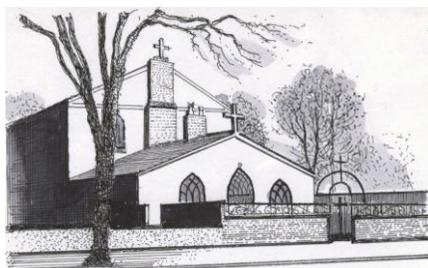


# Our Lady

## Help of Christians

Parish Priest: Fr David Melly  
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**31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 31st October 2021**  
(Prayer of the Church Week 3, Parish Mass Book pg. 152)

### MASSES THIS WEEK

Saturday	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	10.00am	Harry Coulthard
Monday	9.00am	Derek Ellis
Tuesday	9.00am	Holy Souls
Wednesday	7.00pm	James Ennis
Thursday	9.00am	Jim Walsh
Friday	9.00am	Stephen Prescott

### MASSES NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday	5.30pm	Freda Kilgannon (80 <sup>th</sup> birthday)
Sunday	10.00am	Private Intention

### CAFOD

Thank you so much for your kind donations this Family Fast Day. We're now counting down to the 'COP26' climate talks in Glasgow on 01-12 November. The 3 priorities for our government are: to ensure that global temperatures do not rise by more than 1.5 degrees, to stop funding fossil fuels overseas, to support renewable energy globally.

For the next few weeks we are dedicating our encased noticeboard in the outside porch to **Let's go green**. We're sharing ideas on how we can do this in our town. If you have tips, pictures, veggie recipes, prayers.... please put them up. Feel free to rearrange the noticeboard if it makes it easier. Pens and paper will be available in the little chapel. Thank you.

### PORTICO FUNDRAISERS

Portico Fundraisers are pleased to announce that their Christmas Plant and Wreath Sale will be held in the church hall on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December. There will also be Christmas gifts for sale and a well-stocked Tombola. Order forms for the plants will be available at the end of November.

### MADE IN THE DIVINE IMAGE

The essential work of religion is to help us recognize and recover the divine image in ourselves and everything else too. Whatever we call it, this 'image of God' is absolute and unchanging. There is nothing we can do to increase or decrease it. It is not ours to decide who has it or does not have it. It is pure and total gift, given equally to all. [1] It is often the mystics who understand that "My deepest me is God!" to paraphrase St. Catherine of Genoa (1447–1510). [2] In these passages, contemplative writer Ursula King presents three mystics who saw God's divine image as more fundamental in the human soul than sin. The fourth century theologian and mystic Gregory of Nyssa (c. 335–c. 394) held that:

In each human soul there exists a divine element, a kind of inner eye capable of glimpsing something of God, for there exists a deep relationship, an affinity between human and divine nature. [3] The medieval mystic Mechtild of Magdeburg (c. 1212–c. 1282) yearned for the soul's original intimacy with God: Mechtild's work is motivated by the deep desire that the soul return to its original being in God. It is her true nature to live in the flowing light of the Godhead, just as it is a bird's nature to fly in the air and a fish's nature to swim in water. She has emanated from the heart of God, where she must return, but she discovers her utter nakedness before and in God: "Lord, now I am a naked soul!" Yet her intense love pours out in praise of God.