

Newsletter

Parish of St John Vianney

Halewood & Hunts Cross

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

**17 February 2024
First Sunday of Lent, p148**

Mark 1:12-15

Pointers for Prayer:

1. We are at a major turning point in the life of Jesus when he is about to start his public ministry. Mark tells us this was preceded by a deep inner struggle when his resolve to take on his God-given mission was tested. Recall important decisions in your own life. Were they accompanied by struggle and doubt? Who were the angels who supported you at that time? Give thanks for them.

2. Such periods of anxiety may seem like wilderness experiences at the time with nothing positive about them. Later, with hindsight, we may see it as a necessary testing that was for our good. Perhaps, like Jesus, you recall a time when the Spirit of God led you into the wilderness to be tested and after the experience you had a clearer sense of your own identity or your purpose in life?

3. The arrest of John the Baptist was the occasion of the start of the public ministry of Jesus. When has some event outside of your control unexpectedly led you into some new and fruitful activity?

4. Convert and believe the good news was the heart of the message of Jesus. It was not a call to penance but to a change of heart, a change of attitude, leading to a change in behaviour. The kingdom of God is a kingdom of right relationships: with God, with one another, with creation, with ourselves. It is a change that leads to a fuller life. When have you found that a change in your attitude towards God,

others, yourself, or the world around you, has led you to a more fulfilled or more fruitful life?

5. There is immediacy about the call of Jesus: “the time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near”. Recall when you had a realisation that now was the moment of opportunity – for a change in your life, for a spiritual renewal, or a time to give a wholehearted yes to life. At this moment to what do you believe you are invited to say yes?

Prayer

God of the covenant, O God of mystery, as the forty days of deluge swept away the world’s corruption and watered new beginnings of righteousness and life, so in the saving flood of baptism your people are washed clean and born again. Throughout these forty days, we beg you, unseal for us the wellspring of your grace, cleanse our hearts of all that is not holy and cause your gift of new life to flourish once again. Grant this through your Son, Jesus Christ, our liberator from sin, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Keep In Your Prayers

Silva Smith RIP, Sara Eccleston, Maureen Skillicorn, Karen Smith, John & Enid Allerston, Eileen Prescott, Kay Thomas, Katie Whitehead, Kathy Murphy-Malpas, Mila Facenfield, Mary Lonsdale, Mary Ireland, Catherine Atkin, Margaret Facenfield, Kitty Heisley, Sally Moore, Valerie Higgins, Ron & Veronica Humphreys, Nora Bartley, John and Vera Leonard, Marian Hawkins, Laura Wakefield, Lisa Crompton, Vera Farrell, Maureen Jackson, Lorraine Keogh, May McGrath, Josie Henesy, our sick and housebound and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.



Stations of the Cross

This will take place each Friday during Lent as follows:

Friday, 23 February, 6pm, St Mark’s
Friday, 1 March, 6pm, Holy Family
Friday, 8 March, 6pm, St Mark’s
Friday, 15 March, 6pm, Holy Family
Friday, 22 March, 6pm, St Mark’s

Lenten Alms

Lenten Alms can be donated throughout Lent. Please place in an

envelope marked Lenten Alms and pop into weekly collection. Many thanks.

Healing

The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is administered during periods of illness, in order to bring a person receiving it spiritual and physical strength. As a sacrament, it is performed to give God's grace, through the Holy Spirit. Father Matthew will be available at the end of all Masses over the weekend of 2/3 March to administer this to all those who wish to receive it.

Rite of Welcome

11am: Lennie Terence James Lynch

Baptismal Information

Next meeting to register and find out more is Monday, 4 March at 6pm, St Mark's annexe. All enquiries please ring Chris Myles on 07443 018 816.

Mass at Servite Court

On Wednesday, 21 February, Father Matthew will be celebrating Mass at Servite Court at 2pm for the residents. All welcome.

SVP Meeting

The group will meet next on Wednesday, 21 February at 7pm in the Holy Family meeting room.

St Mark's Annexe

Important – if you hold a key for the above, please pop into the parish office with it at your convenience.

