



Newsletter

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Matthew Nunes

Email: johnvianney@rcaolp.co.uk

Parish Administrators:

Maureen Conley (Mon & Tues 9.00 am - 1:00 pm)

Jacqui O'Rourke (Thurs & Fri 9.00 am - 1.00 pm)

Email: johnvianney@rcaolp.co.uk

Tel: 0151 486 9883

Web: www.parishofstjohnvianney.co.uk

The Nativity of the Lord, 25 December 2016

Four Masses are celebrated for the feast of Christmas, and each is given its own set of readings to help us contemplate Christ's birth. The Gospel for the vigil Mass on Christmas Eve is taken from the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew. The Mass at midnight proclaims the birth of Jesus using the Gospel of Luke. The Mass at dawn on Christmas morning continues the story of the birth of Jesus as found in Luke's Gospel through the shepherds' visit to the infant Jesus. In each of these Gospel readings, we hear portions of the Infancy Narratives with which we are familiar.

The Gospel for the Christmas Mass during the day is taken from the beginning of John's Gospel, but this Gospel is not an Infancy Narrative like those found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Instead, John's Gospel begins at the beginning, as it were, and presents the Creation story as the framework for announcing the Incarnation. John's opening words, "In the beginning . . .," echo the opening verse of the Book of Genesis. This framework invites us to view Jesus' birth from God's perspective. Each of the Gospels makes clear that Jesus' birth was the result of God's initiative. However, John's Gospel highlights that this was the divine intention from the very beginning, from the moment of Creation.

Parish Mass Books	
The Nativity of the Lord	Page 95
Nicene Creed	Page 11
Preface	Page 67
Eucharistic Prayer for Various needs II	Page 25

Liverpool RC Archdiocesan Trustees Incorporated. A registered Charity 232709

**The Parish Office: Penmann Crescent, Halewood, Liverpool, L26 0UG. Tel:
0151-486-9883**

As we observe in today's reading, the Gospel of John includes highly philosophical and theological language. One example that particularly stands out is John's use of the expression, "Word of God." This expression (*logos* in the Greek) borrows from a concept found in both Jewish and Greek thought. In Jewish thought, this phrase describes God taking action—for example, in the Creation story and in the Wisdom literature. In Greek, or Hellenistic, thought, the *logos* was understood as an intermediary between God and humanity. John and others in the early Church adopted this language to describe God's incarnation in Jesus. As the term was used to express the trinitarian faith of Christians, the word *Logos* came to be equated with the Second Person of the Trinity.

In this prologue to the Gospel of John, the main themes that will be developed in his Gospel are introduced. These themes are presented as dualities: light/darkness, truth/falsehood, life/death, and belief/unbelief. We also hear in this prologue a unique aspect of John's Gospel—the motif of testimony. John the Baptist was sent by God to testify about Jesus, the light. Others in this Gospel will also offer testimony about Jesus. The reader is invited to accept this testimony, which bears witness to Jesus, the Son of God. But even more directly, Jesus' action and words will themselves testify to his identity with God as God's Incarnate Word.

Thinking about Jesus' birth in these theological and cosmological terms seems particularly appropriate as we celebrate the feast of Christmas in the darkness of winter. At this time, nature itself seems to remind us of the darkness of sin. Into this darkness, in the midst of our sinfulness, God comes to dwell among us. John's Gospel reminds us that through the Incarnation, God saves us from the darkness of sin and makes us his children.

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, 30 January 2017. Session times are 4.45pm-5.45pm and 6.00pm-7.00pm in St Andrew's School.

Activities 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.

Many Thanks

Thank you to Mrs K Baxter for her generous donation to the Parish Lourdes fund.

Father Power would like to convey his thanks to everyone for all their prayers, cards and good wishes and extends his best wishes to all in St John Vianney Parish for a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

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.

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.

Baptisms



We welcome in to the Parish through baptism all those families who have recently celebrated this sacrament.

Sister Christine Warrington

As you may have heard, Sister Christine passed away recently. She will be received in to the cenacle chapel, Tithebarn Grove, Wavertree on Wednesday, 28 December and as is their custom, the community will be undertaking the service themselves. Her Requiem will be celebrated at Christ the King, Queens Drive at 11.30am on Thursday, 29 December. Please keep the community and especially Christine's mother in your prayers.

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



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



Parish Finance

Gift Aid and Envelopes	£ 602.86
Other Envelopes	£ 183.41
Loose GASDS	£ 404.81
Total Offertory	£1,191.08
Standing Orders	£ 265.00
Bonus Ball 27	£ 82.00

** 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 Francis Smith
and Stephen Nuttan 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
christinamyles52@hotmail.com
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: Why is knowing Jesus important in your life?

Children: How do you experience Jesus when you give a gift to someone else?

**The Nativity of the Lord
Sunday, 25 December 2016**

Date – 2016	Holy Family Church	St. Mark's Church
Saturday, 24 December Late Advent Weekday	8.30 pm Carol Service 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)
Monday, 26 December St Stephen, The First Martyr		10.00 am – Mass (Baby Harry, Alder Hey)
Tuesday, 27 December St John, Apostle and Evangelist	10.00 am – Service of the Word	
Wednesday, 28 December The Holy Innocents, Martyrs	12.00 – Requiem Mass for Francis Smith	
Thursday, 29 December Fifth Day Within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord		12.00 – Requiem Mass for Stephen Hutton
Friday, 30 December The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph		10.00 – Mass (Bernard McDougall)
Saturday, 31 December Seventh Day Within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord	5.15 pm - Mass (Sadie & Jimmy Devine)	
Sunday, 1 January 2017 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God	11.00 am – Mass (People of the Parish)	9.15 am – Mass (Christopher Pritchard)



*Father Matthew, Maureen and Jacqui
thank you for all your cards and kind gestures.*

Wishing You The Peace And Blessings of Christmas