

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT 11th / 12th March 2023**

Sat	11th	6.00 pm	Parishioners	Vigil & 1st Mass of Sunday
Sun	12th	11.00 am	Teresa McGinty	
Mon	13th	10.00 am	Nellie Wright	
		2.30 pm	<b>Funeral Rose Ferguson @ St Helens Crematorium</b>	
		7 30 pm	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>	
Tue	14th	10.00 am	Jimmy Queen	
		12.00 pm	<b>Funeral Phyllis Wooley</b>	
Wed	15th	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>LENTEN MASS @ St Michael &amp; All Angels, Westvale</b>	
		<b>2.30 pm</b>	<b>Holy Hour @ the Convent</b>	
Thur	16th	1.30 pm	<b>Funeral Anne McAleer</b>	
		7.00 pm	Ann Williams	

**FEAST OF ST PATRICK, BISHOP, PATRON SAINT OF IRELAND**

Fri	17th	10.00 am	Eddie Mason	
		12.00 pm	<b>Funeral John Lockhart</b>	
Fri	17th	7.00 pm	Flo Edwards	
Sat	18th	10.00 am	LISCF Intentions	

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Yr A – LAETARE SUNDAY- MOTHERS' DAY**

Sat	18th	6.00 pm	Parishioners.	Vigil & 1st Mass of Sunday
Sun	19th	11.00 am	Chapter Canons Mass	Int

*Mass Intentions received, Rose Ferguson, Phyllis Woolley, John Lockhart, Anne McAleer, Eileen Bell, Catherine Parr, George Stanley Woods, Fr Bob Hayes, Joe Mangan, Eleanor Dougherty, Mgr Anthony Stringfellow, Pope Francis' 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Election., Fr Tom Cheetham, Fr James Purcell, Parishioners' Intentions, and remembrances for all those who have died, anniversaries, birthdays, sick, lonely, unemployed, and the depressed. **Sacrament Of Reconciliation/Confession now celebrated in the half hour before Saturday evening and Sunday Morning Masses each week.***

**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)

[cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) (Children's Liturgy materials) & [Catholic Pictorial](http://Catholic Pictorial)

The Parish Newsletters can be found on the school websites each week:

St Joseph the Worker Primary School, or St Laurence's Primary School,

**Prayer to God the Holy Spirit**

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.  
O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit,  
we may be always truly wise,  
and rejoice in His consolations,  
Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

*All our local parish schools, All Saints Catholic High, St Joseph the Worker and St Laurence's Primary are officially 'GOOD' schools after OFSTED inspection.*

*I would like to again thank our three Head Teachers and Governors, children and families, for all their efforts to build on the work & support that our partnerships continue to see, as our children flourish.*

***Children and their families preparing for their next sacraments are invited EVERY week and now need to be at Mass: Friday evening, OR Saturday AM/PM, OR Sunday AM, weekend Masses, as part of the family-catechesis 'Living-out' of the faith, if they are to be prepared and ready for the sacraments. Provisional dates have been sent by letter to those parents who have returned the application forms from the parents' meetings and who have attended the meetings and given proof of baptism. Any queries please e-mail Parish address.***

Any family of Year 8 parishioners who would like their child to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation**. Please Register at: [Liverpoolcalled.co.uk](http://Liverpoolcalled.co.uk)

*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.*

**LATE Applications to attend Catholic Schools~:** Each Primary & High School has its own admissions forms, completed and returned to each school. Parents ALSO needed to complete Knowsley Council's on-line application form for schools. The school admissions criteria, the geographical parish boundary families live within and whether a child is a baptised Catholic at the time of the Council deadline date, are all important facts that families need to be aware of and ensure they comply with, to be considered by each schools' Governing Body, for a place for their child at any Catholic School. Contact the schools direct if you haven't completed each of the forms.

