**COWHNDAY**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent 22nd December 2024 Yr C**

Sun 22nd 11.00 am Baby Skyler Reid

Sun 22nd 6.00 pm **Parishioners**

Mon 23rd 10.00 am Ann Coughlin

Tues 24th 10.00 am John Duffy

**VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY Start of the ‘Jubilee Year’**

**7.30 pm** Carols and **8.00 pm** First Mass of the Nativity-Parishioners **SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD- 1st day of Octave**

**Wed 25th 10.00 am** Sheila, John & Celia Smullen

 **FEAST OF ST STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR – 2nd Day of Octave**

**Thur 26th** **10.00 am** Mary Mc Hale

**FEAST OF ST JOHN APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST – 3rd day of Octave**

Fri 27th 10.00 pm Stella Walsh

**Fri 27th 7.00 pm** David Jackson

**FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS**- **4th day of Octave**

Sat 28th  **10.00 am** Dr Gillian West

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY, Jesus, Mary & Joseph Yr C- 5th day of Octave**

Sun 29th 11.00 am Michael Murphy

Sun 29th 6.00 pm **Parishioners**

*Masses received this*week Kathleen Boyd, Ann Bradley Sheilds Family, Jones

Family, Billy Slater, Pat Hawkins, Bernard Family, Winifred & Thomas Tole,

Byrne, Doyle & Gardiner Families, Eileen & Chris Kirk, Tony Byrne ,Kevin Kirk,

Mathew Byrne, Fr Kevin Brennan, *Parishioners’ Intentions, Remembrances for those 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 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’ section

NEXT CHURCH CLEANING:THURSDAY**\*\*9th January 2025\*\*** after 7pm Mass. Adult volunteers sought to give one hour normally every two weeks.

**Thursday 19th December, 7pm Mass and ‘Come and See’ meeting 7.30-9pm**

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

***Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession is normally celebrated***

***10.15-10.45am before Sunday Morning Mass,***

***and 5.15-5.45 pm before Sunday Evening Mass each week.***

**\*\*\*Thursday 18th April 2024, 7pm Mass and ‘Come and See’ meeting 7.30-9pm**

 There is now a new preparation group, for adults who wish to celebrate Catholic Sacraments. Let others know! Warm Welcome! Tea and Coffee!

**Our Muslim brothers & sisters finished their Ramadan fast last week.**

***Year 8 parishioners who would wish to be prepared to celebrate and live the Sacramentof Confirmation, please apply on-line*** [***www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk***](http://www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk) ***More information to follow.***

 **GREGORY THE GREAT, Pope and Doctor**

*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.*

**‘Encourage and invite someone back to Church’: People, for various reasons, stopped regularly attending Mass and some people also may feel it is difficult to re-start. No-one needs to worry about having been absent from Church, even for many years. 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.**

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

***All Children and their Families are WELCOME to Mass EVERY week, as part of their family-catechesis, ‘Living-out’ of the faith. Children’s Confession will also be celebrated each weekend, come early before weekend Masses in Church and ask to celebrate on the chairs in front of the Tabernacle .***

**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 before the Council admissions deadline date of 15th January 2025, 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 the schools, the child will not be processed as a ‘Catholic Child’ and will be lower down the applications list for a place.**

**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

**2024/25 Private Functions you can also book FRIDAY/SATURDAY nights**  Also, the Lounge is open every week for anyone who’d like to socialise.

**Thur 12- 6pm,Sat** from 8.00 pm& **Sun** from 11.45 am. All Welcome !

**NOW BINGO** every Tuesday afternoon **12-3pm & Thursdays 8 ‘til 1030pm *We have a New Club Manager , her name is Antonia, (Toni)***

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR PARISH CLUB**

**ST JOSEPH AND ST LAURENCE’S PARISH December 2024**

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

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 gift that God has sent us with Jesus’ birth. ‘Come O come’ to Mass for THIS Nativity Feast,Tuesdayevening or 25th December, **in** **the year of our Lord, 2024.**

**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**

A **WARM WELCOME** to everyone at Church this week. We **Welcome** any visitors who may be joining us or their families this weekend. We also particularly **Welcome** children and their families who have now started their preparation for their next sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion. A special **WELCOME** also to families who have been invited to Masses this weekend in preparation for their child’s baptism in the coming few months. Advent is a time of preparation too for adults and children. What are we preparing for? Despite the adverts and festive music and lights that began in November or earlier in some shops, the Church invites us to slow down and begin first by remembering, before we get to that point of the birth of the baby Jesus , we must first go back further in time to the time of the Old Testament Prophets who were preparing for the promised first arrival of the Messiah. Then, we hear John the Baptist prepares the crowds for the adult Jesus’ public ministry. Then, after Jesus’ death and resurrection, His Promise to return to Earth again in the future and bring His eternal Kingdom fully into our lives- the dead will rise, and we will all be gathered together again. Where did we all come from? Where are we going, in life and through death? Do we think we need Jesus, as our Saviour? **FR SEAN**

***Traditionally, the monies you give to the Offertory collections at the Nativity Masses, are your personal gift to the Parish Priest***

**Tuesday 24th December** 10am Advent Morning Mass

 7.30pm Carols and 8pm 1st Mass of the Feast of the Nativity

**Wednesday 25th December** 10am Nativity Mass

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‘SUGGESTIONS BOX’: if any parishioners have suggestions about what you would like to see happen in the parish, please leave a note in the offertory basket. What can you do to help ?

I am looking for new Eucharistic Ministers for Mass and for visits to people at home and for Readers at Mass. There will be training and a formal application process and necessary Safeguarding checks to complete before starting in a new role. Please let Fr Sean know your interest in applying.

*Requests for Mass Intentions can be made without needing to buy a Mass card. You can hand in a note or an envelope to the Presbytery or Fr Sean, with the name or other intention written on it, with the Mass stipend money offering.*

**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.

**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.**

The regular visiting of the elderly and vulnerable, with the need for new Eucharistic Ministers to have DBS checks, means we currently cannot normally provide communion visits at home. If parishioners are house-bound 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.

Current weekly offertory collection averages £250 per week:

The diocese will give us an interest-free loan to clear our current £100k overdraft, but over five years **we will then need to raise the extra £20,000 each year** to pay off the loan itself which is an extra £385 per week, **and we then also need extra weekly income** to meet our annual running costs that have put us in the red. In brief we need to more than double our weekly offertory collection to repay the loan, and we then need more in addition each week to meet the week-to-week increased running costs each year. Whatever you currently give, please consider what you could afford to give each week and please increase your weekly offering. You can also donate regularly to the parish online: [**https://donate.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk**](%20%20%20https%3A//donate.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk)

**NEXT SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

 **Is 60, Psalm 72, Eph3, Gospel of Matthew Chp 2**

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**Thank You to the Sisters of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary for their generous donation of £181.70 from their Carol Service Collection**

***Traditionally, the monies you give to the Offertory collections at the Nativity Masses, are your personal gift to the Parish Priest.***

**This week is the deadline for all existing volunteers to have their DBS for their roles in the parish renewed by the archdiocese. Anyone who didn’t attend the recent meetings are now invited to make an appointment with Fr Sean at the Presbytery, with their relevant I.D. and to complete necessary paperwork and Safeguarding updates. This is important or volunteers will have to step-down from their roles.**

**Application Process for applying for a place in Catholic Primary Schools**  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. **The deadline for completing/returning all forms was 15th January! Contact the schools and Knowsley Council if you are late.**

*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.*