



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL, BANFF

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Parish Priest: Fr Piotr Rytel

PARISH NEWSLETTER - SUNDAY 13 JUNE 2021

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

DATE	DETAILS	SERVICE	TIME
SUNDAY 13 JUNE	ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	Mass (Polish) Mass Mass (Polish)	09.00 10.30 13.00
MONDAY 14 JUNE	-----	NO MASS	-----
TUESDAY 15 JUNE	11 TH WEEK OF THE YEAR	Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament Mass	09.00 09.30
WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE	11 TH WEEK OF THE YEAR	Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament Mass	09.00 09.30
THURSDAY 17 JUNE	11 TH WEEK OF THE YEAR	Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament Mass	09.00 09.30
FRIDAY 18 JUNE	11 TH WEEK OF THE YEAR	Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament Mass	09.00 09.30
SATURDAY 19 JUNE	11 TH WEEK OF THE YEAR	Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament Mass Vigil Mass	09.00 09.30 18.00
SUNDAY 20 JUNE	TWELFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	Mass (Polish) Mass Mass (Polish)	09.00 10.30 13.00

SUNDAY REFLECTION

In the cryptic message of the prophet Ezekiel, long centuries before the Lord's coming, God gave His people reason to hope. Ezekiel glimpsed a day when the Lord God would place a tree on a mountain in Israel, a tree that would "put forth branches and bear fruit." Who could have predicted that the tree would be a cross on the hill of Calvary, and that the fruit would be salvation?

Ezekiel foresees salvation coming to "birds of every kind"—thus, not just to the people of Israel, but also to the Gentiles, who will "take wing" through their new life in Christ. God indeed will "lift high the lowly tree," as He solemnly promises.

Such salvation surpasses humanity's most ambitious dreams. And so we express our gratitude in the Psalm: "Lord, it is good to give thanks to you." It is indeed good, and

better still to give thanks with praise. The Psalmist speaks of those who are just upon the earth, but looks to God as the source and measure of justice, of righteousness. Like Ezekiel, he evokes the image of a flourishing tree to describe the lives of the just. The image, again, suggests the Cross as the measure of righteousness.

The Cross is a sign of contradiction to those who would rather “flourish” in worldly terms. As St. Paul emphasizes to the Corinthians, we need courage. Our faith makes us strong, and it is proved in our deeds. He reminds us that we will be judged by the ways our faith manifests itself in works: “so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.”

God Himself will empower the works He expects from us, though we freely choose to correspond to His grace. In the prophetic oracles, He scattered the seed that sprang up and became the mustard tree, large enough to accommodate all the birds of the sky, just as Ezekiel had seen. He gave this doctrine to His disciples in terms they were able to understand, and He provided a full explanation. In the sacraments He provides still more: the grace of faith and the courage we need to live in the world as children of God.

Scott Hahn

FOR YOUR PRAYERS:

- **Sick:** Sandra Cameron, Kenneth Darnell, Kate Hamilton, Marion Newton

FINANCE REPORT

YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2021 – PARISH FINANCE REPORT by Bernard Henderson, Parish Accountant.

The accounts show a deficit for the year of £37,313.39, due to the extensive work refurbishing the church building, restoring it to its original beauty, as well as installing a new sound system. I'm sure the whole parish is very pleased with the results and thanks goes to Fr Piotr for his leadership of this major project.

As a result of this the bank balance has reduced from £54,210 at the start of the year to £14,118 at 31 March 2021. However, the latest bank statement shows a more up to date balance of £18,057 at 28 May 2021.

I have also shown in the accounts this time a significant cash balance at 31 March 2021 of £2,778.60, which relates to Offertory and special collections held before 31 March 2021, but not banked until after the financial year.

The Offertory collections for the year were £8,150 compared to £13,049 in the previous financial year, which reflects the restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic when the Church was closed for several months. However, the Standing orders and direct bank credits were £1,246 compared to £360 in the previous year, which was an encouraging increase.

The parish is blessed with receiving high investment income from the Diocese and the amount received was £18,762 compared to £16,765 for 2020, which is excellent considering the historically low interest rates at the moment.

The Other income of £3,822 relates to a refund for Council Tax. Thanks goes to Fiona for all the work involved in making the claim on behalf of the parish.

The expenses are all fairly self explanatory and excluding the Approved repairs & projects figure of £45,305, the total of the other expenses are down from £31,935 in the previous year to £26,911 in the year to 31 March 2021, a reduction of more than £5,000 overall, which is comparable to the reduction in the Offertory collections noted above.

FUTURE WORKS

OLMC Parish during next years is planning to do:

1. Disabled Access (application was send to the Diocese)
2. Presbytery bathroom complete redecoration

PLEASE CONSIDER HOW YOU CAN HELP WITH FUNDRAISING

but do so in a way that is within your budget and will not cause harm to you or your family. You can do this in a number of ways:

- usual Sunday collection,
- by Standing Order and Gift Aid – please contact Parish Priest (Fr Piotr) for bank details and speak to Fiona about Gift Aid which will add 25% to what you donate.
- Donation (cash or cheque) in an envelope, anonymously or otherwise, put through the Presbytery letter box.
- For cheques please pay to **RCD OUR LADY BANFF & PORTSOY**