Parish Retreat

This has been booked for Saturday, 9 March and will take place at the Irenaeus Centre in Waterloo between 10am-3pm. The cost is £20 pp which includes lunch. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to be together in prayerful reflection outside of our usual parish environment. Please let the office know if you are interested in attending asap and if you have signed up, payment is now due either by cash, cheque, bank transfer and if you are using BACS, then please enter your surname as the reference.



CAFOD Family Fast Day Bring Your Own Spoon!

One of our parish LiveSimply actions is to raise the profile of CAFOD Lent and Harvest Fast Days within our community starting on Friday, 23 February with a St John Vianney Lent Fast Day Soup Lunch. This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in

Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Find out more about James and the work of CAFOD at cafod.org.uk



Please join us in St Mark's annexe, anytime between 12pm and 2pm on Friday for a delicious mug of homemade soup and a roll - but we're short on spoons so please bring one with you! Together our small changes can make a big difference!

Also, please ensure you take the new LiveSimply Newsletter home with you and see what small changes you can make to support our parish efforts to care for creation and check out the Care for Creation page on our parish website.

The Belle Vale Passion

A musical drama that tells the story of the passion and death of Jesus, performed by members of the local community.

The first rehearsal/meeting takes place this weekend at 3pm on Sunday, 17 February in Our Lady of Assumption Parish Centre, Hedgefield Road,

Liverpool 25. If you would like to be apart of this exciting project then just turn up at 2.50pm on Sunday. Please visit bellevalepassion.co.uk to watch a short film and find out more.

Right to Life

Support an amendment to reduce our abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction in our abortion law. Collect a postcard from the back of the church and post it to your MP in support of the amendment.

BBC Songs of Praise

Our Lady Of Compassion Church, Formby, L37 3LW

Come and sing with BBC's Songs of Praise as we join together for a congregational music recording at Our Lady of Compassion Church in Formby on Saturday, 16 March, 1pm-4pm. Doors open at 12noon.

The recording is expected to finish at approximately 4pm. There is no minimum age for entry, but children aged 17 and under should be supervised with a responsible adult at all times. The link to book your place can be found on our parish website.

Lent Talk

Monday, 11 March from 7pm-8pm.
St Anne's in Ormskirk are having a Lent Talk from theologian David McLoughlin from Birmingham entitled Jesus' Passion for the Kingdom of God. Walking with him to the Cross. All welcome.

Becoming A Welcoming Parish

Wednesday, 13 March, 7pm-8.30pm (online). Find out how we can include people of all cultures and backgrounds to our parishes. Guest speakers include: Jennie Taylor, Racial Justice Officer, Liverpool Diocese and Emily Shepherd of Welcome Churches. To book your place follow the link available on our parish website.

A Weekend with St Teresa of Avila
Led by Fr Matthew Blake, OCD, The Christian Heritage Centre is offering this retreat, which explores the life and faith of Teresa of Avila (also called Teresa of Jesus), one of the great Spanish mystics who, with Saint John of the Cross, established the Discalced Carmelites. Single room £210pp, twin room (sharing) £150pp. For more info visit christianheritagecentre.com

2024 World Day of Prayer

‘I Beg You, Bear With One Another In Love’

The Churches of Halewood and Hunts Cross would like to invite you to St Nicholas' Church, Church Road, Halewood L26 6LA on Friday, 1 March at 1pm so we can celebrate World Day of Prayer together. The service will be followed by refreshments and fellowship.

This year the Christian women of Palestine are calling us to connect with the land from where Jesus came; where he was born, ministered and died – and from where our faith began and is rooted. The theme of the service is ‘Bear with one another in love’ seems very appropriate for these women who will not give up witnessing the love of Jesus Christ.

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 146 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world - through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

The service will be livestreamed and also made available for people to watch later as St Nicholas' have their own Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@stnicholasstmaryshalewoodt9487>

LGBT+ Catholics

The next Mass will take place on Sunday, 3 March at 2pm, All Saints, Oakfield, Liverpool, L4 2QG. All are welcome.

