

# Newsletter

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

## **Parish Administration:**

Maureen Conley (Mon & Tues 9am - 1pm)

Jacqui O'Rourke (Thurs & Fri 9am - 1pm)

St John Vianney Parish Office, Penmann

Crescent, Liverpool, L26 0UG

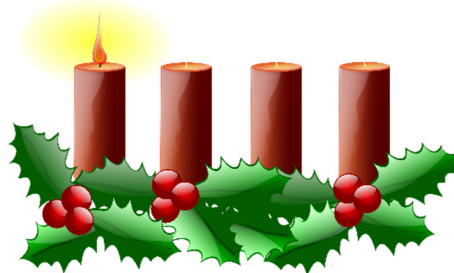
**Tel:** 0151 486 9885

**Email:** [johnvianney@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto:johnvianney@rcaolp.co.uk)

**Web:** [www.parishofstjohnvianney.co.uk](http://www.parishofstjohnvianney.co.uk)

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Matthew Nunes

**Tel:** 0151 487 3065 *Outside of the urgent need  
for a priest, all enquiries should please be  
directed to the Parish Office (0151 486 9885) in  
the first instance.*



## **First Sunday of Advent, 3 December 2017**

Today we begin the season of **Advent**, which marks the start of a new liturgical year for the Church. The readings for Sunday Mass are arranged on a three-year cycle. Each year features a different Gospel, Matthew, Mark, or Luke. Readings from the Gospel of John are interspersed throughout all three years. With this year's first Sunday of Advent, we begin Cycle B of the Lectionary which focuses our attention on the Gospel of Mark. This week and next week, our readings from Mark's Gospel present two important Advent themes: the Lord's return at the end of time and John the Baptist's preparation for Jesus.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of Mark's Gospel, the chapter that immediately precedes Mark's account of Jesus' Passion. Having been

questioned repeatedly by the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus is now questioned by his disciples, Peter, James, John and Andrew, who want details about his prediction of the destruction of the Temple. Jesus answers with many warnings about the difficulties that the disciples will face.

Today's passage comes at the conclusion of Jesus' warnings to his disciples. Jesus emphasises the need for watchfulness. The Son of Man will come without warning; only the Father knows the exact hour. The disciples must not be caught unprepared when this time comes.

Scholars believe that Mark's Gospel was written around the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in A.D. 70. Mark's audience consisted of Christians who were living in difficult social and political times, times of conflict. They were likely beginning to face persecution as followers of Jesus. In this difficult time, it helped to recall that Jesus had foretold of such difficulties. Early Christian communities took courage from Jesus' warning to remain alert and watchful and they found in his words a way to persevere through suffering.

Today's Gospel reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

### **Rite of Welcome**

Holy Family, 5.15pm: Joseph Michael McGhee, Bobby John McGhee and Xavier Alan Van De Merwe.

St Mark's, 9.15am: Hudson Lee Dever and Jenson Lee Dever.

### **Baptismal Information**



This weekend we welcome in to Holy Family Church through the Sacrament of Baptism Keira Rose McGlynn, Finley James Teasdale and Nico Robert Scullion.

The next Baptism Registration meeting will take place on Monday, 8 January at 6.00pm in St Mark's Annexe.

Families anticipating a baptism in 2018 are strongly advised to register early as dates and places are filling quickly.

### **Parish Council Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 25 January 2018 at 6.00pm in St Mark's Annexe. Minutes from the meeting held on 19 October can be found at the back of church, please take a copy.

### **Christmas Poinsettias**



As in previous years, parishioners are invited to leave poinsettias at the back of both churches over the Christmas period along with your intention to be prayed for.

### **Marriage Preparation Facilitators**

The Marriage Preparation team is recruiting new volunteer Facilitators who lead and present our marriage preparation courses.

If you would like to become a Facilitator, please contact Frank on 522 1046 or email [f.reppion@rcaol.co.uk](mailto:f.reppion@rcaol.co.uk)

### **Pastoral Area Services of Reconciliation**

St Mary's  
Monday, 11 December, 7.30pm

Bishop Eton  
Tuesday, 12 December, 7.30pm

St Ambrose  
Monday, 18 December, 7.00pm

### **Pilgrimage to Medjugorje**

7 night pilgrimage departing 7 May 2018 on a half board basis, flights included from Manchester. Early bird offer of £485 available until 1 December 2017. Contact Aglow Pilgrimages on 0800 6894792 or visit [aglowpilgrimages.com](http://aglowpilgrimages.com) for more information.

