

**23rd/24th April 2022 Vigil & First Mass of Sunday**

Sat 23rd 7.00 pm Parishioners

**2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER, Octave Day and Day of Divine Mercy**

Sun 24th 10.00 am Sr Jessie D'Souza DHM

**FEAST OF ST. MARK, Evangelist**

Mon 25th 10.00 am Tony Noon

**SOLEMNITY OF ST. GEORGE, MARTYR PATRON OF ENGLAND**

Tue 26th 7.00 pm Fr Dave Melly

Wed 27th **NO MASS**

**Memorial of St. Louis Marie de Montford, Priest**

Thur 28th 7.00 pm Baby Cobie Wong

**FEAST OF ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, Virgin and Doctor**

Fri 29th 10.00 am E K

**7.00 pm** For all Those Who Have Died

**Memorial of St Pius V, Pope**

Sat 30th 10.00 am Edward Dougherty

Sat 30th **7.00 pm** Pat Leyland Sp Int **Vigil and First Mass of Sunday**

**3rd Sunday of Easter**

Sun 1st 10.00 am **Parishioners**

*Mass Intentions received this week: Phil Bailey, Sp Int EK, Annie Newett, Kevin O'Hare, Fr Patrick Breen, Fr Gerard Lee, Fr Paul Allerton SMM, Fr Joe Cunningham, Parishioners Intentions, and remembrances for all those who have died, anniversaries, birthdays, the sick, lonely, unemployed, the depressed.*

Hopefully soon the worst of Covid infection rates will be behind us and we can hope for a more normal pattern returning to everyday life. 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 **in the light of the currently higher infection rates.**

(Week 110 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 or are about to return after their Easter 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.*

Our 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. The next meeting in Church for those invited is 4pm this week. Any other children who missed their preparation meetings earlier this year, are also now invited to any of the Fri/Sat/Sun weekend Masses and their next newly scheduled 'catch up' preparation meeting next Saturday - 10 Mass and meeting in Church until 12noon.

*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

[www.cafod.org.uk/Pray/Laudato-Si-encyclical](http://www.cafod.org.uk/Pray/Laudato-Si-encyclical)

Across England the average Covid infection rate remains very high, with 1 in 17 now carrying the virus to others. **Three injections now seem to protect most people from severe illness, including from the Omicron variant. However, a number of those who do get infected are re-infections, all still need to isolate and potentially have long covid symptoms and health consequences.** Numbers are increasing in hospital, although the vaccination is working to reduce the severity of the cases for most people. 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 having long covid effects after even a mild infection. For some, the demands for A&E and beds will 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, or whose immunity is waning with time, with 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 CLEAR 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

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

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

After the seven weeks of the Lenten season and the commemoration of the events of Jesus mortal life here on earth during this last (Holy) Week, we have been moved by and through the real-life story of one human being, Jesus, whose life, struggles, passion and death has **changed** the world- whilst the world still slept, or carried on with its normal business of the day.

Dead and buried, and very early in the morning on the third day since Jesus was crucified, early before the sun rose, His grieving disciples go to the tomb, to show respect for the dead body of the One whom they have loved. But the stone has been rolled away from the entrance and tomb is empty. Has someone now stolen His dead body too? These same disciples and the 11 Apostles then begin to meet the Risen Jesus; He is Alive again! He is Risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! It is quite a day! The world HAS been changed forever. Death is now NOT the end of our life's journey and there will be reunion with our loved ones again.

Thomas wasn't with them in the upper room that first Easter Sunday, but eight days later he was, and they all meet again, and Jesus speaks personally to Thomas, with all his doubts and need for proofs. Thomas now is able to express the deepest faith, that Jesus of Nazareth is his Lord and God! This day is reassurance for us who have never met Jesus, that those first disciples too had their doubts and struggled to believe it was true, but then are so convinced they are willing to risk giving up their lives to tell other people about Jesus. And so, the Good News spreads by word of mouth, one generation to the next. **FR SEAN**

— — — — —

**THANK YOU to everyone for making Holy Week and the Triduum Services so wonderful. Special thanks to our Choir and organist. Thank you also for your cards, gifts, and Easter Offerings.**