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**4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT -Year B DECEMBER**

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**

Mon 25th 10.00 am Carol Volante

**FEAST OF ST STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR- 2nd DAY OF OCTAVE**

Tues 26th 10.00 am Joseph Smith

**FEAST OF ST JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST-3RD DAY OF OCTAVE**

Wed 27th 10.00 amStephen Galoway

**FEAST OF The HOLY INNOCENTS-4TH DAY OF OCTAVE**

Thur 28th  **10.00 am Eileen Holmes**

 **2.00 pm Funeral - Joyce Walsh**

**FEAST OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY (BECKET) BISHOP AND MARTYR**

Fri 29th 10.00 am Pat Tant **5TH DAY OF OCTAVE**

 7.00 pm Dave Woods

Sat 30th \*\*\*\*\*\* 9.30am Mass at St Michael & All Angels, Westvale\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Feast of the Holy Family- Jesus, Mary, and Joseph - 7TH DAY OF OCTAVE**

Sun 31st 11.00 am **Parishioners - Sun 31st 6.00 pm** Fr Terry Murray OMI

Mon 1st Jan 2024 **12 Noon** **Feast of Mary Mother of God**- LISCF intentions

***Masses Received this week****: Pat Connor, Joyce Walsh, William Parks, Bernard Family, Pat Hawkins, Ann& Hector Jamieson, Jane Devereux, Aidan Murphy James Whelan,, Ann Brown, Pat & Patsy Tant, Carol Volante, Tony Byrne, Eileen Kirk, Christopher Kirk, Kevin Kirk, Byrne Doyle, Gardiner Families, Fr Reginald McCurdy, Fr William Smith, 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](http://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.*

*Now our schools have broken up 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 24th December,*** *Teas and coffee will be served*

*in the Parish Centre after Sunday 11am Mass, from 11.45am - All Welcome!*

***Traditionally, the monies you give to the Offertory collections***

***at the Nativity Masses, are your personal gift to the Parish Priest.***

**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**

***Monday 11th December ‘Festive’ Social in the club from 1pm.***

***Food , entertainment, bingo. Fundraising for Lourdes pilgrims.***

***Tickets available, £10, from the parish office***

**\*\*\*NEXT CHURCH CLEANING , THURSDAY, 16th November**

**after 7pm Mass- extra adult-volunteers needed; please come along! \*\*\*\*\*\*\***

***Monday 7th August*** *from 1pm £5 per ticket- from parish office*

*Monthly ‘Open Invitation’ to join in a social and lunch, with entertainment.*

*Bingo and raffle fundraiser for parish Lourdes pilgrims and local charities.*

**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.

**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 194 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 keep them at home for the longer term, 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.**

*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 continues to be something that has to be continuously prioritised.*

**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**](https://donate.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/st-joseph-st-laurence-kirkby)

**ADVENT DAYS/ OCTAVE DAYS 2023**

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!

The Church’s year began again with Advent- a time of preparation-waiting for the second coming of the Lord and the approaching birthday of the baby Jesus, the Saviour of the world.

There is so much to do, and we can busy ourselves with many things; but what are we really getting ready for, and will we be ready, in truth? However busy, always then try to bring the birth of the baby Jesus to the front of our minds and in our hearts, as the reason for the season- It is a simple tale and Santa Claus (St Nicholas) whose feast we recently celebrated- a third century bishop in Turkey, who gave three bags of gold to a poor family with three daughters- this is an important part of the approaching Christian feast; when food and drink are shared, love celebrated, the gift of being together and receiving the gifts that God has sent us with Jesus’ birth. ‘Come O come’ to Mass for THIS Nativity Feast, Sunday evening or 25th December, **in** **the year of our Lord, 2023.**

**Please** also try to attend the *daily* Masses for the first eight (Octave) days of the Nativity feast- It is **NOT** a ONE-day wonder; we need extra days to enter into the fuller mysteries of this gift from God; then up to and onwards, including the Holy Family, then ‘twelfth night’ and the feast of the Epiphany of the wise travellers from the East! **FR SEAN**

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.