

**THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH
WORSHIPPING AT
SACRED HEART CHURCH.**

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Saturday 22nd 6.00pm. Vigil Mass 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 23rd 9.30am. Sunday Mass

Tuesday 25th 10.00am Mass St John Rigby M

Wednesday 26th 10.00am Mass St Romuald Ab

Thursday 27th 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction

6.30pm Mass St Cyril of Alexandria Bp D

Friday 28th 10.00am Mass St Irenaeus M

Saturday 29th 11.00-11.30 Confessions during Exposition

Saturday 29th 6.00pm. Vigil Mass SS Peter and Paul Apostles

Sunday 30th 9.30am. Sunday Mass

Key:	Ap.	Apostle
	Ab	Abbott
	Bp	Bishop
	D	Doctor
	M	Martyr
	P	Priest
	R	Religious
	V	Virgin

Peter's Pence collection 29 and 30th June

Next week there will be the Peter's Pence Collection to support the Universal Church and the work of the Holy See, including helping Pope Francis to carry out his charitable works. These works benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Please be generous.

For more information, visit www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html.

Day for Life collection last week

The amount collected was £194.75

Sacrament of Confirmation.

Next Tuesday evening, Bishop John will be at St. Mary's, Burnley, to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for those in the local parishes who responded to the invitation to prepare for the Sacrament. Sadly, the take-up for this Sacrament, which is offered to those of Year 8 age and above, is very poor. However, it does give us a reminder to pray for our young people and to pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire them, both the ones being Confirmed and all our other young people.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.

Sadly, gone are the days when people would regularly use Prayer Books.

To pray using our own words is very important. Often praying without words is even better. This can be Contemplation or Meditation. The Christian understanding of these terms has been somewhat usurped by secular ideologies, practices and so called spiritual movements, but Christian Meditation or Contemplation is a peace-filled silence knowing that there is an active communication between the soul and God. It can be practised in different forms and there are different avenues to attempt to enter it and reach that state.

In extended forms it can lead to a contemplative, monastic, Religious Life (monks and nuns), or in the life of a hermit.

However, there is another form of prayer which we must not dismiss or abandon and that is to make use of the spiritual fruits of the past which have been recorded in prayers which have been written down, shared and prayed, often for many years or even centuries. Some of these prayers have found themselves, by way of poetic development, into our hymn books. Many of the old hymns contain not just deeply spiritual prayers but also sound theology and scripture.

*One such prayer which it would be sad to see lost is **The Universal Prayer** ascribed to Pope Clement XI. (1649-1721)*

Lord, I believe in you: increase my faith. I trust in you: strengthen my trust. I love you: let me love you more and more. I am sorry for my sins: deepen my sorrow.

I worship you as my first beginning, I long for you as my last end, I praise you as my constant helper, and call on you as my loving protector.

Guide me by your wisdom, correct me with your justice, comfort me with your mercy, protect me with your power.

I offer you, Lord, my thoughts: to be fixed on you; my words: to have you for their theme; my actions: to reflect my love for you; my sufferings: to be endured for your greater glory.

I want to do what you ask of me: in the way you ask, for as long as you ask, because you ask it.

Lord, enlighten my understanding, strengthen my will, purify my heart, and make me holy.

Help me to repent of my past sins and to resist temptation in the future. Help me to rise above my human weaknesses and to grow stronger as a Christian.

Let me love you, my Lord and my God, and see myself as I really am: a pilgrim in this world, a Christian called to respect and love all whose lives I touch, those under my authority, my friends and my enemies.

Help me to conquer anger with gentleness, greed by generosity, apathy by fervor.

Help me to forget myself and reach out toward others.

Make me prudent in planning, courageous in taking risks. Make me patient in suffering, unassuming in prosperity.

Keep me, Lord, attentive at prayer, temperate in food and drink, diligent in my work, firm in my good intentions.

Let my conscience be clear, my conduct without fault, my speech blameless, my life well-ordered. Put me on guard against my human weaknesses. Let me cherish your love for me, keep your law, and come at last to your salvation.

Teach me to realize that this world is passing, that my true future is the happiness of heaven, that life on earth is short, and the life to come eternal.

Help me to prepare for death with a proper fear of judgment, but a greater trust in your goodness.

Lead me safely through death To the endless joy of heaven.

Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.