

# North Wallasey Catholic Community

[SERVING THE PARISHES OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES, LEASOWE,  
ENGLISH MARTYRS, WALLASEY VILLAGE & SS PETER & PAUL, NEW BRIGHTON]



13 July 2008  
15th Sunday of the Year  
Year A

**Response to the Psalm:**  
Some seed fell into rich soil,  
and produced its crop.

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**  
**Speak, Lord, your servant is listening,**  
**You have the message of eternal life.**  
**Alleluia**

## Sunday

First Mass Saturday... 6.30pm SSPP [Revv Fallon & Quinn]  
Sunday .....8.30am SSPP[Gerry Smith]  
Sunday ....9.45am OLOL[Parish]  
Sunday.....11am EM [Antionette Ryan]

Monday.... 9.15am SSPP [SSCF]

Tuesday.... 8.15am StMchapel [Int of Angela Byrom]

Wednesday... 9.00am EM Service of Word & Communion

Thursday... 9.15am SSPP Service of Word & Communion

Friday... 9.30am Sacred Heart, Moreton Funeral Mass to  
celebrate the life of Martin McTigue

### Next Sunday

Sat 6.30pm SSPP [Bill Graves]  
Sun.8.30am SSPP[Pat Wilson] 9.45am OLOL[Parish] 11am  
EM [Martin McTigue]

### SSPP and last Sunday's announcement

The first thing I would want to say is a word of gratitude to Canon Hoban. It is never easy to deliver a message such as that, last weekend, and Brendan did so with kindness. I thank him!

So now I am asked to move things forward.

It is nearly two years since I was asked to be your Parish Priest and accepted responsibility for the parish willingly. I have to say, these two years have been the hardest in my life. As a Parish Priest there will always be issues that need to be sorted but never before have I had to face a calculated plan to undermine my responsibility. Having said that, this unpleasant response to my presence is in the minority and week after week I have received the warmth and love you come to expect from parish life.

So now a new beginning. Yes, like many/all of you it is sad that a well loved parish church has to close. The reasons why have been well rehearsed, but I do, sincerely, add my words of understanding to that of Brian, our Bishop. We know it is painful, we understand your upset, but we do need to move forward in order to ensure that in New Brighton the community has a suitable home.

Cont.

So to that end I am so happy to say that the welcome from the Vicar, the Rev Jeff Staples, his Curate Paul and the community in All Saints is something special. Like us, the community has spent the last few years discerning their future and the answer has surpassed their expectations. Our new commitment as a parish to share their building, to share their future and to share a new vision of togetherness will hopefully become a beacon for all the faith communities in Wallasey.

How exciting is this! That we as a community from New Brighton, who share close links with the community in English Martyrs' now share that same relationship with the Anglican community in All Saints. Each valuing each other, supported by one another, will make a huge witness in Wallasey.

Jeff and I have prayed together. Even that simple gesture has already given me strength!

So my simple prayer is that you will walk with Jeff and I as we begin to plan a new relationship within the simple bricks and mortar of All Saints Church. I had a conversation with a very old parishioner of SSPP who was telling me how sad he felt about the closure of the church. "But" he said, "at least I can still go to Mass and that is more important than where!".

To help this, Jeff and I have co-opted a Steering Group to smooth the process of this big change.

Supporting me on this group will be:

Eric Bushell [ Finance Committee]  
Anne Muller [Parish life ]  
Jill McNamee [ Liturgy]  
Peter O'Brien [ Buildings]  
Paloma Mc Sorley [ Parish/school]

We will keep you informed about developments through our web site at [www.nwallaseyrc.org](http://www.nwallaseyrc.org).

Like any process of grieving we need to work on a focus. As time to close draws near there will be a number of opportunities for prayer to help us make this closure real.

The group above will work to provide liturgies to help us on our journey.

To begin this process Bishop Brian has kindly offered to celebrate Mass with us on Tuesday 22 July at 7pm. Parishioners are welcome to join with the Bishop as he begins our process of closure. I have confidence that he will be joined by those whose faith has sustained our parish over the years, a time of prayer not division, gentleness and understanding.

