



OBLATE VIRTUAL LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2021

PARTICIPANTS HANDBOOK

PILGRIMAGE CALENDAR

Friday, 17 September

7:00pm Opening Service

Saturday, 18 September

8:30am Morning Prayer

10:00am Mass from the Grotto in Inchicore

12 noon Lighting of Pilgrimage Candle

7:00pm Rosary & Torchlight Procession

Sunday, 19 September

8:30am Morning Prayer

10:00am Sunday Mass from the Grotto in Inchicore

12 noon Lighting of Pilgrimage Candle

7:00pm Meditation, incl. small group sharing

Monday, 20 September

8:30am Morning Prayer

10:00am Mass from the Grotto in Lourdes

12 noon Lighting of Pilgrimage Candle

7:00pm Way of the Cross

Tuesday, 21 September

8:30am Morning Prayer

10:00am Mass of Anointing from Curragh Lawn Nursing Home

12 noon Lighting of Pilgrimage Candle

7:00pm Thanksgiving & Missioning Service

OPENING MASS – Saturday, 18 September 2021

Introduction

Reader:

Welcome to our Opening Mass. We are here to pray with and for each other as we seek to support and encourage each other.

The last year has been one when many of us have been apart and separate. Over the recent months we have begun to slowly reconnect with the people around us. Our theme for this year's pilgrimage is "Lourdes: Bringing us together"

The importance of us facing the pandemic together united as one human family has been a constant theme for Pope Francis over the last year. During these days of pilgrimage we will draw on his words of inspiration. He reminds us:

The pandemic continues to cause deep wounds, exposing our vulnerability. On every continent there are many who have died, many are ill. Many people and many families are living a time of uncertainty because of socio-economic problems which especially affect the poorest.

Thus, we must keep our gaze firmly fixed on Jesus in the midst of this pandemic, our eyes on Jesus; and with this faith embrace the hope of the Kingdom of God that Jesus Himself brings us ... Within the Christian tradition, faith, hope and charity are gifts that heal us and that make us healers, gifts that open us to new horizons, even while we are navigating the difficult waters of our time.

Aware that Mary always points us toward her Son let us begin our pilgrimage with our eyes fixed on the love of the Lord.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (4: 31-35)

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favour was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

The Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

COMMUNION REFLECTION

Reader:

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters.

Nourished by the food from heaven, give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of those who suffer.

May our coming together on this pilgrimage help us to turn our fear into confident trust. Keep alive within us the flame of hope. Renew our hearts and minds, so that we may be aware of the deep love you have for us.

Mass of the Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary time

Sunday, 19 September 2021

INTRODUCTION

Reader:

United in heart and spirit, we gather together virtually as the Oblate family – and remembering our theme for this year ‘Lourdes; Bringing us together’ we invite you - whoever you are, wherever you are, however you are feeling - to join us for this celebration of our Sunday Mass.

Pope Francis reminds us, “The current pandemic has highlighted our interdependence: we are all connected to each other, for better or for worse. Therefore, to emerge from this crisis better than before, we have to do so together; together, not alone. Together. Not alone, because it cannot be done. Either it is done together, or it is not done. We must do it together, all of us, in solidarity.”

So we gather as a family on a pilgrimage journey together, aware that Jesus is with us in whatever we are experiencing in our lives. Jesus is always by our side, he will never abandon us. With Mary our mother let us place our hope in Him.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the letter of St. James

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.

The Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, ‘The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to

death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

COMMUNION REFLECTION

Reader:

Nourished by this food from heaven let us turn in prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes: Mary, help our faith!

Open our ears to hear God's word and to recognise his voice and call.

Help us to be touched by his love, that we may touch him in faith.

Help us to entrust ourselves fully to him and to believe in his love, especially at times of trial, beneath the shadow of the cross, when our faith is called to mature.

Sow in our faith the joy of the Risen One.

Remind us that those who believe are never alone.

Teach us to see all things with the eyes of Jesus, that he may be light for our path. And may this light of faith always increase in us, until the dawn of that undying day which is Christ himself, your Son, our Lord!

