



Newsletter

*Parish of St John Vianney, incorporating the former
Parishes of St Andrew, Holy Family & St Mark
St Therese of Lisieux Pastoral Area*

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Second Sunday of Advent, 4 December 2016

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah ([2 Kings 1:8](#)). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry. John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

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Second Collection

There will be a second collection for Christmas flowers. Please support this collection if you are able.

With You Always

The next Sacramental Preparation Family Session is Monday, 5 December in St Andrew's School. Session times 4.45-5.45pm/6.00-7.00pm.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion is the most sacred part of the Mass for Catholics. If you are not a Catholic but would like to come forward for a blessing, you are most welcome. Please place your hands across your chest.

Faith for Life

Who would benefit from Faith for Life?

- People who are searching and/or looking for ways to deepen their faith.
- Groups who are in the process of forming e.g. Parish Pastoral Councils and leadership teams.
- People who are already involved at some level in their parish or local community.
- People who are involved in full time or part time ministry.
- People who are considering a change of direction in their life.

The course is open to all denominations and benefits from being ecumenical.

The next Faith for Life course will begin in the Archdiocese on the following dates and locations:

Upholland – St Joseph's Parish, Crow Orchard Road, Wrightington, WN6 9PA. 28/29 January, 25/26 March 2017.

Southport – Sacred Heart Parish, Liverpool Road, Ainsdale, PR8 3BP. 21/22 January, 4/5 March, 13/14 May 2017.

To express an interest or for more information contact Maria Hardacre on 0151 522 1081, email:

m.hardacre@rcaol.co.uk or Monica Gannon on 01704 577722 email: heartstoneparish@btconnect.com

The Gift'

Archbishop Malcolm has invited CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration) into the archdiocese to train people involved in faith sharing and evangelisation in the use of their new resource called 'The Gift'. This is an opportunity to experience an inspiring and practical series aimed at people of all ages to help them encounter the Holy Spirit and empower them to share their faith.

The CaFE (Catholic Faith Exploration) team will lead these two days and Archbishop Malcolm will join on the second day. It is open to priests, catechists, youth workers, chaplains and anyone interested in evangelisation and faith formation. The aim is that those who attend will feel confident in leading the programme themselves.

'The Gift' will be held on Saturday, 4 February and 25 February 2017, in Christ the King's Parish Club, Score Lane, Liverpool, L16 6AW and attendance on both days is essential. To register and for more information, please contact Sister Moira Meeghan at, 32 Great Georges Road, Liverpool, L22 1RD or email; moira@irenaeus.co.uk

Dementia Friendly Christmas Carol Service

You are invited to a Christmas Carol Service with Archbishop Malcolm McMahon at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King on Wednesday, 14 December 2016, at 2.00pm. This will feature the students from St Therese of Lisieux, Norris Green, English Martyrs, Litherland and Great Crosby Primary Schools plus the "Songs We Remember" choir and the Metropolitan Cathedral Junior Choir. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Gibberd Room and everyone is most welcome. For further information, please contact the Pastoral Formation Department on 0151 522 1046 or m.knight@rcaol.co.uk

Christmas Cards to the Holy Land

We have been asked as a Parish to forward Christmas cards to our fellow Christians in the Holy Land.

We suggest that you write in a simple card a greeting to the parish of your choice, perhaps saying that here in the Liverpool Archdiocese we are praying that the peace of joy of Our Lord Jesus

Christ be with them at this time and throughout the New Year.

Please pass your cards into the Parish Office clearly marked with the name of the parish you have chosen and we will forward them on your behalf. Of course, you may choose to write cards to one or more from the list below. Many thanks in anticipation of your support.

Our Lady Of Seven Sorrows

This parish has a nursery and a school for 265 children.

The Annunciation

This parish is in a very small village that is still 85% Christian. The diocesan seminary is here.

St John The Apostle

This parish in Nazareth is 30% Christian including 1200 Catholics.

Our Lady, Woman of Valour, Pastoral Centre

This parish has thousands of parishoners, mostly migrants.

Saint Saviour, Jerusalem

Luckner Parents Care Home, Jerusalem

Children's Liturgy

As mentioned in our recent safeguarding talk at masses, the Archdiocese recommends that Children's Liturgy is aimed at children of school age upwards. We would therefore advise parents with children

under the age of 3 to keep their child/children with them particularly as we are experiencing large numbers as a result of WYA preparation and it becomes a safeguarding risk.

Please feel free though to use the resources at the back of both churches for younger children and return them after mass. Thank you so much for your understanding.

The rehearsal for the children's mass on Christmas Eve will take place in St Mark's Church on Sunday 18th December at 12.15pm. At this rehearsal the children will have an opportunity to practise their readings, the mime and try on their costumes. The rehearsal will last approximately 45mins-1hr. Any children wishing to attend must be accompanied by an adult. More details will follow.