From now till we move and beyond we will pray a community prayer:

Lord we turn to you,  
Knowing that you are close and always care for our every need.  
Bless our communities in Ss Peter & Paul and All Saints, New Brighton.

Help us to be open to whatever you want us to do, or be, or become.

Give us a Spirit of Trust that is willing, a Spirit of Hope that is welcoming and a Spirit of Love that is accepting.

Let you will be done, to-day, for ever and ever. Amen

I trust you will all respect the prayerfulness and calm of our prayer within our church over these next short weeks.

**EMMAUS GROUP**

We would like to thank all of the young people who have taken part in our Emmaus group this year with a Barbe-que. This will be held on Thursday 17th July, 2008 at Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School.

Fr John is cooking!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Wallasaey 2 Lourdes**

Thank you to everyone who supported the concert last Friday, £265 was raised towards our funds. The last fundraising event of this season is a Quiz Night on Sunday, 20th July at 8pm in St. Alban's Parish Centre. Cost £2 per person, payable on the door. We will light candles and remember all

**EM****Children's Liturgy**

There will be NO Children's Liturgy at EM this week. Meetings will resume next Sunday, 20th July, as usual.

**Catholic Children's Society.**

Thank you for £125.19 taken from the Spring collection. Thank you also to everyone who has supported the Society with their contributions in the boxes.

**Summer BBQ**

Last Sunday's BBQ was a great success. Thank you to all who supported this event. A big "thank you" too, to all who helped in the planning and on the day itself.



### **A Message from Mgr John McManus, the Vicar General.**

**Following the Bishop's letter last week, I know how disappointed many of you must feel. Unfortunately, some people are using this opportunity to feed misinformation to you and I think it important that this should receive a response.**

**In a 'newsletter distributed outside the church' last weekend, there was a statement that said that my letter of 24<sup>th</sup> October 2007 was a private letter to individuals. It was in fact sent by post to more than 90 parishioners, who had written to the diocese, and was also distributed in church the following weekend. It clearly stated that the Diocese was negotiating with another denomination about the possibility of leasing one of their churches. The claim made that these discussions and meetings were somehow 'secret' is simply not true and is part of the campaign waged against the Diocese, trying to create the impression that something is going on that is not open and honest.**

**The Diocese does not feel it right to counter every untruth and every manipulation of its statements, as this would become somewhat undignified. So we have chosen not to respond to every inaccurate comment. But I ask you to be very careful with regard to what you read and hear. For example, I heard someone say on the radio that the Bishop had not listened and not consulted, that he had refused to engage in constructive dialogue and is out of touch with the feelings of the people of Wallasey. Let it be said that the Bishop has to make decisions in the interests of the whole of the Diocese of Shrewsbury. He has consulted his priests, his Trustees, and many Catholics in the area, including parishioners.**

**For the record, I have, at the request of the Bishop and on his behalf, had meetings with parishioners on the following dates: 13<sup>th</sup> August 2007, 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2007, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008. In addition, I have met with the soul group under an independent chairperson, also a parishioner of Ss Peter & Paul, on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2007, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2007, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2007, 18<sup>th</sup> December 2007 and 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Frank Roche, Financial Secretary, also attended three of these meetings, and the Bishop personally attended the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> December, and discussed for almost two hours. Then we read in the Wirral news: 'if they had come to us saying there was a strong case for closing Ss Peter and Paul, I am sure we would have listened to them'**

**No approach has been made to the Trustees by any developers regarding development or demolition of the church, or subsequent rebuilding upon the site.**

**No money has been offered to the Diocese or Church to buy the leasehold. The only meetings were two exploratory ones with Urban Splash. These meetings took place on 25<sup>th</sup> September and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2007. The Parish Priest and Council Officials were present.**

**The Bishop has made it clear that the school will continue on the present site and that will continue to be the case for as long as the governors wish it to be**

Phone: 0151 638 3066  
Fax: 08707066119  
E-mail: cluster@nwallaseyrc.org