

6th December 2020- 2nd Sunday of Advent- Yr B

(Week 38 of Covid-19 UK restrictions)

Please remember to wear a face covering before entering Church.

*Archbishop Malcolm McMahon is due at 10am Mass, Sunday 6th December
His 20th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination is on Tuesday this week.*

Sun 6th 10.00 am PUBLIC MASS: **Parishioners**

Memorial of St Ambrose 4th Century Bishop of Milan

Mon 7th 10.00 am PUBLIC MASS: Elizabeth Cowhig

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tue 8th 7.00 pm PUBLIC MASS: Monica & Stan Cruces

Wed 9th **NO MASS**

Thur 10th 7.00 pm PUBLIC MASS: Margaret Smithwick

Memorial of St Damasus I, 4th century Pope

Fri 11th 10.00 am PUBLIC MASS: Paul Finnan

Memorial of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico

Sat 12th 10.00 am PUBLIC MASS: Lancashire Infirm Secular Clergy Fund

3rd Sunday of Advent Yr B

Sat 12th 7.00 PM PUBLIC Vigil MASS: **Parishioners**

Sun 13th 10.00AM PUBLIC MASS: Mary McAlean

*Mass Intentions: Byrne, Doyle & Gardiner families,
Dorothy Ambrose, Christopher Kirk Audrey Simonds, John Jennings,
Marie Williams, Gerry Ashley, Pat Guven Dr William Fitzsimons,
Fr Paul Benbow, Canon Bill Redmond, Fr Francis Goodall CSSR,
Fr Tom Leigh,*

There is still no obligation to attend Sunday or Holy Day Masses on the day itself, please choose any day of the week instead, now, and festive week.

We need to think about Masses for the Nativity Feast- with Covid-19 rules and the need to space out in church, we won't be able to fit everyone in to each Mass, if the usual numbers attend the vigil or the Masses on the day.

Like with Sundays currently, please consider coming on any day of the festive week instead, between the Nativity and the New Year Feast, which is after all an eight-day feast, or you may be politely asked to go home, 'no room at the inn', once Church reaches its reduced seating capacity.

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, are hard at work.

*I'd like to **THANK** our three Head Teachers, all the staff and governors, who have worked so hard to keep our schools safe for ALL children. Parents will have been informed of the procedures in place to keep them safe, whilst the rest of the local community also needs to continue to follow public health advice, to keep the level of local infections low, to allow schools to remain open. With the additional new restrictions, I will be in touch with Year 5 children and families about attendance at Masses, which now have to be changed again.*

*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 Mass have now resumed.**

NOW it is still the time to STAY ALERT, 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.

Come & See! Gather still to pray in Church.

Church will be OPEN fifteen minutes before each Mass.

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

Also, Come & See! Gather to pray in Church too.

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 on our tongue or our hands.

Inevitably, with less people able to attend Church at the moment, parish income is much reduced. If you can, please can you consider giving double your weekly collection between now and the end of December, to help balance the parish funds & to part-fund the Breakfast Clubs at our two Primary schools.

If you can, please use the official web-site to make donations to the parish.

PLEASE email (or phone) the parish if you are a willing, healthy volunteer and we can then prepare and talk about what offers of help might be possible.

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 Fax: 546 9857

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

A new week, the new Church's year has begun again with Advent- a time of preparation- waiting for the second coming of the Lord and the approaching birthday celebration of the baby Jesus, the Saviour of the world. This year is different, with Covid restrictions- let us use this different year to do things differently during Advent; A lot of the shopping will be too difficult and complicated this year. Simplify shopping this year. Food & drink, treats and essentials. What are we really getting ready for in truth?

The Advent season does **not** jump to the feast day of the birthday of the baby. The first half of the Advent season instead draws our minds and hearts to the promised Messiah, like the ancient prophets who first hoped, before Jesus was born; today's Gospel has John the Baptist, who will immerse the adult Jesus in the River Jordan, to prepare Him for his public ministry and ultimately His paschal mystery, death and resurrection. Now for Christians, we are preparing for the promised general resurrection of the dead, with the return of the risen adult Jesus, His second coming.

However difficult the coming weeks become, then try to bring the birth of the baby Jesus to the front of your mind, as the reason for hope in the season. It is a simple tale and Santa Claus (St Nicholas) whose feast would've fallen today, is an important part of the approaching Christian feast; when food and drink our shared, love celebrated, the gift of perhaps wishing being together and receiving the gifts that God has sent, an eight-day Feast of the Nativity, in the year of our Lord 2020.

FR SEAN

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.