Across England the average Covid infection rate is still rising 1 in 40 now carrying the virus to others. **On-going booster injections seem to protect most people from severe illness, including from the now multiple Omicron variants. This year's Flu outbreaks are also rising.** Numbers of both infections are now affecting hospitals, although the vaccinations are working to reduce the severity of the cases for most people. For some time, the demands for A&E and beds will delay ambulances, clinics & operations and worsen the speed & level of treatment available. 1 in 30 are suffering from long-covid conditions after being infected by the virus. Larger crowds in-doors are still riskier, as is mixing with the elderly & those most vulnerable whilst infected. In these still unusual times, the Church building is still open: Masses, lighting of candles, silent prayer in benches before the Blessed Sacrament.

*Some may still wish to continue to wear face masks in Church.*

*The Bishops' Independent Review of Safeguarding in England & Wales & the ICSA reports: The 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 Church & society and this continues to be something that has to be continuously prioritised.*

**With Covid guidance still in place for visiting the elderly and vulnerable and with the need for Eucharistic Ministers to have their DBS checks renewed, we currently cannot normally provide communion visits at home. If a parishioner is ill in hospital, please ask family to inform nursing staff that they are Catholic and wish to be seen by a Catholic Chaplain on their ward.**

**If parishioners are sick at home and their condition is likely to get worse, please telephone the presbytery and Fr Sean will arrange a visit for the Sacrament of the Sick and Holy Communion.**

**Fr Sean is the Catholic Chaplain to Alder Hey Children's Hospital.**

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**The central heating is on in church two hours before each Mass or service each day, so anyone is welcome to come to sit in Church at those times, to be 'warm and cosy' here then, as well as during and after Masses.**

## **ST JOSEPH AND ST LAURENCE'S PARISH**

**Bewley Drive, Southdene, Kirkby, Merseyside L32 7PZ**

Archdiocese of Liverpool. A Registered Charity No 1199714

Church is open for prayer every day 8.30 am til 4pm, except Sunday 8.30 am til 1pm

**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: Mrs Sarah-Jane Carroll-McKevitt Tel: 546 4733

All Saints Catholic High: Head: Mr Tony McGuinness. Tel: 477 8740

(Week 155 of Covid-19 UK guidance)

**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>**

**Volunteer Church cleaners' duty, Thursday, 23rd March 7.30-8.30pm**

A **WARM WELCOME** to everyone at Mass this week. The gift of God keeps on giving! God's WORD and the gift of Jesus, His Body & Blood, Holy Communion, each give us strength to live our lives each day with Faith, Hope & Love. Lent prepares us to celebrate, with minds and hearts refreshed, by prayer, fasting and charity. As we know, 'giving up X for Lent' is part of the training for life that can help re-focus our minds and hearts, BUT Lent is **also** about positively choosing to be more; focusing more on God, as the reason for the seasonal efforts:- Church is open every day for private prayer and candle lighting; there are Monday night Stations of the Cross; there are morning and evening Masses here and at St Michael & All Angles Church, Westvale; Holy Hour at the Convent Wednesdays; daily prayer books and reading material for use at home. It might become a controversial thing to say in our day, but we are to find time and prioritise bible-inspired actions that are just, for 'the poor, the widow, the orphan & the stranger', all people in need. However complicated and challenging our own lives are, the Lenten message **demands** recognising migrants and asylum seekers as **fellow human beings**, respecting their God-given human dignity and our biblical duty to provide care and help to all those in need- it may sound controversial, but in the week of St Patrick's feast day, we remember that a majority of 'us' in our local community came from another country, with a 'foreign' accent and a 'foreign' religion.

**St Joseph & St Laurence's Parish Centre –**

Elaine and staff will give a warm welcome to all customers, old and new. **07377341977** to book future functions for any day of the week, day or evenings.

'WARM & COSY' Every Thursday 1-3.30pm FREE tea and coffee ,biscuits, TV Wi-Fi

**! 2023 Private Functions can now be booked for SATURDAY nights !**