St Mark's Parish Centre

Sunday, 10 March, Mother's Day Special Show, superb vocalist Ian Christie plus DJ Mack, 5pm until late, save the date! The Centre is open from 1pm on Wednesday's, 12noon Saturday's and Sunday's and from 4pm on all other days.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Registration for Confirmations for those in Year 8 or above is now open until 15 March 2024. To register please visit:

www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk

While the registration period is open, Animate will visit schools in the diocese to promote the Sacrament and at the same time schools will teach about the Sacrament in their RE classes.

Widnes 9 Years On

It is now over 9 years since the parishes of Widnes, after much consultation and discernment, became one parish with 4 churches. In that

time people and priests have changed. We want to invite you to hear the story and ask questions.

Has it worked? What can we learn? Is this a model that should be copied? What is it like to be a parishioner/priest/deacon in Widnes? Can this model teach us anything about Families of Parishes?

Thursday, 29 February, 7.30pm, open to all, venue St John Fisher Hall, WA8 3JA, no need to book, just turn up! All welcome.

First Holy Communion Preparation Programme

Any child in Year 4 or above is very welcome to take part in the programme. There is no time limit to completing the programme so families can start when they are ready and work through it at their own pace.

Registration forms are available from a catechist at the end of every Mass of the last week of the month. Please note you must produce your child's baptism certificate.

Prayer Requests

Do you have someone or something you would like to pray for?

Please feel free to fill in one of the prayer request forms at the back of church. Place it into the box provided, which will be brought to the altar by our children during the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass.

Our Housebound Parishioners

If you are no longer able to get to Mass, **don't just disappear!** Get in touch with Fr Matthew or the Parish Office and we can see how best we might be able to support you. But we can't do that if you don't let us know! You are still a vital and essential part of the 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 (ring the office) or Gift Aid it.

Collection 11 February 2024:

Gift Aid Envelopes	£305.50
GASDS Loose	£293.15
Non Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 62.00
Standing Orders	£331.76
Total Offertory	£992.41
Bonus Ball	£ 86.00
Second Collection:	
Lourdes Fund	£225.60

Second Collection:
25 February, CAFOD

Church Cleaning

Wednesday, 28 February
9am, St Mark's

Every Tuesday,
9am, Holy Family

All Welcome.



reflect & renew

LET'S PREPARE TOGETHER
FOR THE CELEBRATION OF
JESUS' RESURRECTION.

First Sunday of Lent

17 February - 25 February 2024

We Pray Especially For

Saturday, 17 February

5.15pm – First Mass of Sunday, Holy Family

Margaret Greenwood,
Hilda Cloherty

Sunday, 18 February, First Sunday of Lent

9.15am – Mass, St Mark's

11am – Mass, Holy Family

People of the Parish
Catherine Wafer, Alan Corlan,
Mary Bauress

Monday, 19 February, Weekday of Lent

6pm-7pm - Exposition, Holy Family

Tuesday, 20 February, Weekday of Lent

9am – Mass, Holy Family

Christina Rowan, Norah Potter

Wednesday, 21 February, Weekday of Lent

10am-11am - Exposition, St Mark's

11am-12noon - Lectio Devina, annexe

2pm – Mass, Servite Court

Residents

Thursday, 22 February, Feast of the See of St Peter

9am – Morning Prayer Online via Zoom (see website)

6.30pm – Mass, St Mark's

Mary & Daniel McGrail,
Carol Bingham,
Lois Mayley & Family

Friday, 23 February, Weekday of Lent

9am – Mass, St Mark's

6pm – Stations of the Cross, St Mark's

Liz Morris & Family,
Joan Hague,
Frs Colbert, Power & McShane

Saturday, 24 February

5.15pm – First Mass of Sunday, Holy Family

Mary Lamb,
Ann Nicholson & Family

Sunday, 25 February, Second Sunday of Lent

9.15am – Mass, St Mark's

11am – Mass, Holy Family

12.30pm - Baptisms

People of the Parish
Stan Whelan