

Newsletter

Parish of St John Vianney

Halewood & Hunts Cross

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Nunes

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**For more News and Information see our website:
parishofstjohnvianney.co.uk**



4 December 2022

Second Sunday of Advent, p85

Matthew 3:1-12

Pointers for Prayer

1. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to us of the good news of the gospel that God loves us - a friend, a parent, a teacher, etc.? To whom have we borne that witness?
2. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of opposition. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been content to be yourself, without pretending to be more than you are? What was it like to have that freedom, even in the face of criticism from others?
3. John was “the voice of one crying out in the wilderness” - announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God’s grace may come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness?

Prayer

Your kingdom is at hand, O God of justice and peace; you made John the Baptist its herald to announce the coming of your Christ, who baptises with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Give us a spirit of repentance to make us worthy of the kingdom. Let complacency yield to conviction, that in our day justice will flourish and conflict give way to the peace you bestow in Christ. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Keep In Your Prayers

Valerie Higgins, Mary Mount, Veronica Humphreys, Nora Bartley, Vera Leonard, Silva, Gerry Marsh, Marian Hawkins, Laura Wakefield, Lisa Crompton, Vera Farrell, Barry Jackson, Maureen Jackson, Lorraine Keogh, May McGrath, Maureen Skillicorn, Eileen Ireland, Frank and Josie Henesy, Father Vin McShane our sick and housebound and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Healing

In the Sacrament of the Sick Christ strengthens our faith, bestows God's grace in a time of anxiety and pain, and forgives our sins.

Fr Matthew will be available after all the Masses next weekend for anyone

who might like to receive the sacrament.

Rite of Welcome

9.15am:

Roman Williams and Ava Williams

Baptismal Information

Next meeting to register and find out more Monday, 5 December, 6pm, St Mark's annexe. All enquiries please ring Chris Myles on 07443 018 816. If you are looking to book a baptism in 2023, please register now as dates are filling up. Please note, children due to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion in 2023 require to have first received the Sacrament of Baptism.

Baptisms this weekend:

Casey Pugh
Lily Clarke

School Applications Reminder

Reception applications and supplementary forms for September 2023 intake: if you are applying for a Catholic place, your child **must** be baptised Catholic before the admission closing date of 15 January 2023 and you must complete a supplementary faith form and pass back to the school office of the school you are applying to.

With You Always Programme (First Holy Communion 2022/23)

Please note when the information for the next group of candidates is

available, it will be published in this newsletter and on our website.

Guild of St Stephen for Altar Servers

St Stephen is the patron saint of altar servers. As an acknowledgement of the dedicated service of a number of our young people who have been helping us to celebrate our Masses for some time now, they will be enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen this weekend and receive their Guild medal. So please pray for:

Jocelyn Williams
Hanna Bednarska
Dominik Bednarski
Filip Jarzynka
Mario Vaksamansky
Karla Vaksmanska
Mack Sampson

Poinsettias

If you would like to bring these plants in to church to enhance the decoration these would be gratefully received. Please feel free to attach the name of a loved one to the plant and Masses will be offered for their intentions over the festive period.

Ladies Group

The Ladies Group have organised a Christmas Raffle and tickets are on sale after all Masses, £1 per strip. Please support this if you are able. Proceeds will go towards a charity that has yet to be decided.

Also, our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 7 December, 7pm in St Mark's annexe. Ladies are reminded to bring their mini-bus fares £9 to the meeting.

Children's Liturgy Nativity Rehearsal

Our Children's Liturgy Nativity will take place during our Christmas Eve Mass.

The rehearsal for this will take place on Sunday, 18 December in St Mark's church at 12.30pm.

Parts and readings will be allocated and the children will have the opportunity to practice and try on costumes. The rehearsal will last approximately 1 hour and children wishing to attend must be accompanied by an adult for safeguarding purposes. Many thanks, Little Church.

Children's Liturgy Refresher Training Repeat of Session 2

Tuesday, 6 December, 6pm-7.30pm.

All enquiries to Ann Farrell on 07855 981 691 or anski@blueyonder.co.uk

Church Cleaning & Appeal for Help

St Mark's
Big Christmas Clean
9am, Wednesday, 14 December

Holy Family

Many thanks to Theresa Griffiths who is standing down from cleaning at Holy Family after many years of dedicated service to the parish. Please speak to Theresa or Ann for days and times when cleaning takes place if you are able to spare an hour or so.

