

7th March 2021- THIRD Sunday of LENT/Yr B

(Week 51 of Covid-19 UK restrictions Week 10 of National Lockdown III)

There is still no obligation to attend Sunday OR Holy Day Masses.

During this current national lockdown there is still no obligation to come to Church and everyone should strictly follow 'Space, Face and Hands' and stop/minimise 'mingling' with anyone not of your household.

This is also true inside/outside of Church, before and after Mass

Please remember to wear a face covering before entering Church.

Sun 7th 10.00 am PUBLIC MASS: PARISHIONERS
Mon 8th 10.00 am PUBLIC MASS: Miriam Brannan
Tue 9th 7.00 pm PUBLIC MASS: Monthly Mass for all the Dead
Wed 10th NO PUBLIC MASS
Thur 11th 7.00 pm PUBLIC MASS: Julia Campbell
Fri 12th 10.00 am PUBLIC MASS: Louise Bennett

Pope Francis' 8th Anniversary of election

Sat 13th 10.00 **am** PUBLIC MASS: Lancashire Infirm Secular Clergy Fund

Fourth Sunday of LENT Time Yr B

Sat 13th **7.00 pm** PUBLIC MASS: PARISHIONERS
Sun 14th **10.00 am** PUBLIC MASS: John Dyer

Mass Intentions received this week: Fr Peter Fox, Alan Fairclough, Miriam Brannan, Stephen Hughes, Gerard Dolan, Philomena Cooke, Ulsysa Garcia, Kevin Hamid, Louise Bennett, Fr Michael Dunne OCSO, Fr Joseph Dunn, Fr John Cunningham, Mgr Anthony Stringfellow, Mgr Vincent Hughes, Fr Thomas Cheetham

At this time, looking to the Holy Family: an old prayer my first Parish Priest taught me many years ago:

**Heart of Jesus, I adore you,
Heart of Mary, I implore you,
Heart of Joseph, pure and just,
In these three hearts, I place my Trust.**

"Stick with it!" Vaccination and newer medical treatments for the infection are our 'way out', back to more normal human contact, at least with a limited number of family members, in the not-too-distant months. **"Stick with it!"**- Lockdown rules still apply, for now. Perhaps the remaining days of Lent may serve as a clear countdown to 'better days', and a deeper sense of preparation for the celebration of our New Life of Easter!

In previous class Masses with our children from schools, we reminded each other that 'CHURCH' is not the *building*, but Church is the people who live with faith each day in the community, loving God, our neighbour and ourselves. Let the children remind us about what is truly important.

Each of our local parish schools, All Saints Catholic High, St Joseph the Worker and St Laurence's Primary schools, and now preparing for a safe return for all children from this week. I'd like to THANK our three Head Teachers, all the staff and governors, who have worked so hard to keep our schools safe. Parents will have been informed of the procedures in place to keep them safe, whilst the rest of the local community also need to continue to follow public health advice, to get the level of local infections lower, to allow schools to then stay fully open. I will be in touch again shortly with their Year 5 children and families about attendance at Masses.

*Our **HOME-CHURCH-SCHOOL** links, each support and build up the parish family, as we recognise and celebrate being part of something bigger; the visible Body of Christ; the gathered community; this is what CHURCH is really all about- we are the People of God- mainly lay people, with religious, the deacons, priests, bishops, altogether across our archdiocese of Liverpool- making up part of the world-wide family of the Church, gathered by God the Father, under His Son, the Word of God and with the Holy Spirit and with the Pope; even now in our homes.*

The Parish Newsletters can be found on the school websites each week: St Joseph the Worker Primary School, or St Laurence's Primary School, under 'Our Catholic Life' or 'Our Faith' sections

More information about the Catholic faith is available on-line.

Archdiocese website liverpoolcatholic.org.uk **SEE MORE ABOUT SYNOD**

Pope Francis Website Vatican-Holy See cafod.org.uk (including Children's Liturgy materials) or Catholic Pictorial

Angelus Prayer (Especially @ 12 noon and 6pm)

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

And she conceived by the Holy Spirit. (Hail Mary....)

Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

Be it done unto me according to thy word. (Hail Mary....)

And the Word was made Flesh. And dwelt among us. (Hail Mary....)

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that, we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an Angel, may by His Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

In these most unusual times, the Church building is still cautiously open for lighting candles & private prayer sat in benches before the Blessed Sacrament at the altar. **Public Masses continue and are NOT affected by the current Lockdown, but there is to be no ‘mingling’ with anyone not of your household. Church will OPEN fifteen minutes before each Mass.**

NOW it is still the time to STAY HOME, keeping safe ‘social distancing’ and not mingling with people from outside your own household; staying alert, to slow the spread of any infection, break the chains to other people and protect the NHS and save lives.

