

We listen today in the gospel as Jesus gives the disciples his own prayer. Even after it was given to them, and passed on to us, it remains *the Lord's prayer*.

By praying it, we enter into the very prayer and person of Jesus. The mere saying of the words is not enough; we are called to imitate Jesus who has shared himself with us through this disclosure. In this way, no matter how many times we recite the Lord's prayer we grow in our disposition towards God.

Through prayer we become like him who has called us, and shared his own prayer with us. In prayer we are caught up in the very life of God.

Recently, as you know, we had our Parish Pastoral Group meeting. It was good to celebrate the prayerfulness of the Parish and all that is going on in the Parish, and reflect on where we find ourselves at this time, after the upheaval of the pandemic and its continuing impact.

We are fortunate that we are able to celebrate the Eucharist (Mass) together and safely, and we decided to keep wearing masks for a little longer. Our worship is now returning to some normality with singing and more participation.

It is also a time to bring back children's liturgy, teas and coffees, etc.; normal parish social events. These are not additional "add-ons" but are a necessary part of parish life. To build a parish community means that everyone must play their part.

Perhaps this is a good time to ask, "What can I do to help the parish?" This has nothing to do with money!! When did I last offer my services, time and energy to help build up this community?

Social events enable people to get to know each other; as fellow Catholics, we need to get to know each other, One of the good things about Covid is that stewards have got to know a lot of people, and can greet them by name!

We have to, as a Parish, provide for everyone's needs. Especially those on low incomes. This week you will find in your newsletter the day trip to Llandudno.

If you are on a low income and cannot afford the cost, (which is subsidised by the parish) please have a word with Steve and Mary, or

Fr. Michael. It is important that everyone has the opportunity to have a day out if they wish.

Other events, such as the cream teas, only happen because we have helpers, and generous donors.

The visit to Buildwas Abbey is free and open to everyone.

A social and quiz night is also planned, as well as our Christmas lunch. We will have a carol service in aid of the Hospice in December.

The faith sharing group will meet for anyone who wishes to become a Catholic, and a Holy Hour is planned for the first Sunday of Advent.

There is lots going on, but it should not be up to the same faces; we do need people to step up to the mark. For example, children's liturgy can only take place if we can cover the safeguarding guidelines.

In September we plan a month of varied music at the 11.00am to celebrate our diversity and hopefully people will stay to enjoy refreshments.

Teas and coffees are another way for people to meet. For some people it is an opportunity to enjoy company; it's not what I can get out of it, but rather can I be there for others?

The story goes that a priest was trying to encourage a man to come to Church. The man replied "What has the church ever done for me?" The priest replied "What have you ever done for the church?"

So I hope today (tonight) you might reflect on what sort of vision you have for our parish community.

Is there more we can be doing? Would you like to be more involved?

Now is the holiday season. Perhaps in the year ahead we may find ways to share our hopes and dreams for the parish.

Let us also remember that It's only in serving one another will we find that we are greatly rewarded by the Lord. Then when we pray "Thy kingdom come" we will know deep in our hearts that this prayer is not just words, but reflects a commitment from our hearts.