Sunday, 1 January

9.15am, St Mark's. Please note Children's Liturgy will not take place.

Thank You

The parish office received a letter of thanks this week from CAFOD for your donations to their recent Family Fast Day appeal.

CAFOD Christmas Fun Run

This annual event will take place at The Mystery, Wavertree Athletics Centre, Wellington Road, L15 4LE on Tuesday, 27 December, register from 10am for the run/walk at 11am.

Parish Council

Parishioners, young or old, are invited to consider volunteering for the St John Vianney Parish Council. New members would be very welcome. The Council meets every two months. If you are willing to volunteer please let the parish office know.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 17 January, 7pm, Holy Family meeting room.

Holy Family Church Jubilee

2023 marks the Golden Jubilee of Holy Family church. Parishioners are invited to join a working group to prepare to celebrate this momentous event. If you are willing to volunteer please let the parish office know.

A Nativity Concert at Liverpool Hope University Chapel

This will take place on Tuesday, 13 December, 6.30pm and is performed by students from St Julie's and SFX. See poster at back of church or our parish website for more details.

Foundation Governors

These are needed for Holy Family School. Anyone interested should contact either the school on 282 8971 or Ann Farrell on 07855 981 691.

Halewood Foodbank Update

The generosity of the public in their giving is fantastic however, their name might be a bit misleading.

The offer of food is a measure of survival but for those coming to the foodbank volunteers try and offer a standard of living. Please be aware that they cannot use donations of food that is out of date so do check your donations before you drop them off.

To enable users to live rather than just survive the foodbank also offer items such as tea, coffee, juice, long life milk, sugar, puddings and biscuits. Currently they are also in need of

toiletries (men & women), baby goods, cleaning products and pet food.

As we reach the festive season any new toys or treats would be most welcome. It is more than just food for survival the foodbank try to offer dignity.

If you would like to donate groceries etc but need help bringing items to church then please speak to an SVP member and collection can be arranged. Finally, cash donations can be made to the foodbank and this is used to top up supplies as necessary. Thank you for your continued support and kindness.

"I was sick and you cared for me..."

The Catholic Chaplaincy to the Liverpool Hospitals, are looking for new volunteers to join their team. Volunteers often enjoy visiting patients and their families on the wards. These visits can include praying with patients, and bringing them Holy Communion, or simply having a chat. It is possible to volunteer just a few hours one morning or afternoon each week. Full training and support will be given. You don't have to be an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

If you are interested in this very rewarding opportunity, please email Fr Peter peter.murphy@rlbuht.nhs.uk or by calling 706 2828.

Advent Volunteering

Netherley Youth and Community Initiative need lots of helpers to pack up hampers and distribute them for Christmas parcels. These are parcels for needy families this Christmas. If you can spare a few hours to help families know that they are loved, cared for and valued that would be great. Hamper packing: 12-16 December, 9am-5.30pm. If you can phone NYCI : 487 6421 to confirm when you can help.

The Letter:

A Message for Our Earth

The Letter is a ground-breaking new film by the Laudato Si' Movement, which premiered on 4 October at the Vatican. It brings Pope Francis' vision of integral ecology to life, finding new hope together. Type in the link to view the film:

<https://youtu.be/Rps9bs85BII>

LGBTQ+ Catholics

The next Mass will be on Sunday, 11 December, 2pm at All Saints, Anfield. There will be a social gathering after Mass so if you hope to attend please email Fr Stephen for catering purposes at frsmaloney@aol.co.uk

Cost Of Living Crisis:

The Liverpool Archdiocese

Venues continue to be open 1pm to 3.30pm across the archdiocese with St Mark's Parish Centre available on Wednesday's. Please come along for a chat over a cuppa!

Light up a Life

Friday, 16 December, 12.30pm at the Metropolitan Cathedral, Liverpool led by Bishop Tom Williams followed by refreshments.

If you would like to take part contact the Fundraising team by emailing fundraising@wearenugent.org or calling 0734 186 4180, having your dedication name(s) and your debit or credit card details ready.

What's On at our Cathedral

Advent Sequence, 5pm-6pm each Sunday throughout Advent, you can hear our Cathedral Choir sing a sublime selection of seasonal music designed to reflect the wonder and joy of Advent. Entrance is free and no tickets are required.

4 December, 3pm, Bach Cantata 140: Wachet Auf. Enjoy one of Bach's most loved Cantatas, performed by the Metropolitan Cathedral Choir.

