

# NEWSLETTER

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Monday 23rd November – Sunday 29th November 2020

*Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> is the first Sunday of Advent*

## CONFESSION

Confessions can be heard anytime during the opening times of church. Or give me a call to make an appointment. Don't suffer alone, it is good to talk.

### Fr Jack - Today's Gospel.



Jesus said, "What good is it to love your friend? Even gang members do that." Okay, He really said tax collectors... but I figured gang members would be a modern day equivalent of the cliché bad guy.

Jesus routinely calls us to do more than love our friends. In Matthew 25 He tells us, "Whatever you do to the least of these, you do unto me." We have to go beyond our comfort zone. We have to have **charity that's wider than our social circles**. It doesn't do us any good to only love the people we know.

We also have to love the stranger and not just the well-to-do stranger, who could turn into our benefactor, who can pay us back. No, we're called to have charity towards the least of these strangers.

We're called to **love the invisible person**.

The person who means little to us, the person we hardly even think of; whose existence we barely notice.

Instead of overlooking these individuals, we need to challenge ourselves to see Christ in them. To serve them as we would serve Christ Himself.

"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

**Kings College Hospital**

**The Chaplaincy number is 020 3299 3522.**

**You may call anytime. But also please, if any family members are in the hospital, please let me know.**

## Pope Francis talks of Three Great Truths of life...

The first is that "**God loves you**", with a love that is more concerned with "reconciling than forbidding...with the future than with the past".

The second is that "**Christ saves you**", forgiving us "time and again...bearing us on His shoulders".

The third is that "**Christ is alive**", a realization that helps us to "stop complaining, and look to the future".

***The opposite to love is not hate, but indifference.***

## RECENTLY...

In his extraordinary decision to speak 'to the city and to the world' from St Peter's Square at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, Pope Francis pointed his listeners and viewers to an urgent call to conversion:

*You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing. It is not the time of your judgement, but of our judgement: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others.*

The image of Francis standing, frail and exposed, amid the dreary March rain and ambulance sirens of Rome in lockdown, is one that will stay with me for a very long time, and seemed to exemplify the closeness of this remarkable Pope to his people. At the darkest of times, he showed how the Church must stand, not aloof but in solidarity with others, holding out the hope of encountering grace and the Lord even from the cross of coronavirus. His papacy has been a model of that pastoral conversion 'to show and live the way of mercy' to which the Church has been called: drawing close to the people of God in the messy reality of their lives and getting his shoes dirty with the mud of the streets.

***If anybody would like a hamper for Christmas, please let me know ASAP.***

## PARENTS

Your children are going to school. They can also come to church. Don't use the pandemic as an excuse for not coming to church; we have a fantastic group of stewards who take good care of our church and you. Bring your children.