### **Advent Quiet Day A Journey With Mary**

Led by Donna Worthington, explore this profound mystery through images, guided meditation, liturgy and silence. 10.30am-3.30pm, Wednesday, 13 December, £20 includes lunch, St

Joseph's Prayer Centre, Blundell Avenue, Freshfield, L37 1PH or ring 01704 875850 for more information.

**SVP Annual Mass  
For The Sick & Housebound**

This will take place in St Mark's Church on Tuesday, 5 December at 1.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments will be provided in the Parish Club afterwards and anyone requiring help with transport should contact a member of the SVP.

**Rite of Christian Initiation  
of Adults (RCIA)**

This course has now started. Individuals interested in registering for the next course should contact either Gerry on 0151 486 6376 or the Parish Office for more information.

**The Ladies Group**



Please note the change of meeting time on Wednesday, 6 December is now 7.30pm in the Holy Family meeting room due to the Invitation to Prayer at Hope Chapel. Please

bring any monies owing for Spirit of Christmas. Many thanks.

**Invitation to Prayer**



The next Pastoral Area Invitation to Prayer will take place on Wednesday, 6 December between 6.00pm-7.00pm at Hope University Chapel when we will continue to pray for guidance and help regarding the future of the Church and our mission in the local area. Tea and coffee will be provided. We invite you to join us. Parking is available at Bishop Eton.

**Act in Support of  
Catholic Education**

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admission cap which prevents new Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. The Prime Minister has acknowledged that this policy

discriminates against Catholics and had promised previously to abandon it. Now the Government may decide to keep this discriminatory policy instead of removing it. We need you to tell the Government not to discriminate against Catholics and to remove the admissions cap on new faith based schools. Visit [catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap](http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap) to write to the Government to urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.



### **Christmas Carol Service**

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon invites you to the Metropolitan Cathedral on Wednesday, 20 December at 2.00pm for this carol service featuring children from local schools plus the “Songs We Remember” choir. Posters/flyers are available at the back of church should Eucharistic Ministers who visit the sick wish to take a copy to display on nursing home noticeboards.

### **CAFOD Fun Run**

This is the perfect way to burn off the Christmas calories so please come along with family and friends to run, walk or toddle (from 2-8kms) to raise money for those who need it most. Wednesday, 27 December at Wavertree Park & Athletics Centre, Wellington Road, L15 4LE at 1.00pm (please arrive by 12.00 noon). Prizes for best fancy dress. For further details please contact Ged or Colette at CAFOD on 228 4028, [liverpool@cafod.org.uk](mailto:liverpool@cafod.org.uk).

### **Christmas Angels**

All year, people from the churches of St Nicholas and St Mary have been busy knitting angels as part of their community angels project. These angels accompanied by a short poem carry details of Christmas masses and services across Halewood. The angels can be found at the back of church this weekend and you are invited to take one and perhaps pass one to a friend or neighbour. Any remaining angels will be given out on Saturday, 9 December at the Ravenscroft Shopping Centre and if you would like to help out on that day please contact Maureen on 288 2100.

**Christmas Performances**  
**In Our Schools – All Welcome**

**St Mark's**

Early Years, Thursday, 7 & Friday, 8  
December, 10.30am  
KS1, Thursday, 14 & Friday, 15  
December, 2.00pm  
KS2, Wednesday, 13 December,  
2.00pm and 6.00pm  
Monday, 18 December, 6.00pm  
Carol Concert in St Mark's Church

**St Andrew's**

Nursery, Tuesday, 12 December,  
10.30am & 2.15pm  
Reception, Wednesday,  
13 December, 2.15pm  
Years 1 & 2, Friday,  
15 December, 2.15pm  
KS2, Tuesday  
19 December, 2.00pm

**St Mark's Club - What's On**

Sunday, 24 December  
Disco Karaoke, 5.00pm-10.00pm

Tuesday, 26 December  
Disco Karaoke, 7.00pm-Midnight

Sunday, 31 December  
Female Vocalist Marie Lowry  
+ DJ + Disco  
Tickets £6, Doors Open 7.00pm

Monday, 1 January  
Disco Karaoke, 5.00pm-9.00pm

**Parish Finance**

Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 464.63
Other Envelopes	£ 141.20
Loose GASDS	£ 356.59
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>£ 962.42</b>
Standing Orders	£ 230.23
Bonus Ball 8	£ 82.00
Retiring Collection (Animate)	£ 173.81

**Retiring Collection**

This weekend the retiring collection will be for Christmas Flowers. There is no retiring collection next weekend.