NSPCC Carols by Candlelight. This will return to Liverpool's Metropolitan Cathedral on Tuesday, 6 December at 7pm. Check Events page on Cathedral website for tickets.

A Celebration of Christmas, Saturday, 10 December, 7pm-9pm. Join the Metropolitan Cathedral Choir and some very special guests for what promises to be a magical event for all the family. Sing along to classic carols, enjoy traditional readings and celebrate Christmas in the glorious

surroundings of the Metropolitan Cathedral. Tickets: £8 each/£15 family, available from: www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral

11 December, 3pm, Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols. Benjamin Britten's famous carol sequence will be sung following a shorter Evening Prayer.

18 December, 5pm, Festival Carol Service. A mix of seasonal music and readings as well as congregational carols.

Our Housebound Parishioners

If you find that you are getting to the stage of life where it is becoming impossible to get to Mass, **please don't just disappear!** Get in touch either directly with Fr Matthew or the Parish Office. Fr Matthew will be able to pop round to pray with you and see what else might be helpful. You are still a vital and essential part of our parish community, even if you can't get to Mass.

Sacrament of the Sick

In times of illness or suffering we are offered anointing with holy oil to strengthen us. The sacrament can also help us to experience healing of mind, body and spirit and we receive the forgiveness of our sins. Anyone feeling the need of the sacrament is very welcome to approach Fr Matthew before or after Mass or via Parish Office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Fr Matthew is usually available in the 20 minutes before each Mass to hear confession. He will be sat towards the front of the church, please approach him directly and make your request known.

Parish Finance

Please consider making your contributions by Standing Order or Gift Aid it, contact office and we'll do the rest.

Gift Aid Envelopes	£378.00
GASDS Loose	£460.80
GASDS Envelopes	£ 49.00
Standing Orders	£367.23
Total Offertory	£1255.03
Bonus Ball 11	£ 58.00

Next Second Collection:
11 December, SVP.

Recycling

You can now recycle used batteries and empty tablet blister packs at the back of church. Please bring these along, pop them in the box provided and we'll do the rest.

How to Receive this Newsletter by Email

Go to our website
www.parishofstjohnvianney.co.uk

Click on the Latest tab.

Scroll down the page until you see Newsletter via email and click on this.

Complete the form and press Send.

If you need help then please ring the parish office and they will guide you through the process.

Looking Ahead Christmas Liturgy Dates:

Saturday, 24 December

6pm, Children's Mass, St Mark's
8.30pm, Carol Service, Holy Family
9pm, Mass, Holy Family

Sunday, 25 December

9.15am, Mass, St Mark's
11am, Mass, Holy Family

Monday, 26 December

No Mass
6pm, Exposition, Holy Family

Tuesday, 27 December

9am, Mass, Holy Family

Wednesday, 28 December

10am, Exposition, St Mark's

Thursday, 29 December

6.30pm, Mass, St Mark's



Second Sunday of Advent

3 December – 11 December 2022

We Pray Especially For

Saturday, 3 December, 5.15pm – First Mass of Sunday, Holy Family	Tilly Catherine, Family & Friends, Francis Burns
Sunday, 4 December, Second Sunday of Advent 9.15am – Mass, St Mark's 11am – Mass, Holy Family 12.30pm - Baptisms	People of the Parish David McLoughlin, Alan Hanson, Ellie Davies
Monday, 5 December, Memorial of St John Almond 6pm-7pm – Exposition & Private Prayer, Holy Family	
Tuesday, 6 December, Weekday of Advent 9am – Mass, Holy Family	Valerie Fairbairn, Andrew McEvoy, Bereavement Service Thanks
Wednesday, 7 December, Memorial of St Ambrose 10am-11am – Exposition & Private Prayer, St Mark's	
Thursday, 8 December, Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 9am – Morning Prayer Online via zoom (see website) 6.30pm - Mass, St Mark's	Jacqui Bakstad, Tony McHale
Friday, 9 December, Weekday of Advent 9am – Mass, St Mark's	Jonathan Hannah, Valerie Donegan
Saturday, 10 December 5.15pm – First Mass of Sunday, Holy Family	Josie Herbert, Maggie Adam Alice & Zara Matilda
Sunday, 11 December, Third Sunday of Advent 9.15am – Mass, St Mark's 11am – Mass, Holy Family 12.30pm – Baptisms, Holy Family	James & Ellen Lacey & Family Alice Canison People of the Parish