



Parish of St Peter and St Paul

ARCHDIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER

THE PRESBYTERY
Fr. Ivano Millico, Parish Priest
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22nd SUNDAY in Ordinary Time (A) 3rd September 2023

SUNDAY MASS: 9:45am & 12noon

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday & Friday 12.30pm; Tuesday & Wednesday 8am

CONFESSIONS: (on request)

Note: no weekday Mass this week

First Holy Communion classes

Parents and children are expected to attend 9:45am Sunday Mass.

The enrolment will close at end of October.

Speak with Fr. Ivano directly to take part.

Baptism Course

The next Baptism preparation will be on **Sat 23rd September 11am** in the Parish Hall.

Individual meetings will follow.

Do approach directly Fr. Ivano after Sunday Mass.

Confirmation

We have a two-years Programme. Any young person who is willing to join should speak with Fr. Ivano directly before the end of October.

Marriage Course

A 5-weeks course will commence early next year.

8:15-9:15pm Fridays: 23rd Feb, 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd March & Sat 23rd March afternoon.

Speak directly with Fr. Ivano for the enrolment form.

We will have Tea & Coffee after the 9:45am Mass on **Sunday 24th September**.

If you can help setting up, baking some cakes and serving let Fr. Ivano know. thanks.



SCAN to GIVE
You can scan this **QR**
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Sunday donation.
Thank you.

In the year 385, Augustine, accompanied by friends, was making his way to the imperial palace where, as professor of rhetoric, he was to recite the emperor's annual panegyric. He was unusually agitated. His conscience knew he was going to tell lies and he only told them to be applauded, and the very applauders of those lies would not believe them. It was, in short, an inglorious comedy for him and everyone else. Then, in a small street in Milan, a beggar stood before him, full of wine, freely giving vent to his drunkenness. The poor beggar did not have a bad face, on the contrary, he was playful and joked with the passers-by, perhaps even a few innocent jokes on Augustine. The orator of the day looked at the old drunk man with a sight not of disgust but of envy!



See, Augustine said to his friends, how much happier this beggar is than we are. The rest of us, with all our efforts and study, our ambition and the torments of thought, aspire to that happiness that this one, with a little money asked of his neighbour and a few glasses of wine, possesses in its entirety, such as we will never have. Nor, of course, is his true joy, but that happiness which we pursue through a thousand turns and travails is even more fallacious.

The fact is that he is joyful, I am anxious; he is at peace, I am restless. If I were asked to swap with him, I would refuse, because I prefer to be me, even with all the anxieties that distress me. But perhaps I am wrong. Who assures me that I am in the truth? Am I superior to him in science? But science does not give me the joy that wine gives him. And how do I employ this science? Not to instruct men and make them better but to please the powerful and the crowds, to gain and to flatter.

You will tell me that one must consider the cause of this joy. He finds it in wine and I in the love of glory, which is esteemed nobler. But if the beggar's joy is not true joy, neither is the glory I seek. He will digest his drunkenness tonight and on waking he will rise with a clear head. On the other hand, I go to bed drunk with ambition and wake up drunk with ambition, possessed, day after day, by a foolish drunkenness which does not even give me the reward of a little bliss. That tipsy man is happier than I am. Perhaps he is morally superior to me too because he has earned his wine by wishing good luck to the donors, while I seek the foolishness of vainglory by lies.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola, a thousand years later, would call Augustine's experience in Milan a "spiritual desolation", that is, a state of human dissatisfaction, a moment of interior sadness, provoked by the Holy Spirit to 'poke' our soul, disquiet us, shake us, move us to conversion. The 'poking' of the Holy Spirit turned this vain, unhappy man into a blessed holy man, Saint Augustine, his Feast Day was last Monday.

In. h. m.

Father Ivano