

# 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](http://parishofstjohnvianney.co.uk)**

### Fourth Sunday of Advent



On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognised as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favour upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even

John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognise the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognise the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

### **Keep In Your Prayers**

Our sick and housebound and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

### **Caring for our Sick and Housebound Parishioners**

Before the pandemic our Eucharistic Ministers were able to regularly take Holy Communion to those unable to come to church for Mass. We wait to see when and how this important ministry may safely be resumed. In the meantime, we need to ensure that we have an up-to-date list of all those in need of such support. So, if you, or someone you know of, are housebound and would appreciate the support of receiving Holy

Communion please contact the Parish Office and leave details.

### **Sacrament of the Sick**

If anyone is in need of receiving the healing strength of the Lord offered through the sacrament of the sick please approach Fr Matthew at Mass or contact the 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.

### **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.

### **Baptismal Information**

Next meeting to register and find out more Tuesday, 4 January 2022, 6pm, St Mark's Annexe. **Please wear a mask when attending a meeting.** All enquiries please ring Chris Myles on 07443 018 816.

This weekend the following children will receive the Sacrament of Baptism

*Jorgie-Tia Eve Rose Davies  
Sophie May Kendall  
Jack Colin Smith*

### **With You Always Programme**

We have 92 children who have registered this year for the With You Always programme and have now started their preparation to receive Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers'

Email all enquiries to Jayne Cross at [jayne.wya@gmail.com](mailto:jayne.wya@gmail.com)

### **Christmas Eve – Children's Mass 6pm, St Mark's Church, 24 December**

Due to the present situation regarding COVID and rising infection rates, our Christmas Eve Mass for children will be a little different this year.

There will be no procession into Church and no mime/tableau. However, children will be able to contribute by reading and joining in with the Christmas music.

If your child would like to read at Mass, please see one of the Children's Liturgists over the weekend of 18th/19th December.

You will need to give your child's name and an email address so we can

email you the reading during the week before Christmas Eve.

You will need to arrive early to Mass (5.40pm) and make your way to the reserved benches at the front of church.

*Please remember this Mass is for children and their families.*

There are 3 other Masses over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. **All adults must wear a face covering** - if you are exempt for medical reasons then please think carefully before attending otherwise please wear your badge and lanyard.

### **Parish Council**

Tuesday, 11 January 2022, 6pm, Holy Family meeting room unless otherwise informed.

### **RCIA Meetings**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process given to us by the Church to initiate adults and older children into Christianity as it is lived within the Roman Catholic tradition.

Whatever your starting point you are very welcome to come along to these meetings which take place every Tuesday, 7.30pm, St Mark's Annexe. Contact Peter for more info 07707 917 554.

# Thank You

The office received a letter this week from Missio thanking our parishioners for their gifts totalling £238.80.

# The Ultimate Relationship

Some dioceses in England and Wales are using a Canadian booklet called The Ultimate Relationship this Christmas. It is an evangelizing tool written by Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO). It presents the Good News very simply, providing an opportunity to hear and respond to Christ's invitation to a personal relationship. The booklet is available on ISSU:

<https://issuu.com/ccocanada/docs/the-ultimaterelationship-finaldraft> and an introductory YouTube video is on [https://youtu.be/EjHwN\\_DHqMc](https://youtu.be/EjHwN_DHqMc)

# Keeping Christ in Christmas

The National Office for Vocation's Advent Video Calendar 'Keeping Christ in Christmas' can be found on <https://www.ukvocation.org/advent>. Once you have opened the calendar, click on the date and see what short message is communicated each day.

# Memorial Lecture 2022

**Sunday, 16 January, 2pm-4pm**

Speaker: Dr Lorna Gold. The J&P Commission is delighted to confirm that Dr Lorna Gold will be joining us on Zoom for what promises to be a very relevant and timely talk looking at the environment in relation to Synodality for the Memorial Lecture 2022.

To register:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom-  
register/tZMuf-  
mvrzwuG9PD06lFRwfu8PF66XLA4  
B8d

**CAFOD**

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: [cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal](https://cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal) and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

## Cleaning Sessions at St Mark's All Welcome

Wednesday, 12 January, 8.30am  
Wednesday, 2 February, 8.30am

## **Lourdes Nominations**

If you wish to nominate someone from our parish to go to Lourdes in 2022 and be supported through our fund, please contact the office as soon as possible.

## LGBT+

Social Group in the Parish of Sts Agnes and Aidan for members of the LGBT+ community. This group

gathers regularly on every third Sunday of the month at 6pm in the Sr Elizabeth Kelly Room at St Agnes RC Church, 82 Huyton Hey Road, Huyton, L36 5SQ.

### **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	£308.00
GASDS Loose	£334.05
GASDS Envelopes	£ 40.00
Standing Orders	£356.15
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>£1038.20</b>
Second Collection	£146.05
Christmas Flowers	

### **Christmas Day Collection**

Please note this collection is solely for Nugent, there is no second collection.

### **Winning Bonus Ball**

54, congratulations!

### **Unwanted Laptops/Tablets**

An SVP group in Liverpool have made an appeal for the above, if you have one that you no longer need and it is in working order with a charger, can you drop it off at the office who will deliver it to the group. Many thanks.



### **New Year's Eve at St Mark's Parish Centre**

Join us to celebrate the end of 2021 and start 2022 with fantastic female vocalist Amanda Lee and top DJ Paul Davis. Doors open 7.30pm, tickets £10.



### **Local Letterbox Toppers**

Whilst walking in our local area, why not try and locate the 4 letterbox toppers that have been crocheted with a scene from the Christmas story (Leathers Lane, Bailey's Lane, Halewood Shopping Centre and Wood Lane).



