



# 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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## **Third Sunday of Advent, 11 December 2016**

This week's Gospel Reading continues our Advent reflection on the person and message of John the Baptist. Last week we heard John speak about his relationship to the coming Messiah, Jesus. This week, we hear Jesus' message to John the Baptist, now in prison, about the signs of the kingdom found in Jesus' ministry and Jesus' assessment of John's role in the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of John's arrest in chapter [14:3-12](#). In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for Jesus. Then Jesus says that all of those who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater. Jesus' message to John about the signs of the kingdom being performed recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.

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0151-486-9883**

## **With You Always**

The next Sacramental Preparation Family Session is Monday, 9 January 2017. Session time 6.00pm in St Mark's Annexe.

## **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](mailto:m.hardacre@rcaol.co.uk) or Monica Gannon on 01704 577722 email: [heartstoneparish@btconnect.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:m.knight@rcaol.co.uk)

### **Christmas Cards to the Holy Land**

We have been inundated with cards for this project which we will be forwarding on to the Holy Land this week. Thank you so much for supporting our fellow Christians.

### **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.

The children's mass on Christmas Eve will take place in St Mark's at 6.30 pm.

## **SVP Foodbank Appeal**



The SVP are appealing for non perishable food items to be left at the back of both churches. We are most grateful for your continued support of this important project that helps those in need in our area.

## **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.

## **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.

## **Baptisms**



We welcome in to the Parish through baptism this weekend Tess Marie Davies, Ava Susan Mitchell, Luna Nora Maloney and Lenny Anthony Maloney and all those families who have recently celebrated this sacrament.

## **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.

## **St Mark's Club**

Manager: Mrs Emma Harvey, Telephone 0151 486 4908 opening times Monday-Friday from 2.00pm, Saturday & Sunday from 12 noon. Regular entertainment on Sunday evenings, bingo on Tuesday and Thursdays. Please note that the Club has a large function room available for hire for all family occasions for £55.00 plus returnable security fee. We do not make a charge for Funeral Receptions. It is vital for the future of the Club and for the support of the work of the Parish, that parishioners make use of this excellent facility.

## **Christmas In St Mark's Club**



Thursday, 15 December  
Christmas Bingo, 9pm

Friday, 16 December  
Christmas Jumper Coffee Morning in aid of Save the Children, 10-12pm

Christmas Day  
Open 12-2pm

Boxing Night  
Karaoke & Disco

New Year's Eve  
Fantastic artist Louise Jones  
Tickets £6

New Year's Day  
Karaoke & Disco from 5pm



## **Congratulations**

The Parish sends its warm congratulations to John Ireland who has been made a Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur by the French government for services to France during the last war.

## **Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral What's On**

### **Two Cathedrals' Messiah**

Saturday, 10 December 2016, 7.30pm. Join the choirs of Liverpool Cathedral and Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral as they come together to perform Handel's festive masterpiece, Messiah. This annual concert, which is a firm favourite of the Advent season will include Handel's rousing Hallelujah chorus. Tickets £10 from the Met Cathedral.

### **Nugent Care's Light up a Life Service**

Friday, 16 December, 12.30 – 1.30 pm. This is their annual remembrance service. In this intimate service, which

is led by Bishop Tom Williams, individuals are invited to dedicate a light on the tree to remember and celebrate the life of a loved one. Everyone who dedicates a light will receive a star at the service to write a personal message. This star will be placed on the tree in memory of their loved one and their name will be entered into a book of remembrance which will be displayed in the Cathedral over Christmas and the New Year. Refreshments will be served in the Gibbered Room after the service.

#### Dickensian Christmas Concert

Saturday, 17 December, 7.00pm – 9.00pm. This is a Dickensian inspired family Christmas concert. BBC Radio Merseyside's Roger Phillips will be reprising his role as compere, as the Metropolitan Cathedral Choirs and Archbishop Beck School Choir perform a selection of popular Christmas carols in the stunning surroundings of the Cathedral. Tickets are priced at £5 or £10 for a family ticket and can be purchased from the Cathedral gift shop or online.

#### Festival Carol Service

Sunday, 18 December, 5.00pm – 6.30pm. Join the Cathedral Choirs for a mix of seasonal music and readings as well as congregational carols. A perfect way to pause and reflect before Christmas week gets underway. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served by

the Friends of the Cathedral after the service. Admission is free.

#### First Vespers of Christmas and Blessing of the Crib

Saturday, 24 December, 3.00pm – 4.00pm. Sung by the Cathedral Girls' Choir. During the service the Christmas Crib, situated in the Unity Chapel will be blessed.

#### Notices for the Newsletter

For next week only, any items for the Newsletter must be received by the office no later than noon on Thursday, 15 December. The office will be closed on Friday, 16 December.

#### Mass for the Deaf

A Mass for the deaf community is held at Christ the King Church every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 4.30pm. All are welcome.

#### Parish Finance

Gift Aid and Envelopes	£ 514.14
Other Envelopes	£ 111.70
Loose GASDS	£ 434.80
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>£1,060.64</b>
Standing Orders	£ 265.00
Bonus Ball 42	£ 76.00
SVP	£ 355.20
Christmas Flowers	£ 154.66

**\* 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  
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Ron Smith

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**Baptism Coordinator**

Mrs Chris Myles  
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07443 018816

**With You Always Coordinator**

Mrs Kami Lester  
[lesterkami@gmail.com](mailto:lesterkami@gmail.com)  
07881 817799

**School's Information**

St Andrew's: Tel 0151 288 8940  
Headteacher: Mrs Jan Cunningham  
[standrew@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto:standrew@knowsley.gov.uk)

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

Holy Family: Tel 0151 282 8971  
Headteacher: Mrs Gillian Holland  
[holyfamilyhalewood@knowsley.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:reception@stjulies.org.uk)

SFX: 0151 288 1000  
Headteacher: Mr Len Rippon  
[admin@sfx.liverpool.sch.uk](mailto:admin@sfx.liverpool.sch.uk)

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

**Question of the Week**

**Adults and Children:** What act of kindness can you do this week?

**Third Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, 11 December 2016**

<b>Date – 2016</b>	<b>Holy Family Church</b>	<b>St. Mark's Church</b>
<b>Saturday, 10 December</b> First Mass	<b>5.15 pm – Mass</b> (People of the Parish)	
<b>Sunday, 11 December</b> Third Sunday of Advent	<b>11.00 am – Mass</b> (Luke McGuinness)  <b>12.30 pm - Baptisms</b>	<b>9.15 am – Mass</b> (Neil Parker, RIP)
<b>Monday, 12 December</b> Our Lady of Guadalupe		<b>10.00 am – Service of the Word</b>
<b>Tuesday, 13 December</b> St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr	<b>10.00 am – Mass</b> (V Pritchard)	
<b>Wednesday, 14 December</b> St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church		<b>10.00 am – Funeral Mass for Anne Kerwin</b>
<b>Thursday, 15 December</b> Advent Weekday	<b>9.30 am – Mass</b> (Sidney Benson)	
<b>Friday, 16 December</b> Advent Weekday		<b>10.00 – Mass</b> (Betty, Thanksgiving)
<b>Saturday, 17 December</b> Late Advent Weekday	<b>5.15 pm – Mass</b> (People of the Parish)	
<b>Sunday, 18 December</b> Fourth Sunday of Advent	<b>11.00 am – Mass</b> (John Luke Trainer)	<b>9.15 am – Mass</b> (George Biggs, RIP)

**Next Week's Readings - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Reading I – Isaiah 7:10-14

Reading II – Romans 1:1-7

Gospel – Matthew 1:18-24