

They become conscious of the vital part Our Lady plays in God's plan and recreate, as they sit there in the presence of Jesus, that situation described in the Acts of the Apostles: Mary and the disciples gathered together in the Upper Room absorbed in prayer - a symbol of what the Church is called to be.

If parents begin teaching their children to pray at home, and, indeed, start praying with them; and if they (or the grandparents) start bringing their children to this Saturday morning Adoration, then things will begin to change dramatically in our Parish. Our Parish's Year of the Child has only a few more weeks to run. This could be the thing that makes it a success after all.

Now for something else:

A week on Monday is All Souls' Day. I want to make the evening Mass (630pm) a special Mass, remembering and praying for all parishioners who have died during the last couple of years.

This is what I propose and what will make this Mass so special. After the homily, I will read out the names of all those who have died, with the congregation responding to each name: May he/she rest in peace. Amen.

While this is happening, a member of each of the families of the deceased will bring up a lighted candle, representing the person who has died, and place it on the altar.

It will be an occasion for families to express before God their abiding love for the deceased person and to thank God for the life they lived and for the salvation won for them by the precious Blood of Christ.

*As I write this letter to you, I have just received news of the tragic death of Frankie Clarke, killed in an accident on the A55. Frankie is the brother of Joe, whose daughter Chloe was also killed in a similar accident last year. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to his mother Sue and to all this grieving family. The funeral is at 12 noon on Friday. God bless you, **Fr Antony***

THIS WEEK: Mass every day at 12 noon (except Monday)
UCM Mass at Stella Maris 730pm Monday
Finance Committee at Presbytery, 730pm, Wednesday
Mission Team's COME AND SEE, 730pm, Thursday

THANK YOU For last Sunday's Collection: £1052 (well done!)
Of which, £499 was gift aided = £140 tax rebate to Parish
For Feed My Lambs: £182 (feeding about 230 starving

EIN HARGLWYDDES SEREN Y MÔR OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA LLANDUDNO

35 LLOYD STREET. LL30 2YA

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 2009

*may we know Christ more clearly
love him more dearly
and follow him more nearly*

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Dear Parishioner,

If you have started reading this newsletter, please read it through. It is extremely important.

We are coming to the end of our Parish's Year of the Child. We initiated this Year because the children were not coming to Mass. They still aren't.

Again and again I ask myself: Where are we failing? There can be no doubt that the secular society in which we live is having a massive influence. But we cannot off-load all blame onto society.

Religion is essentially a personal relationship with God. Do our children have that personal relationship with God? And the answer is No (I am speaking generally).

If there is no real prayer in a person's life, then there is no real personal relationship with God. Often when dealing with a class at School, I will ask them to put their hands on their hearts and tell me the truth. "Has anyone said any prayers in the last twenty-four hours, apart from in school?". Two or three hands go up out of the whole class. The simple truth is that our children are not praying; they do not have this living relationship with God which is what

religion is. No wonder they lapse. They are lapsed already.

So is this where we are failing? In not establishing this personal relationship with God from the word go, from the time they are babes in arms?

There is no prayer in the homes. The parents are failing to teach their children this skill which would transform their children's lives. They will provide their children with everything else they want, go into serious debt to furnish their children with their every requirement, but when it comes to what Our Lord calls "the one thing necessary", they have no interest at all.

So I call upon all parents in the parish to start praying with their children and to take advantage of the help the Parish is so eager to give.

And what is this help? If you are serious about wanting to teach your children the art of prayer, then bring them to the Saturday Morning Adoration, an experience which brings together prayer's four essential characteristics.

Christian Prayer has certain essential ingredients.

1. to be conscious of the presence of God;
2. to remember what the Lord has done for us;
3. to praise Him for being the kind of God He is;
4. to be conscious of belonging to that family of God, spread throughout the world, which we call the Catholic Church.

At 10 o'clock, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the altar and the children sit in a circle around It. Here is the first ingredient of prayer—the presence of God.

The Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Few, very few children have a real sense of this. Yet this is utterly fundamental to our Catholic Faith. In this simple act of sitting around the Blessed Sacrament, they are being taught a lesson for life, indeed, a whole way of life. It is the beginning of their learning about the importance, the value, the centrality of the Mass. As they come to love the presence of Jesus among us, they learn to love and value the Mass, that

sublime and supreme act of worship which God has entrusted to us and which forms our lives.

The children then set about reciting the Rosary. In turn, each child, if he/she wants to, reads a passage of Scripture before each decade and leads the Hail Marys. Each decade enables us to remember in the presence of the Lord the great things God has done for us (the second ingredient of prayer listed above). Sister Jennifer or I will explain the meaning of the decade and recount in simple terms what happened at that particular time. The children learn to reflect on the life of our Lord. They learn to meditate on the Scriptures. So often for children, prayer consists of rushing thoughtlessly through the Our Father or Hail Mary. But here, they think quietly about the wonderful things God has done for them; they really engage in meditation.

And in doing this, they are praising God for being the kind of wonderful God he has shown himself to be (the third element, listed above)

They sit around the Blessed Sacrament, itself the very heart of the Church. They sit together, as members together of the Catholic Church, brothers and sisters in Christ. They get a sense of Community, which is at the very heart of what "Church" is.

**URGENT ACTION
NEEDED**