### **Outdoor Carol Service**

There is a Community Carol Service in Hunts Cross Community Garden on Wednesday, 22 December at 4pm. It sounds lovely, there will be a manger and shepherds around a fire. See you there!



### **Activities from our Pastoral Development Team**

Donkey Detective Story and Make your own Donkey Activity [godwhospeaks.uk/the-christmas-donkey](http://godwhospeaks.uk/the-christmas-donkey)

Jesse Tree Stained Glass Window resource:

[godwhospeaks.uk/christmas-resources/traditional-advent-resources](http://godwhospeaks.uk/christmas-resources/traditional-advent-resources)



### **Our Cathedral What's On**

Advent Reflections – Wednesday's throughout Advent, 7pm. Guest speakers each week. Free entry.



### **Advent Mondays**

20 December, 7pm. In our final session we will be reflecting on the Gospel text of the day in conjunction with Pastoral Plan Area 4 – Renewing organisational structures and administering property. Do join us for a chance to connect, comment and contemplate.



### **CAFOD Fun Run**

Bank Holiday Monday, 27 December, Wavertree Athletics Centre, Wellington Road, L15 4LE. Registration is from 10am for an 11am run/walk/toddle 3k or 5k!  
[www.justgiving.com/campaign/cafodchristmasfunrun](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/cafodchristmasfunrun)



### **Nugent Initiatives**

Sleep Out with Nugent on Saturday, 5 February 2022. For more details

please visit: [Sleep Out with Nugent \(wearenugent.org\)](http://Sleep Out with Nugent (wearenugent.org))

## **Christmas Message of The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool**

Christmas is a special time, and at the heart of our celebrations is the fact that God became man for us. Two thousand years ago there wasn't a feast of Christmas yet there was still expectation as people longed for the coming of the Messiah to transform their lives. We don't always get what we expect at Christmas and two thousand years ago people didn't expect that the Messiah would be born in poverty, to a refugee family forced to leave their home to take part in a census for an occupying power. Homeless, with nowhere to stay they found refuge in a cold, dark stable with only the farm animals for company. Yet lives were about to be transformed. I am sure celebrations were far from the minds of shepherds on a cold, bleak hillside and yet suddenly the angel of the Lord appeared to them, there was light, and glory shone around them – no wonder they were terrified. The first words of the angel to them were 'Do not be afraid...' as they went full of joy to Bethlehem to greet the new born king. So many of us need those words of the angel today: 'Do not be afraid...'

Weighed down with the cares of life we fear for the future, but Christmas gives us hope as we know that Christ is with us. The Prince of Peace comes to us to bring his peace and healing and to give us hope. Christmas is a time for precious memories too. Memories of Christmases past - maybe recent or long ago. Memories of loved ones, just by thinking of them we are saying, 'we love you...you are still with us in our hearts...' There may be tears too, 'Do not be afraid' of them, they are fine because they are a sign of love. The message of peace and goodwill means it is a time for us to reach out to others, especially to those in need. So many people work in the weeks before Christmas to help those in greatest need. We see people giving up their time to feed the hungry, and to provide a place of refuge for those who are lonely. Those who work in our essential services are there for us too. During the pandemic we have renewed our spirit of care and generosity – we have reached out to others and offered them hope and readily give thanks to those who care. For Christians the joy of Christmas is found in the Eucharist and the crib. We give thanks to God for the gift of his Son who cried out from the manger to remind us of the continuing plight of the homeless, refugees and those escaping terror. When we gather as far

as restrictions allow us, we remember what it is to be a family no matter how few we are or how distant we are from each other. The Holy Family was only three people yet proved to be the source of a great love which has overflowed into our lives two millennia later. May our families have the child Jesus at their centre as a source of love and a true source of strength. May this Christmas time be happy, blessed and peaceful.

The Most Reverend Malcolm  
McMahon OP Archbishop of  
Liverpool December 2021.



# Fourth Sunday of Advent



18 December – 26 December 2021		We Pray Especially For
<b>Saturday, 18 December,</b> 5.15pm – First Mass of Sunday, Holy Family Church		George Pinnington
<b>Sunday, 19 December, Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> 9.15am – Mass, St Mark's Church 11am – Mass, Holy Family Church 12.30pm – Baptisms, Holy Family Church		George Biggs People of the Parish
<b>Monday, 20 December, Weekday of Advent</b> 6pm-7pm Exposition and Private Prayer, Holy Family Church		
<b>Tuesday, 21 December, Weekday of Advent</b> 9am – Mass, Holy Family Church		Peter Crompton (Snr)
<b>Wednesday, 22 December, Weekday of Advent</b> 10am-11am Exposition and Private Prayer, St Mark's Church		
<b>Thursday, 23 December, Weekday of Advent</b> 9am – Morning Prayer – Online (see website) 6.30pm – Mass, St Mark's Church		Peter Irvine
<b>Friday, 24 December, Weekday of Advent</b> 6pm – Children's First Mass of Christmas in St Mark's Church 8.30pm - Carol Service in Holy Family Church 9pm - First Mass of Christmas in Holy Family Church		People of the Parish  People of the Parish
<b>Saturday, 25 December,</b> Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord 9.15pm – First Mass of Sunday, St Mark's Church 11am – Mass, Holy Family Church		People of the Parish People of the Parish
<b>Sunday, 26 December, Feast of the Holy Family</b> 9.15am – Mass, St Mark's Church 11am – Mass, Holy Family Church		John Carden Kevin & Urdhin Family