Important Notice Regarding Mass Intentions

Mass intentions submitted to the office will be celebrated at the nearest available date. We currently have a large number of mass intentions outstanding, your continued patience and understanding as we work through this list would be appreciated. In order for us to provide for unexpected life changing moments that need our prayer, events such as funerals, operations and special intentions take priority.

Ladies Group Reminder

The final meeting of the year will take place this Wednesday, 7 December at 7.00pm in the meeting room at Holy Family. New members are most welcome to come along.

Christmas Poinsettias

As in previous years, parishioners are invited to leave poinsettias at the back of both churches over the following few weeks with the name of their loved ones and these will be placed on the altars of both churches over the Christmas period in remembrance.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

This year our Service of Reconciliation will be at 7.00pm on Monday, 19 December at Our Lady of the Assumption, Gateacre.

All the priests of the Pastoral Area will be gathering to give us the opportunity to celebrate the sacrament in preparation for Christmas.

Anyone requiring transport or willing to give a lift, please see the information at the back of church.

In addition, confessions are available by request before Mass.

Please pray for all our families who will be celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation over the coming week as they support their children who will make their First Confession.

Christmas Carol Concert

Saturday, 10 December, 7.30pm at Our Lady of the Annunciation Church Bishop Eton, Woolton Road, Liverpool 15.

Parish Finance

Gift Aid and Envelopes	£	437.10
Other Envelopes	£	122.16
Loose GASDS	£	389.53
Total Offertory	£	948.79
Standing Orders	£	265.00
Bonus Ball 22	£	80.00
Animate Youth Services	£	126.32

** School's Prayer **

St John Vianney, give us strength so we'll do our best. Help us, guide us and look after us in work, fun and rest. Make us patient, kind and loving and always willing to try. And let us see for ourselves that we are unique in God's love.

** Parish Prayers **

"Almighty and merciful God, you made St John Vianney glorious by his pastoral zeal and constant prayer and penance. Through his intercession may your holy spirit lead us and guide us as we endeavour to follow Your Son Jesus, wherever He leads. Bless our young people. Bless our sick and housebound. Bless our family and friends. Bless those most in need at this time. Unite us all in your love. May St John Vianney help us to hear the voice of Your Son Jesus when he

says: "Be calm, do not be afraid, it is I". St John Vianney, pray for us". We are asked to pray for Margaret Lewis and all those who have died and we also remember to pray for their families.

Volunteer Pastoral Assistants

Funeral Lay Ministers

Carole Clancy
caroleclancy@fsmail.net
07855 769863

Ron Smith
ronaldsmith57@btinternet.com
07546 252142

Baptism Coordinator

Mrs Chris Myles
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07443 018816

With You Always Coordinator

Mrs Kami Lester
lesterkami@gmail.com
07881 817799

School's Information

St Andrew's: Tel 0151 288 8940
Headteacher: Mrs Jan Cunningham
standrew@knowsley.gov.uk

St Mark's: Tel 0151 288 8910
Headteacher: Mr Richard Coakley
stmarks.de@knowsley.gov.uk

Holy Family: Tel 0151 282 8971

Headteacher: Mrs Gillian Holland
holyfamilyhalewood@knowsley.gov.uk

St Edmund Arrowsmith:
Tel 0151 477 8770
Headteacher: vacant RIP

St Julie's: Tel 0151 428 6421
Headteacher: Mr Tim Alderman
reception@stjulies.org.uk

SFX: 0151 288 1000
Headteacher: Mr Len Rippon
admin@sfx.liverpool.sch.uk

Bellerive FCJ: Tel 0151 727 2064
Headteacher: Sr Brigid Halligan

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

St John Vianney, Halewood

Tuesday 8th November 2016

The meeting opened at 6.10pm with a prayer led by Fr. Matthew.

Present: Fr Matthew, Geraldine Marsh (acting chair), Agnes Cannon, Carole Clancy, Emily Crompton (from 6:40pm), Peter Crompton, Jill Holland, Jim Moore, Chris Myles.

Apologies: Jan Cunningham, Jim Harrison, Kami Lester, Rachel O'Neill, Lisa Parry.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: accepted as true record

Matters arising: none

Notification of Any Other Business: Hymn books. Benches (St. Mark's). Gate (St. Mark's). Daily Mass times. Minutes in Newsletter. Eucharist administration, Holy Family. Sunday Collection. Parish administrators. Health and Safety. Bereavement ministry.

Correspondence: none

Election of Parish Council Chair: as a number of members of the Council were absent it was agreed to defer this until the next meeting.

Fr. Matthew's induction event: it was agreed to postpone this until 5 May 2017 as he needs time to get to know parishioners better.

Advent liturgies: there will be a Pastoral Area Reconciliation Service at Our Lady of the Assumption church, Gateacre at 7pm on 19th December 2016. It was agreed to have the collection of poinsettias for Christmas. The Christmas ceremonies will remain as in previous years ie.

