

18th /19th December 2021- FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C

Sat 18th 7.00 pm **Parishioners** (Vigil and First Mass of Sunday)
Sun 19th 10.00 am Anne Burns
Mon 20th 10.00 am Private **Intention** (C&M)
Tue 21st 7.00 pm Tony Cunningham
Wed 22nd **NO MASS**
Thu 23rd 1.45 pm Private Funeral: Pat Middleton
7.00 pm Pat Middleton
Fri 24th 10.00 am Victoria May Stuart

VIGIL & FIRST MASS OF THE NATIVITY

Fri 24th **7.30 pm Carol Service/ 8pm Mass** Anne Taylor

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Sat 25th **10.00 am Parishioners**
11.15 am Jared Williams

Vigil and First Mass of Sunday FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY YEAR C

Sat 25th **NO MASS SATURDAY NIGHT**
Sun 26th 10.00 am **Parishioners**

Mass Intentions received this week Sean Doyle, Ralph Leyland,
Jessie D'Souza, Pat Fleming & Family, Mary Alphonse, Pat Middleton,
Elizabeth Keely, Elaine Brannan, Hilda Selstrom, Danica & Baby Briar Blunt,
Kathy Mylett (Jnr), Fr Kevin Brennan

Your offertory donations at all the Masses NEXT weekend are traditionally personal gift to the Parish Priest.

St Joseph & St Laurence's Parish Centre –

Elaine and staff would like to welcome back all our customers, old and new. All welcome! & Lounge open every week. Thur/Fri/Sat 7.30 pm & Sun 12.30pm **07377341977** to book future functions for all days of the week & any enquiries
Please support the club giving back to the community

Festive Weekend events- NEXT Friday 24th Dec, OPEN 12 'til 4pm
NEXT Saturday 25th Dec, 12 til 3pm, Boxing Day 12 til 5pm-Children welcome.
NEW YEAR'S EVE Open from 7pm. LAST Tickets now available from the Club.
THANKS for all the donations of chocolate selection boxes, which were passed on to the local charity group, for the Santa Claus festive drive through the streets, distributing sweets to the local children.

2022 Weekly Saturday Entertainment nights, plus game of Bingo

(Week 92 of Covid-19 UK restrictions)

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.

Each of our local parish schools, All Saints Catholic High, St Joseph the Worker and St Laurence's Primary schools break up now for the feasts and into New Year. I would like to again thank our three Head Teachers and Governors, the children and their families for all their efforts to keep schools open, despite higher local infection rates in school age children.

Year 5 children and their households have been invited to attend weekend Masses, *EVERY WEEK*, either Friday night, or Saturday morning, or Saturday evening Masses, as part of the deepening of their faith, before receiving Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion in January 2022. Any Yr5 child baptised in a different parish needs to bring a copy of their baptism certificate to Fr Sean ASAP. All dates of celebrations are now confirmed by this newsletter, for those families who have attended preparation meetings, completed an application form & had baptism confirmed..

*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 joined with the Pope, in prayer.*

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

Pope Francis Website Vatican-Holy See Pope Francis' Year of Prayer for the 'Care of Creation' cafod.org.uk (including Children's Liturgy materials) or Catholic Pictorial www.cafod.org.uk/Pray/Laudato-Si-encyclical

Across England the average Covid infection rate is rising. **Three injections now seem to protect most people from severe illness, including from the Omicron variant**, but will probably only prevent half of the people from being infected and carrying the infection to others. Other variants can still develop that current vaccines may be less capable of protecting people. Re/infection of people who have been vaccinated is happening and some of these people will be hospitalised. Higher demands for A&E and beds delay ambulances, clinics & operations. Larger crowds in-doors are still riskier. Hence due Caution! The official government guidance for Churches is more complicated than the headlines! Public venue owners still legally need to operate safely.

As the PM and the chief advisors have stated, the pandemic has not disappeared and Liverpool City Region public health advice is that there still needs to be **caution** shown for the on-going risks and to keep social distance, face coverings, working from home if possible and minimising mixing with people you are not usually mixing with; all can be infected, some are still vulnerable and particularly those not yet fully vaccinated, with the risks of long-covid and new variants developing-- with larger numbers of new cases each day creating a risk of residual sources of illness and hospitalisation through the Winter and into next Spring. Knowsley over-12s are currently 69% 2-jabs vaccinated, Liverpool City 63% 2-jabs vaccinated; both these areas are below the national average of 82% for 2-jabs. We see rapidly growing overall infection rates like the national average, people who are currently carrying the virus to those they mix with. With this being the new reality of living-with Covid, **I request that everyone act with GREATER caution when they come to church**; this will also minimise 'track and trace' still instructing people to isolate and test or testing positive and isolating. As Knowsley covid rates are higher, you see adjusted seating capacity in Church to fit more people in, whilst still being spaced out. **PLEASE KEEP MORE SPACED OUT, WITH A TWO BENCH GAP & SPREAD OUT MORE BETWEEN HOUSEHOLD GROUPS.** In these most unusual times, the Church building is still cautiously open for Masses/services, lighting of candles & silent prayer sat in benches before the Blessed Sacrament.

NOW it is still the time to continue to be **cautious**

Especially with people you don't normally mix with.

FACE, SPACE, AND HANDS

AND good ventilation if meeting inside, is still advised.

Staying alert, ISOLATING if symptoms or 'Track & Trace' instruct you,

So as to slow the spread of any infection and new variants,
to break the chains to other people and still protect the NHS and save lives.

ST JOSEPH AND ST LAURENCE'S PARISH

Bewley Drive, Southdene, Kirkby, Merseyside L32 7PZ

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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>

With this Fourth weekend of Advent, our 'waiting and preparing' continues. We are invited to be praying and thinking about meeting Jesus when He returns from Heaven, to bring His Kingdom here on earth AND, over the next seven/eight sleeps then, also be ready to truly celebrate the birthday of the baby, Jesus, our Saviour, with refreshed faith & hope in our hearts, to share God's love with others.

The archdiocese's new Pastoral Plan describes itself as something that starts with 'sign-posts' and 'themes and priorities' for further consideration and planning and is something that will grow and develop and become clearer in a natural, organic way- it is looking to rely on the continuing help and support of parishioners to develop some of the initial ideas that need further consultation and reflection. It provides hope for the future which depends on everyone playing their part in the ways of LIVED-faith in our normal, daily life, not simply about 'doing more things in Church'. There are posters and information sheets at the back of Church and on-line material available from the Archdiocese of Liverpool website. We all need to look into this more deeply and respond generously, as new things are developed and tried out across all areas of the archdiocese. This fits with the themes of Advent too. We need to prepare and be ready to move forward together and to welcome the baby Jesus more consciously, more definitely into our homes and hearts and lives!

Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday 19th December 7.00pm

Parish Advent Carol Service IN CHURCH.Organised by Sr Eva & Sr Jessie DHM.

Followed by socially distanced MINCE PIES AND SHERRY or soft drink!