your heart. Come to me all of you who are weary and find life burdensome and either I will refresh you or give you rest. Cast all your anxieties upon the one who cares for you,

My Peace is My Gift to you. Mt 11:28; Pt 5:7; Jn 14:17