

**25th 26th December 2021- SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

Sat 25th 10.00 am Parishioners

11.15 am Jared Williams

Sat 25th **NO MASS SATURDAY NIGHT**

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

Sun 26th 10.00 am Anthony Mc Garvey

**Feast of St John , Apostle and Evangelist**

Mon 27th 10.00 am Margaret & Eddie Ryan

**Feast of the Holy Innocents**

Tue 28th 7.00 pm. Kathleen Maguire

**Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury Bishop and Martyr**

Wed 29th 10.00 am Thomas Pedder

1.00pm Private Funeral Thomas Pedder St Helens Crematorium

**Sixth day of the Octave**

Thur 30th 7.00 pm Cornelius Mulvaney

**Seventh day of the Octave**

Fri 31st 10.00 am Joan Day

Fri 31st 7.00 pm Philomena McIver

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD NEW YEAR'S DAY 2022AD**

Sat 1st 12 NOON OCTAVE DAY Nicky Alt

**Vigil and First Mass of 2nd Sunday Of Christmas**

Sat 1st 7.00pm Marie Nolan

Sun 2nd 10.00 am Parishioners

*Mass Intentions received this week John Graham, Byrne Doyle Gardiner Families, Frances Flynn, Gordan Smith Parishioners Christmas Intentions and remembrances for all those who have died, Anniversaries, the sick, the lonely, the depressed.*

**Your offertory donations at all the NATIVITY Masses this weekend are traditionally your personal gift to the Parish Priest.**

(Week 93 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 have now broken up 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 and completed an application form and proof of baptism.

*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](http://liverpoolcatholic.org.uk)

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

Across England the average Covid infection rate is rising rapidly. **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 64% 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

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- 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](mailto:sjsl@rcaol.org.uk) for any queries/ concerns/volunteers.**

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

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### NATIVITY OCTAVE/TWELVE-DAY FEAST Plus Plus.....

Having spent the four weeks of Advent preparing for the Nativity of the baby Jesus, the Church now gives us more time to celebrate the significance of the feast; eight days are celebrated as if it were Christmas day. Twelve days to the Epiphany Feast too... more time to deepen our appreciation of the great gift God has sent us! Then the Church offers us more time and we continue the Christmas season, officially up to the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> January and the Baptism of the adult Jesus.

Traditionally, the Christmas season used to then continue up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> February and the Feast of the Presentation of the baby Jesus in the Temple of Jerusalem; when the Holy Family of Joseph & Mary and the baby Jesus enter the place where God has promised to live in the midst of His people. Jesus, the Word, God-made Flesh and Blood; 'Emmanuel'; a name which means 'God is with us.'

FR SEAN

#### 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- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> 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.**

2022 Weekly Saturday Entertainment nights, plus game of Bingo