

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT 'Gaudete' Sunday – 'Rejoice' Year B DECEMBER

Sun 17th 11.00 am Kate Farmer

Sun 17th 6.00 pm Parishioners

Mon 18th **NO** 10.00 am **MASS- 9.30am Advent Mass @ St Laurence's School**

Tues 19th 10.00 am George Boyd

Wed 20th **NO Holy Hour @ the Convent this week**

Thur 21st **7.00 pm** Jim Caveney

Fri 22nd 10.00 am Very Rev William Provost Walker

7.00 pm Anne Mason

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year B

Sun 24th 11.00 am Mary O'Meara

Feast of the Nativity of the Baby Jesus.

Sun 24th 7.30pm Carols Service

8.00pm Vigil Mass for the Nativity: Parishioners

Masses Received this week: Sharon Millen, Pat Connor, Joyce Walsh, Anne Smith, Malcolm Andrews, Fr Peter Nicholson, Stephen Galloway, Fr Terry Murray OMI, Brian Mangan, Fr Philip Barrett, Fr Kevin Brennan, Parishioners' Intentions, remembrances for those all who have died, anniversaries, birthdays, sick, lonely, unemployed, or depressed.

More information about the Catholic faith is available on-line.

Archdiocese website liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

Pope Francis Website Vatican-Holy See

cafod.org.uk (Children's Liturgy materials) & [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](#),

under 'Our Catholic Life' or 'Our Faith' sections

*****Thursday 11th January 2024, 7pm Mass and 'Come and See' meeting 7.30-9pm**

There is now a new preparation group, for adults who wish to be baptised or for already baptised Catholic adults yet to receive their 1st Holy Communion and/or, yet to be confirmed, or adults of other Christian Churches who may wish to become Catholics. Let others know! Warm Welcome! Tea and Coffee!

There is extra car parking space at the back of the Presbytery, off Bewley Drive. and then, walk through the back garden & 'Collins Room' to the back of Church.

*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 communities of sisters and brothers, 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 in prayer, with the Pope.*

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

As our schools breakup for the Nativity Feasts I would like to again thank our three Head Teachers and the 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 are

WELCOME to Mass EVERY week,

as part of their family-catechesis, 'Living-out' of the faith.

Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession now celebrated in the half hour before Sunday Morning and Sunday Evening Masses each week.

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

St Joseph & St Laurence's Parish Centre

– All the staff will give a warm welcome to all customers, old and new.

Phone 07377341977 to book future functions for **any day of the week**,

for daytime, or evening bookings. FREE Wi-Fi etc

! 2024 Private Functions can also now be booked for SATURDAY nights !

Lounge normally open every week;

Thur 12- 6pm, Fri from 8pm, Sat from 8.00 pm

& Sun from 11.45 am. All Welcome !

December 25th open 12 noon 'til 2pm- Boxing Day 12 noon 'til 3pm

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR PARISH CLUB

TODAY, Sunday 17th December, Teas and coffee will be served in the Parish Centre after Sunday 11am Mass, from 11.45am - All Welcome!

Heart of Jesus, I adore you,

Heart of Mary, I implore you,

Heart of Joseph, pure and just,

in these three hearts I place my Trust

Please join in prayer with the Holy Spirit, for the success of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan

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, & rejoice in His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord Amen.#

‘Encourage and invite someone back to Church’: People, for various reasons, stopped regularly attending Mass and post-covid restrictions some people also may feel it is difficult to re-start. No-one needs to worry about having been absent from Church for a while. Everyone is WELCOME! It might just take a word of encouragement from you. Please ask a friend or relative to come with you to Church next Sunday.

With Covid still around (Week 193 of Covid-19 UK guidance) the visiting of the elderly and vulnerable and the need for new Eucharistic Ministers to have DBS checks, means we currently cannot normally provide communion visits at home. If parishioners are sick at home and their condition is likely to continue to limit their daily life, 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. He also provides some holiday-cover & some weekly night-cover to the Royal & Broadgreen Hospitals & Aintree Hospital Chaplaincy priests. 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.

Application Process for applying for a place in Catholic Primary Schools It is now that time of the year; each school has its own admissions ‘SIF forms’ that must be completed and returned to each school. Write on the ‘SIF forms’ if the child is a baptised Catholic. Parents ALSO need 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 admissions deadline dates, are all important facts that families need to be aware of and ensure they comply with, to be considered by each schools’ Governing Body. **If the completed ‘SIF’ form is not returned to schools, the child will not be processed as a ‘Catholic Child’ for a place.**

ST JOSEPH AND ST LAURENCE’S PARISH 2023

Bewley Drive, Southdene, Kirkby, Merseyside L32 7PZ

Archdiocese of Liverpool. A Registered Charity No 1199714

Church is open for prayer every day 9 am ‘til 4pm, except Sunday 9 am ‘til 6pm

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: 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

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

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

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A WARM WELCOME to everyone at Church this week.

Our families and their children who have also now begun their sacramental preparations have been invited by letter to weekend Mass, as part of their family preparation for their children’s next sacraments. We welcome them!

We have begun the new Church’s Year, with the new season of Advent- a time of ‘preparation’. On this third Sunday of Advent, we ‘rejoice’ and mark when the old ‘St Martin’s’ Advent 40 day Fasting period was relaxed for this middle weekend. The first part of advent focuses on both the prophecies of the Old Testament Prophets’ hope for the promised Messiah or Chosen One and the promised future arrival of the Lord Jesus at the end of time. The second part of the season after this weekend will then focus on our preparations to celebrate the birthday of the baby, Jesus. The Birth, the Nativity, reveals God becomes flesh and blood, to make our flesh and blood new and raised up to the Divine life in Christ. We can be very busy and there is great excitement as the date approaches, but the Church does invite us to focus on what is truly important in this season and not just to get caught up in the pressures that adverts, and other people can impose upon us. Try to also get to some of the weekday Masses if you can, to give this time to God- Advent first, then Nativity- & BOTH 4th Sunday morning Mass AND Nativity Mass! We are preparing to celebrate the birthday of the baby, Jesus. Keep this as our focus, or we just get caught up in the pressures and forget the simple joy of a baby born for us.

Sunday 24th December **11.00 am** 4th Sunday of Advent
& 7.30pm Carol Service and **8.00 pm** 1st Mass of the Nativity

Monday 25th December **10.00 am** Morning Mass of the Nativity