Jesus, the Blessed Sacrament, present in the Tabernacle:

Please pray at home and join your prayers with Jesus, also in your heart.

I light candles regularly each day in Church for all your intentions from 8.30 am until 7pm, join your prayers with mine.

*Each day at 12 Noon and 6pm EVERY day I invite everyone at home to pray the **Angelus** prayer, printed over the page, inviting us to pray as the Angel Gabriel, Mary, and the unborn baby Jesus.*

During the day consider praying the ‘Rosary’, the life of Jesus, with Mary and Joseph. 1 X ‘Our Father’ and 10 X ‘Hail Marys’, 1X ‘Glory be’ for each of the 5 mysteries Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, Glorious... The Angel’s Prayer to Mary ‘Hail’, then the greeting prayer of St Elizabeth ‘Blessed art thou amongst women’ and indeed the added prayer for life and death.

Carefully and safely, I place a candle in the window of the Presbytery house to show Christ our Light into the darkness of the streets: @ 8pm each evening I’m still celebrating Masses in Church, as indicated over the page, but I again invite most of you to continue to join me in prayer from your homes, as we offer together our prayers to God, with the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary at the altar. United in prayer, we receive communion in our hearts, even when not in our hands or on our tongue .

The Bishops’ Independent Review of Safeguarding in England & Wales & the ICSA reports: The recently published national inquiry ICSA report into the crimes and sins of abuse across many organisations, including the Catholic Church, has highlighted historic cases over the last fifty years and recent examples. It and a separate report have recommended further reforms to the Church’s safeguarding processes and to address the victims & survivors needs. All our bishops have accepted the recommendations and committed to constantly further improve safeguarding & support throughout the Church & society.

ST JOSEPH AND ST LAURENCE’S PARISH

Bewley Drive, Southdene, Kirkby, Merseyside L32 7PZ

Liverpool Roman Catholic Archdiocesan Trustees Incorporated. A Registered Charity No 232709

Parish Priest: Canon Sean Kirwin Parish Secretary: Maria Byrne.

Office Hours: Mon – Fri, 9.00am – 4.00pm Tel: 546 3674

St Joseph & St Laurence’s Parish Centre- CLOSED temporarily

Manager: Elaine Churchill Tel: 07377341977

St Joseph the Worker RC Primary: Head: Mrs Jude Ryan. Tel: 477 8173

St Laurence’s RC Primary: Head: Miss Sarah Jane Carroll Tel: 546 4733

All Saints Catholic High: Head: Mr Tony McGuinness. Tel: 477 8740

Our Parish e-mail: sjsl@rcaol.org.uk for any queries/ concerns/volunteers.

<https://donate.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/st-joseph-st-laurence-kirkby> for donations.

Pope Francis’ pastoral visit to Iraq is a hugely significant pilgrimage to a troubled land, rich in history. During Lent especially we hear stories from the places and people of what is now modern-day Iraq, the Mesopotamian, Sumerian, and Assyrian empires and the tribes, clans and peoples. As recorded in the Jewish sacred books, which we Christians call the ‘Old Testament’, we hear of Abraham and Sarah being called by God to get up and leave their homeland and city of Ur to go to a land God will show them; this elderly couple with no children of their own, are promised land and descendants ‘as many of the stars of heaven’. The bible is really our oldest ‘family story’, a collection of books, together with the ‘New Testament’ of the times of Jesus and the early Church communities, all held together now in one, large, joined-up collection- hard-back, paperback, or now digital versions on-line.

In the first book of the bible, the **Book of Genesis**, we are hearing a combination of family stories shared over centuries, mixed in with local history of the time and the looking back-over in time to the ancestors who they never knew by sight. The descendants of Abraham and several partners were born and spread across the Middle East and beyond and with them worship of the same God who had original called and chosen Abraham & Sarah for a grand adventure into the unknown- they took a leap of faith. Faith was at the heart of their life and decisions and descendants’ lives and decisions led to the People of Israel- the People of God- the Peoples of the Book, whether Jewish, Christian, or Muslim- all from Abraham and Sarah’s trips in the deserts, as they journeyed with God. I encourage everyone to find the **Book of Genesis** and sit down and read it through and be surprised by the faith-filled mysteries of our oldest family stories. **FR SEAN**