

Bishop Robert Barron's 'The Mass' – A Review by John Booth

A big thank you to Rachel and Kevin Pugh, for putting on the study course during July/August, based on Bishop Robert Barron's 'Word on Fire', a six-part talk on The Mass. I learned so much about the Holy Mass, how its four part structure takes us, as the Ecclesia (the mystical body of the Church, who as priests are called to lead all of Creation in the worship of God) from the **Introductory Rights**, where we are called onto the ship of God's good order, acknowledge our sinfulness with the Confiteor & recite the Gloria, giving glory to God, to **the Liturgy of the Word**, where God speaks & we respond, in the readings of the Old Testament & New Testament Gospels, to the **Homily**, where the presiding priest, acting as Christ (in Persona Christi Capitis) interprets the Word, as a guide through the Bible, relating the listener's experience to the Bible passage, through to the **Liturgy of the Eucharist**, where our sacrifices of bread, wine and money to God (representing our toil and the natural elements that have made them possible), are transformed, by the miracle of transubstantiation, into the Body and Blood of Christ, which we consume and are subsumed into God. We have been called onto the Holy Mountain, to commune with God and the angels, but now we must leave and return to share the fruits of the Mass for the transfiguration of the world. Bishop Barron is an excellent communicator and explains makes the profound subject matter in a very relatable manner. Recommended viewing.



Video Talks in the Emmaus Room

Meditation by the Sea at Felixstowe by Rachel Pugh

The first thing I noticed, was the lashing tempestuous waves had a great beauty when the sun glistened on them but when the clouds came over, from beauty they became dull, more menacing, hopeless even.

As I considered the wave barrier, the large cross sections of concrete, I noted that large wave would approach the shore and at the first, a full fury fell upon the stones, yet because they were spaced apart, the power against them was broken up quickly.

I thought about the storms of life, the unexpected and heavy trials that can come and, to me, the wave barrier were like the elements of spiritual life: prayer, mass, praise, worship, silence, speaking of God, sacraments, retreats, faith filled friends: Together they became this barrier to destruction, diffusing the power of evil to disrupt and diminish our lives.

A seagull landed on the stones and lifted effortlessly above the waves when they came, like the Holy Spirit can lift us out of ourselves, not only that, but in the thrashing waves, they brought life, seafood and seaweed on the barrier which became food for them, even amidst such a difficult environment there was food and enjoyment. How blessings can come in unexpected places.



Parish Social Events Calendar

- Parish Auction & Fundraising** - Friday, 27th October, starting at 1830 in Emmaus Room, with light supper. List your items for sale on the form at the back of church.
- The Posada is coming back** – Beginning on the 1st Sunday of Advent (3rd December) until 23rd December. Families are invited to house the Posada at their homes for a night or two. Sign the form at the back of church to take part.
- Parish Christmas Party** - Thursday, 21st December 2023 at Yaxham Village Hall from 12 noon to 6pm.

Gratitude by Fr Jay

Never seemed so forlorn, I dare not ask therefore,
A word as so enthroned a being so blurry wherefore
The beauty wrapped in eternity. is anything but everything.
The arresting wonder has been cast
To you, Divine, at last
These lowly eyes be mine, arise.



The Shack

... from humble beginnings

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Confirmation Candidates with Bishop Peter - 26th June 2023

The Shepherd's Corner

Casting the Net of Christ's Love: Lessons of Faith and Abundance (from John 21:6")

The story of Jesus instructing his disciples to "Cast the net on the right side of the boat, and you will find some" in John 21:6 is not just a narrative of a miraculous catch of fish; it's a profound lesson in faith, persistence, and the boundless blessings that result from trusting in Christ's guidance.

This event, occurring after Jesus' resurrection, provides valuable insights for both individual and collective journeys, especially in the context of a parish community.

A Night of Frustration: Imagine the scene: experienced fishermen toiling through the night, their nets coming up empty. The Sea of Galilee, which once teemed with 163 kinds of fish, now hosts only 27, making each catch all the more critical. Frustration and weariness hung heavily over the disciples as they faced an empty net. Little did they know that this challenging night would lead to a transformative encounter with Jesus.

Faith in Action: When Jesus urged his disciples to cast the net on the right side of the boat, it demanded an act of faith. After an entire night of fruitless labour, the idea of casting the net again might have appeared futile. However, their faith in Jesus, the one who had already demonstrated miraculous power, compelled them to obey. Their willingness to trust in Jesus' guidance, even when doubt and disappointment loomed large, serves as a potent reminder of the importance of faith in our lives.

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Persistence Pays Off: The disciples' persistence in casting their net again exemplifies the value of perseverance. In the face of initial failure, they did not succumb to despair. Instead, they continued to work diligently, trusting that something extraordinary could happen. This persistence paid off in ways they could never have anticipated.

The Abundance of Blessings: As the disciples cast their net on the right side of the boat, they experienced an astonishing catch of fish. This miraculous abundance not only filled their nets but also filled their hearts with awe and wonder. It serves as a reminder that blessings often arrive when we least expect them, and they can surpass anything we could achieve on our own.

A Lesson for Our Lives and Communities: The story of casting the net in John 21:6 offers invaluable lessons for our own journeys, both personally and collectively. We find inspiration in the disciples' trust, persistence, and the abundance of blessings that followed. In life, there are moments when we face seemingly insurmountable challenges. It is precisely during these times that we must remember to trust in God, persist in our efforts, and remain open to unexpected blessings.