Mass from the Grotto in Lourdes

Monday, 20 September 2021

A reading from the book of Exodus

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro , the priest of Median. Leading the flock across the desert, he came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There an angel of the Lord appeared to him in fire, flaming out of a bush. As he looked on, he was surprised to see that the bush, though on fire, was not consumed. So Moses decided 'I must go over to look at this remarkable sign and see why the bush is not burned'.

When the Lord saw him coming over to look at it more closely, God called out to him from the bush 'Moses, Moses'. He answered: 'Here I am'.

God said, ' Come no nearer. Remove the sandals from your feet for the place where you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father', He continued, 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob. The cry of the children of Israel has reached me and I have truly noted that the Egyptians are oppressing them. Come now. I will send you to Pharaoh, to lead my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt'

But Moses said to God 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt'. He answered 'I will be with you, and this shall be your proof that it is I who have sent you: when you bring my people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this very mountain.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew (11:25-27)

At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

MASS OF ANOINTING
Tuesday, 21 September 2021

Introduction

Reader:

Welcome to our Mass of anointing. In the midst of these difficult days we come before the Lord with our vulnerabilities and brokenness as we seek healing and inner strength. As we journey together let us once again turn to the inspiring words of Pope Francis:

As the Gospel shows us, Jesus healed the sick of every type, he gave sight to the blind, the word to the mute, hearing to the deaf. And when he cured diseases and physical infirmity, he also healed the spirit by forgiving sins, because Jesus always forgives, as well as “social suffering” by including the marginalized. Jesus, who renews and reconciles every creature, gives us the gifts necessary to love and heal as he knew how to do, to take care of all without distinction on the basis of race, language or nation.

In order for this to really happen, we need to contemplate and appreciate the beauty of every human being and every creature. We were conceived in the heart of God. “Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary”

So as we prepare to celebrate this Mass let us place this healing journey under the protection of the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Health. May she, who carried Jesus in her womb, help us to be trustful. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we can work together for the Kingdom of God that Christ inaugurated in this world by coming among us.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

A Reading from the letter of St. James 5: 14-15

If any one of you is in trouble, they should pray; if any one of you is feeling happy they should sing a psalm. If one of you is sick, they should send for the elders of the church, and they will anoint with oil those who are sick in the name of the Lord and pray over them. This prayer of faith will save those who are sick and the Lord will raise them up again.

Gospel

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke 5:17-26

One day, while Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting nearby (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. Just then some men came, carrying a paralysed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. When he saw their faith, he said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven you.' Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, 'Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?' When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, 'Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, "Your sins are forgiven you", or to say, "Stand up and walk"? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'—he said to the one who was paralysed—'I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home.' Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, 'We have seen strange things today.'

COMMUNION REFLECTION

Reader:

Nourished by this food from heaven let us to turn in prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes:

Mary, woman of listening, open our ears; grant us to know how to listen to the word of your Son Jesus among the thousands of words of this world; grant that we may listen to the reality in which we live, to every person we encounter, especially those who are poor, in need, in hardship.

Mary, woman of decision, illuminate our mind and our heart, so that we may obey, unhesitatingly, the word of your Son Jesus; give us the courage to decide, not to let ourselves be dragged along, letting others direct our life.

Mary, woman of action, obtain that our hands and feet move "with haste" toward others, to bring them the charity and love of your Son Jesus, to bring the light of the Gospel to the world, as you did.

THANKSGIVING and MISSIONING SERVICE

Tuesday, 21 September 2021

Reader: Welcome to the final liturgy of our Oblate virtual pilgrimage, a service of Thanksgiving and Missioning.

In these unusual times, when we are unable to physically meet together in large numbers, we give thanks to God for all the various hidden blessings received over the days of this virtual pilgrimage.

Despite the many challenges the last year has brought let us remember we are not alone. As Christians, we are called to be a people of hope. For we know that all it takes to banish the darkness is for one candle of faith to be lit.

Confident of that hope let us joyfully sing our opening hymn.

SCRIPTURE READING

A reading from the holy Gospel according to St Mark.

On that day, when evening had come, Jesus said to the disciples, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"