Christmas Eve, 6pm, Children's Mass – St. Mark's church

Christmas Eve, 9pm, Vigil Mass – Holy Family church

Christmas Day, 9.15am Mass – St. Mark's church

Christmas Day, 11.00am Mass – Holy Family church

Vianney's Voice: 7 application forms have been submitted for young people to go on the Archdiocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. The Quiz Night raised £450. The young people organised and led it and feedback was very positive. A raffle is planned for a Christmas hamper.

Schools: Mrs Holland represented the head teachers. The 3 headteachers are to meet with Fr. Matthew to discuss his involvement with the schools. The With You Always programme has commenced. There is a meeting for Catholic Headteachers next week – Mrs Holland will attend. Preparations are underway for Christmas. It was requested to have access to the church in May for the May procession.

Baptism: the programme is very busy. There are currently 30 baptisms for next year. Currently, 5 children are being baptised at some Masses. These can become noisy events. The parents are

to be reminded of the need to be quiet and respectful. Fr. Matthew has received Baptism dates for next year.

RCIA: there have been 6 enquiries to date. There will be a meeting next week to outline the process.

Safeguarding: 2 new volunteers for Eucharistic Ministry and Children's liturgy have gone through the DBS process. It was agreed to remind volunteers to engage with the online Educare training programme. The Archdiocese is to pilot the appointment of Safeguarding Champions who will be a point of contact for clergy, volunteers etc.

Ladies' Group: The group will be attending The Spirit of Christmas on 18th December, a pantomime on 16th December and Boundary Mill on 21st November. There are still some places left for parishioners to participate in these. The Bereavement Service will take place on 15th November. Preparations are well in place.

Any Other Business:

- a. it was suggested that daily Mass times be changed to 09:30 instead of 10:00. Fr Matthew is to explore this with parishioners.
- b. There are problems with lights over the altar at Holy Family.
- c. Management of collection monies, particularly at Holy Family church was discussed. It was agreed that the sacristan will collect the money from the altar area at the end of Mass.
- d. A request was made for the Minutes to be presented as a separate sheet rather than incorporated into the newsletter. No decision was made. To be discussed with the administration staff.
- e. Concerns had been raised about the impact of a lack of Eucharistic Ministers

at the 5:15pm Mass on Saturday 5th November. In situations such as this it is possible for the priest to seek others to assist with the distribution of communion. Thanks were expressed to those who had stepped forward to help out. It was noted that this is not an ideal situation and that any Ministers unable to fulfil their rota slot should ensure a replacement to cover for them.

- f. Parish staff: There had been some changes in parish staff over the last weeks with Joanne Hennessy and Hazel Brennan moving to pastures new and Jacqui O'Rourke arriving to work alongside Maureen Conley as the admin staff for the parish. Thanks were expressed to both Jo and Hazel for all the work that they have done for the parish and for Fr Vin over these last few years.
- g. It was reported that the hymn book cases can cause an obstruction leading to an increased risk of tripping over bench ends. It was agreed to trial a move of the bookcases to the porch. The Health & Safety group will investigate the need to shorten bench kneelers at the rear of St. Mark's church.
- h. It was reported that it was difficult to manage gates at St. Mark's church due to previous damage. This is to be investigated with the relevant Archdiocesan staff.
- i. The Bereavement Team is to meet with Maureen Knight on 17th January to discuss the involvement of other parishioners to assist.

The meeting ended with a prayer at 7:50pm.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 24th January 2017.

Question of the Week

Adults: What will you do during Advent so that others can see that you have put on the light of Jesus Christ?

Children: What will you do during Advent so that others can see the light of Jesus in you?

**Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday, 4 December 2016**

Date – 2016	Holy Family Church	St. Mark's Church
Saturday, 3 December First Mass St Frances Xavier	5.15 pm – Mass (Eileen Gus)	
Sunday, 4 December Second Sunday of Advent	11.00 am – Mass (People of the Parish)	9.15 am – Mass (Teddy Sammonds, RIP)
Monday, 5 December Advent Weekday		10.00 am – Service of the Word
Tuesday, 6 December Advent Weekday	10.00 am – Mass (Tony Doherty, Anniversary)	
Wednesday, 7 December St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church	12.30 – Funeral Service for Margaret Lewis	
Thursday, 8 December The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10.00 am – Mass (Deceased members of Devine Family)	
Friday, 9 December Advent Weekday		10.00 – Mass (Frs Gaskill, Murphy, Magee & Thomas)
Saturday, 10 December Advent Weekday	5.15 pm – Mass (People of the Parish)	
Sunday, 11 December Second Sunday of Advent	11.00 am – Mass (Luke McGuinness, Birthday Mem) 12.30 - Baptism	9.15 am – Mass (Neil Parker, RIP)

Next Week's Readings - Third Sunday of Advent

Reading I – Isaiah 35:1-10

Reading II – James 5:7-10

Gospel – Matthew 11:2-11