In the context of a parish community, casting the net can extend beyond fishing for fish; it means casting the net of Christ's love as far and wide as possible, being inclusive and welcoming to all. When the parish collectively trusts in Christ's guidance and persists in its mission, it can witness an abundance of spiritual blessings, community growth, and transformation.



photo by Fr Jay

John 21:6 is a poignant reminder that faith and persistence, when combined with divine guidance, lead to unimaginable rewards. Just as the disciples' empty net was transformed into a bountiful catch, our lives and parish communities can be filled with unexpected blessings when we place our trust in something greater than ourselves—Christ's unwavering love and guidance. So, let us continue to cast the net of Christ's love, trust in His divine plan, and remain open to the boundless blessings that await us, both as individuals and as a parish family.

What makes a great Catholic Parish?

This was a theme introduced by Fr. Jay at the Parish Meeting held on 6th September, with reference to a book by William E. Simon Jr. entitled 'Great Catholic Parishes: How Four Essential Practices make them Thrive.' In posing the question to those present at the meeting, the following priorities were cited: Warmth – welcoming strangers and making them feel part of the community; Participation in parish life; Learning about church and faith.

So what were the four recommended essential practices that promote a thriving parish?

1. **Showing leadership:** hence the Parish Pastoral Committee helps to share the load of the Parish Priest, utilizing members' various skills.
2. **Fostering spiritual maturity and planning for discipleship.**
3. **Excelling on Sundays:** through our music, the homily, the solemnity of the Mass. All these elements enhance our encounter with the Lord.
4. **Evangelizing: How do we evangelise?** This was something that Fr. Jay wanted people to think about, i.e. fostering spiritual maturity and planning for discipleship as a first priority. All other things flowed from this because it was through our mission and discipleship that we encounter and enhance our relationship with the Lord and, from that, our parish life.

Another important element was handing on our faith to the next generation. It was essential that we gave our youth our attention as a parish.

In all of this, Fr. Jay felt the parish was doing well and he expressed the hope that the parish could continue to nourish and foster all these aims.

Mitte Rete: 'Cast the Net' by Rachel Pugh

Fr Jay put up the **Mitte Rete** quote in Latin meaning Cast the Net, and I mused over what that might mean in our parish. Ideas to chew over:

To whom? First cast the net to the **existing parishioners**. Strengthening links with them. There are those that don't get to Mass but perhaps live stream. Directed communication for them, perhaps with a small group or parishioners that they might know. Keep the live stream going a little before or after that Mass and say hello to them and talk about what is happening perhaps. Winter online group on zoom?

New parishioners. Languages. If they don't read English, we need to be able to communicate with them. What languages are spoken or read?

Welcome pack. Welcome to our parish. Written list of activities, timings, contacts. We can't assume everyone used the website for information. It makes a big difference when we are greeted at Mass by a friendly face (our team does a good job of that) and they could have more resources to hand if they recognise someone new. Perhaps a monthly small group to welcome new people and get to know them.

Far flung parishioners. Perhaps every three months a gathering local to them. Could be a Mass, could be coffee and morning prayer or studying the next Sunday Gospel. We could ask potential hosts in different areas. Map of parish, where do people live? Push pin map somewhere so people can see if they have more local Catholics to them.

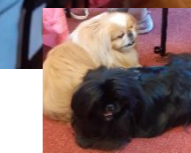
Active parishioners and those perhaps hungry for more. Catholic adult education ongoing. Potentially teach the adults while the sacramental programs are on? First communion parents, confirmation parents, to build their faith.

Baptised but not practicing. Outreach programmes to welcome people to come back and rediscover their Catholic roots. Those outside the faith. Come and See session, perhaps twice a year explaining the basics.

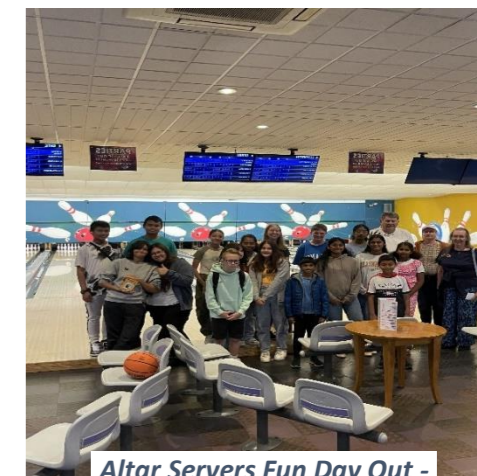
Picture Gallery



Tea Buddies meet every 2nd Monday of the month, 2-4pm. A friendly occasion for a natter over a cup of tea or coffee, cake & biscuits. All welcome to pop in.



Special Tea Buddies - Benjamin Buttons & Buddy



Altar Servers Fun Day Out - Bowling & Pizza – 2nd September 2023

Confirmation

On Monday, 26th June at 7pm, Bishop Peter Collins attended the parish, for the first time since his appointment, to celebrate Mass and Confirmation of thirteen young people, eleven from our own Parish and two from Downham Market, and we also welcomed their Parish Priest Fr Erico.



It was a very special occasion for those confirmed and their sponsors, families and friends. Congratulations to Anitta, Aleena, Alfina, Chelsea, Dennis, Dillany, Domas, Gabija, Keisha, Renato, Samantha, Samuel and Virroch. Following the Mass there was a hog roast and refreshments in the Presbytery garden which was enjoyed by all.