

Thirty Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Diary of a Canvey Priest

What are you afraid of? Failure? Rejection? Being misunderstood? Perhaps, like me, you sometimes find yourself worrying too much about what other people think.

This week I listened to a rather provocative podcast entitled Diversity Is Not Our Strength. It led to a fascinating conversation about identity, culture and what it means to be British or English. But somewhere in that conversation I found myself confronting a more personal question: how much of my life is shaped by the desire to be liked?

There is, of course, something good about wanting to be pleasant, considerate and agreeable. But I began to wonder whether my desire to please people sometimes prevents me from truly loving them. After all, love occasionally requires courage, honesty and the willingness to be misunderstood. Fear can make us cautious when love calls us to be courageous.

This Sunday's Gospel of the talents brings this into sharp focus. The third servant buries what his master entrusted to him because, as he admits, "I was afraid." But notice something deeper. He believes his master to be harsh and demanding. His understanding of the master shapes his response. Rather than recognising the extraordinary trust placed in him, he allows fear to govern his actions.

How often do we do something similar with God? If we imagine him constantly measuring our performance or withholding his affection, we may spend our lives anxiously seeking approval, from him and from others. Yet the Gospel reminds us that God's generosity comes first. We are loved before we achieve anything, and his gifts are entrusted to us so that they might bear fruit.

Thankfully, the week also brought a welcome reminder of the freedom that love brings. A priest friend visited, and we enjoyed a lovely meal at the Lobster Smack. Good conversation, laughter and the simple pleasure of friendship. No need to impress, no anxiety about being accepted, just the freedom to be ourselves.

Perhaps this is the freedom God desires for each of us: not the absence of responsibility, but the confidence to love without fear. When we know that we are loved, we no longer need to bury our gifts. We can offer them freely.

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Parish Notices

Events:

Catholic Men on Canvey – An evening of faith, friendship and good conversation. Join us on the 3rd Friday of every month, 7.30–9.00 pm, beginning this Friday. All men welcome! **"Good company. Honest conversation. Growing in faith."**

Coffee morning – This Sunday after Mass all proceeds go towards Parish funds.

Blessing of graves – Next Sunday 21st of November at Willows Cemetery 13:30pm.

Christmas Craft Fayre – Come along to support next Saturday 21st November 11am - 3pm with various stalls, raffles & much more to raise funds for the food bank.

Carols by Candlelight – On Sunday the 20th December at 5pm.

New Years eve – Join us to give thanks for 2026 and welcome in the new year.

Other notices:

St Joseph's School open days – Please see the poster at the back of the Church with the forthcoming dates for open days in relation to children starting next September.

Extrodinary Minsiters of Holy communion meeting – on Wednesday 18th November now at 7.30 pm.

Spiritual:

An Advent retreat day – On Saturday the 12th of December the feast day of Our lady of Guadalupe, we will have a retreat day to prepare our hearts for Christmas. There will be talks, prayer, availiablity for confession, a shared lunch and an opportunity to hear about my trip to Mexico!

Staying Connected:

Parish WhatsApp Group – Please see Posters at the Back of Church to join.
Facebook – **https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61594932892468**

Faith in Focus

Did You Know?

Purgatory?

Purgatory is the final purification of those who die in God's friendship but are not yet perfectly prepared for Heaven. It is not a second chance after death, nor a halfway house between Heaven and Hell. ***Everyone in Purgatory is destined for Heaven!***

As St Catherine of Genoa beautifully understood, the souls in Purgatory experience both the pain of purification and the joy of knowing they belong to God.

This November, as we pray for the Holy Souls, we remember that God's mercy does not merely forgive us; it prepares us to see Him face to face.

See Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1030–1032.

Post Communion Prayer – De Profundis Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.
If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.
My soul is waiting for the Lord,
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for Holy Souls

Office Hours – Mon – 10:00am to 3:00pm, Wed – 9:30am to 2:00pm, (Parish Surgery 4:30-6:30) Thurs 10:00am to 3:00pm. Fri 10:00am to 3:00pm

Adoration and recitation of the Holy Rosary take place every day, with the church being open from 6:00 am – 8:00pm during the week

Offertory collection last week: £590.17

Weekly Mass Times & Intentions

All Masses are preceded by a time of Eucharistic Adoration – a peaceful opportunity to spend time in prayer with Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome.

Day & Time	Feast day & Intention
33rd Sunday of OT	
4:30 – 5:30pm	*Confessions*
Saturday 14th Vigil Mass 6:00pm	*Sunday Vigil* • Pro Populo
Sunday 15th Nov 10:00am	*Sunday Mass* • **RIP** Paul Bowen (Stalley)
Monday 16th Nov	***NO MASS***
Tuesday 17th 11:15 am	*Feria* • Living & deceased O'Connell Family
Wednesday 18th 10:00am	*Feria* • Maureen Ann Simpson
Thursday 19th 10:00 am	*Feria* • **RIP** Funeral Kerry Gardiner
Friday 20th 10:00am	*Feria* • **RIP** *Bill Windsor* (M.Khan)
Saturday 21st 10:00 am	• **RIP** Anne Zambra (M.Khan)
34th Sunday of OT	
4:30 – 5:30pm	*Confessions*
Saturday 21st Vigil Mass 6:00pm	*The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary* • Pro Populo
Sunday 22nd Nov 10:00am	*Sunday Mass - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Youth Sunday)* • Eileen Potter

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND – Neil Lockwood, Eddie Fearne, Carol Tebbutt, Maria Redgrove, Joan Dettke, Peggy Fearne, Joseph Sullivan, Maureen Pring, June Fen, Clare Ashford, Joseph Pisani, Edward Horton, Patrick O'Brien, Joan Flegg, Lorraine Ballin, Marie McDonagh, Maureen Preshaw, Valerie Ham, Lena Williams, Peggy O'Brien, Eileen Sharp, Miliana Bridie Mavamba, Janis & Christy Nixon

OUR LADY OF CANVEY & ENGLISH MARTYRS
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