



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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Fourth Sunday of Advent, 18 December 2016

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract.

| Parish Mass Books | |
|---|----------------|
| Fourth Sunday of Advent | Page 90 |
| Nicene Creed | Page 11 |
| Preface | Page 67 |
| Eucharistic Prayer for Various needs II | Page 25 |

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Activities in St Mark's Annexe

A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes. The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

Second Collection

Please note the second collection at Mass on Christmas Day is your offering to the work of our parish community. It is not a personal gift to the priest.

With You Always

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

In order to update our records, please let the office know if you use the annexe on a regular basis. We require the name of your group, the day and time you require access together with a contact name and number.

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

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, 18 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.

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 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.

St Mark's Primary School Christmas Carol Concert & Fundraising for the Homeless



Everyone is welcome to attend this concert which will take place in St Mark's Church at 6.00pm on Monday, 19 December 2016.



Last week, the school had an own clothes day for pupils and staff who brought in donations of new socks, hats, scarves, sleeping bags, biscuits, chocolate, coffee etc. The generosity of the school community was so great, their minibus was filled with goods which were delivered to the HOPE Project. Well done St Mark's.

Our Schools

As our school's look forward to a well earned rest over the Christmas period,

we thank all the staff and parents who work tirelessly to support our children.

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.

Mass for the Deaf Community

A Mass for the deaf community is held at Christ the King Church, Queens Drive every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 4.30pm. All welcome.

Thankyou

Pat and Peter Crompton would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and masses offered for Pat's recovery, which have been answered.

Christmas In St Mark's Club

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



Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral What's On

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.

Parish Finance

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|------------------------|------------------|
| Gift Aid and Envelopes | £ 526.17 |
| Other Envelopes | £ 148.37 |
| Loose GASDS | £ 396.93 |
| Total Offertory | £1,071.47 |

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Standing Orders | £ 265.00 |
| Bonus Ball 36 | £ 109.00 |

*** 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 Ann Kerwin, Margaret Slater and James Patrick Ryan 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

Question of the Week

Adults: Whom do you find it difficult to welcome in your life? What can you do to overcome that?

Children: What could you do this week to make someone feel welcome, as Joseph welcomed Mary?

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, 18 December 2016**

| Date – 2016 | Holy Family Church | St. Mark’s Church |
|--|--|---|
| Saturday, 17 December Late Advent Weekday | 5.15 pm – Mass (People of the Parish) | |
| Sunday, 18 December Fourth Sunday of Advent | 11.00 am – Mass (John Luke Trainer) | 9.15 am – Mass (George Biggs, RIP) |
| Monday, 19 December Late Advent Weekday | | 10.00 am – Funeral Mass for James Patrick Ryan |
| Tuesday, 20 December Late Advent Weekday | 12.00 – Funeral Mass for Margaret Slater | |
| Wednesday, 21 December Late Advent Weekday | | 10.00 am – Mass (Betty Flynn, RIP) |
| Thursday, 22 December Late Advent Weekday | 10.00 am – Mass (Sara Gray Teresa Lyon) | |
| Friday, 23 December Late Advent Weekday | | 10.00 – Mass (Maureen Casey) |
| Saturday, 24 December Late Advent Weekday | 8.30 pm Carols 9.00 pm – Mass (People of the Parish) | 6.30 pm – Children’s Mass |
| Sunday, 25 December The Nativity of the Lord | 11.00 am – Mass (People of the Parish) | 9.15 am – Mass (People of the Parish) |