**Prayer in Preparation for the  
Eucharistic Congress 2018  
and for Synod 2020**

We thank you Father  
for the love you have shown us  
in the gift of Jesus, your Son.  
Keep us grateful each day  
for the blessings that surround us.

As we are fed by you,  
so now send us out  
to share what we have received  
with our hungry brothers and sisters.

We humbly ask your help to become  
the Church  
that you are calling us to be:  
a community that listens, that trusts,  
that lives with courage  
and that puts out its nets into new  
waters.

May the gentle presence of Christ in  
our hearts  
be a source of healing, of new life  
and of a deeper trust in you.  
We ask this in faith  
through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

### **Volunteer Pastoral Assistants**

#### **Funeral Lay Ministers**

Carole Clancy  
[carolechristine78@gmail.com](mailto:carolechristine78@gmail.com)  
07855 769863

Ron Smith  
[ronaldsmith57@btinternet.com](mailto:ronaldsmith57@btinternet.com)  
07546 252142

#### **Baptism Coordinator**

Mrs Chris Myles  
[christinamyles52@hotmail.com](mailto:christinamyles52@hotmail.com)  
07443 018816

#### **With You Always Coordinator**

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

### **Confessions**

Holy Family, 4.45pm, Saturday

Our Lady Of The Assumption,  
Gateacre, 11.30am-11.55am, Saturday

St Mary's, Woolton,  
11.00am – 11.45am, Saturday

Our Lady Of The Annunciation,  
Bishop Eton, 4.00pm-5.00pm, Saturday

### **Parish Office**

The office will be closed on Thursday,  
14 and Friday 15 December. Any items  
for inclusion in the Newsletter for the  
Third Sunday of Advent must be  
received no later than Thursday, 7  
December.

### **Second Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8



**Question of the Week**

**Adults:** How do you know when you are following Christ  
and living his teachings faithfully?

**Children:** What good thing might Christ be asking you to do right now?

**First Sunday of Advent  
3 December 2017**

<b>Date – 2017</b>	<b>Holy Family Church</b>	<b>St. Mark’s Church</b>
<b>Saturday, 2 December</b> Weekday	<b>5.15 pm – Mass</b> (John & Alice Fleming)	
<b>Sunday, 3 December</b> First Sunday of Advent	<b>11.00 am – Mass</b> (Tony Doherty)  <b>12.30 pm - Baptisms</b>	<b>9.15 am – Mass</b> (People of the Parish)
<b>Monday, 4 December</b> Advent Weekday	<b>12.00 noon – Requiem</b> <b>Mass for Sarah Catherine</b> <b>Chippendale</b>	
<b>Tuesday, 5 December</b> St John Almond		<b>1.00 pm – SVP Annual</b> <b>Mass for the Sick &amp;</b> <b>Housebound</b>
<b>Wednesday, 6 December</b> Advent Weekday		<b>9.00 am – Mass</b> (Pat Hoare)
<b>Thursday, 7 December</b> St Ambrose	<b>10.00 am – Mass</b>	
<b>Friday, 8 December</b> Solemnity Of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary		<b>10.00 am – Mass</b> (St Mark’s Parishioners)
<b>Saturday, 9 December</b> Advent Weekday	<b>5.15 pm – Mass</b> (Frs Gaskell, McGee, Murphy & Thomas)	
<b>Sunday, 10 December</b> Second Sunday of Advent	<b>11.00 am – Mass</b> (Agnes & James McNulty)	<b>9.15 am – Mass</b> (People of the Parish)  <b>12.30 pm - Baptisms</b>

\* We apologise for when times and Mass intentions may occasionally need to be changed at short notice to allow for a Requiem Mass. \*