

5th/6th MARCH 2022 First Sunday of Lent / Yr C

Sat 5th 7.00 pm Ruby Holmes {Vigil and First Mass of Sunday}

Sun 6th 10.00 am Parishioners

Mon 7th 10.00 am Gloria Smith

12 noon Private Funeral Gloria Smith

2.00pm Private Funeral Sharon Sanders St Helens Crematorium

Tue 8th 7.00 pm Sharon Sanders

Wed 9th **NO MASS**

Thur 10th 1.45pm Private Funeral Anthony Noon

7.00 pm Anthony Noon

Fri 11th 10.00 am Edward Dougherty

2.00 pm Private Funeral Edward Dougherty

7.00 pm Miriam Brannan

Sat 12th 10.00 am Lancashire Infirm Secular Clergy Fund

Vigil and First Mass of Sunday

Sat 12th 7.00 pm Louisa Bennett

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT

Sun 13th 10.00 am **Parishioners**

Mass Intentions received this week: Tony Noon, Fr Dave Melly, Louisa Bennett, Baby Cobie Wong, Gloria Sith, Sharon Sanders, Edward Dougherty, Ann Williams. Fr John Cunningham, Mgr Anthony Stringfellow, Fr Michael Dunn OCSO Parishioners Intentions, and remembrances for all those who have died, anniversaries, birthdays, the sick, lonely, unemployed, the depressed.

Over the next couple of months hopefully the worst of Covid infection rates will be behind us and we can hope for a more normal pattern returning to everyday life. There is still a measure of confusion at the moment, as legal penalties are gone, whilst we are still all encouraged to protect others and ourselves, by how we interact with other people who we don't normally regularly meet each week. In these in-between times I advise people to recognise that people attending Church will have a range of levels of anxiety about mixing and some people are still more vulnerable to infection. To reflect that mixture and range we will retain the current protections up to Holy Week and then look for Spring and Eastertide to carry us over into fuller normality once again.

(Week 103 of Covid-19 UK guidance)

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 had their half-term breaks. I would like to again thank our three Head Teachers and Governors, children and families for all their efforts to keep schools open, despite higher local infection rates in school age children.

Year 4 children and their families have been especially invited to attend weekend Masses, as part of their **family preparation** for the **LIVING-out** of the sacraments we will celebrate with them before the Summer. There will be 'catch-up' preparation meetings for any Yr5 children who missed them previously, these are later in March & April; details to follow and they are invited to weekend 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 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

Please join in prayer with the Holy Spirit, for the outcomes of the archdiocesan synod

Across England the average Covid infection rate is still high, whilst starting to fall back from the very high numbers, with 1 in 30 carrying the virus to others. **Three injections now seem to protect most people from severe illness, including from the Omicron variant. Recent research suggests the third booster prevents 75% catching the infection. However, a number of those who do get infected are re-infections, still need to isolate and potentially have long covid symptoms and health consequences.** Other variants will still develop. Fourth, boosters are now to be offered to the over 75s and those most vulnerable. At this late stage, with infection rates still high people don't want to risk even long covid after a mild infection. For some, the demands for A&E and beds delay ambulances, clinics & operations. Larger crowds in-doors are still riskier. Public venue owners still legally need to operate safely.

There still needs to be some **caution** shown for the on-going risks; all can be infected, some are still vulnerable and particularly those not yet fully vaccinated, the risks of long-covid and new variants developing—with still large numbers of new cases each day creating a risk of residual sources of illness and hospitalisation into late Spring. We still have high rates of infection in Knowsley and with significant numbers of people still not yet vaccinated and boosted, there remains a risk of long-covid even after mild symptoms from infection, and for reinfection to even vaccinated people from those who are currently carrying the virus to those they mix with. Whilst legal restrictions and penalties have now been lifted in England, the new reality is to look to move to 'living-with' Covid. **When we come to church we still need to act with some caution**; this will also minimise the need to isolate or testing positive As Knowsley covid rates are still high, you see we have adjusted seating capacity in Church to fit more people in, whilst still allowing good spacing out of the congregation. **PLEASE KEEP SPACED OUT BETWEEN HOUSEHOLDS, WITH A TWO BENCH GAP IN FRONT & SPREAD OUT ALONG EACH BENCH.**

In these unusual times, the Church building is still cautiously open : Masses, lighting of candles, silent prayer in benches before the Blessed Sacrament.

NOW it is still the time to continue to be **cautious** in Church,
Especially with people you don't normally mix with
recognising those who are more vulnerable.

FACE, SPACE, AND HANDS

AND good ventilation if meeting inside, is still advised.

Staying alert, ISOLATING if have symptoms, to break the chains to other people and protect the NHS and save lives.

ST JOSEPH AND ST LAURENCE'S PARISH

Bewley Drive, Southdene, Kirkby, Merseyside L32 7PZ

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

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

The first week of Lent sees us challenged by the Gospel story of Jesus' forty days in the desert, with the temptations to use power for our own benefit, rather than living under obedience to our Heavenly Father. If there could be a way to get what we want, or to fly, or to rule the world, we might try to.

After everything people have been through these last two years of Covid-19, the shock of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia seems almost unreal. The dramatic and deadly change this presents to the world, where European wars were thought to have been banished to history, with diplomacy and dialogue between parties to resolve disputes, has again been shattered. From this distance, war can still seem merely like a film or documentary we have watched before on TV; yet when we realise these events are happening just a couple of hours away by plane, we must realise this is an horrendous precedent for Eastern Europe and therefore risks bad consequences for us all.

This week the Archdiocese has launched fundraising appeals and the collection of practical donations of food and clothing to support refugees from Ukraine. Please keep an eye on future newsletter updates for ways to help.

Church will be open all day from 10 am 'til 4pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, for people to pop in and pray before the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar, to hold the people of Ukraine in our hearts and pray for peace and diplomacy even at this stage, to reduce further deaths and destruction. We will also have public Rosary before Sunday 10am Mass and the Stations of the Cross @ 7.30pm Thursday for Ukraine and other war zones **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
2022 Weekly Saturday Entertainment nights, plus game of Bingo