

# Newsletter

## Parish of St John Vianney

Halewood & Hunts Cross

Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Nunes

The Parish Office  
Penmann Crescent, Halewood  
Liverpool, L26 0UG

T: 0151 486 3992  
W: [parishofstjohnvianney.co.uk](http://parishofstjohnvianney.co.uk)  
E: [johnvianney@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto:johnvianney@rcaolp.co.uk)  
Open 9am-1pm: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri

**For more News and Information see our website:  
[parishofstjohnvianney.co.uk](http://parishofstjohnvianney.co.uk)**

**19 March 2023**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent, p164**

### **John 9:1-41**

#### **Pointers for Prayer**

1. The blind man makes a journey of faith, rooted in an experience of healing from the hand of Jesus. This experience has potential to grow and deepen. What has been my experience of the healing presence of Jesus in my life? Prayer of thanksgiving.
2. Under pressure, the blind man and the community he stands for are obliged to reflect again and again on what they really believe. What has happened to my faith in times of pressure against believing? Prayer of faith.
3. Amazing Grace has the words: I once was lost, and now I'm found. Jesus goes out of his way to find the blind man and bring him through the next stage of faith. What has my experience of finding my "self" been? When have I been touched by Jesus? Is he reaching out to me now? Prayer of conversion.
4. The blind man witnesses to his experience, in spite of conventional, even orthodox opposition. Perhaps this has been part of my experience too? Prayer of witnessing.

When taking a gospel story for prayer, it is often helpful to break the story up into its individual sections. Each section represents a movement, an interaction between the characters. This is particularly true of a long story such as the one we have today. There are six different scenes in this story. Any one of them could be the focal point for your prayer. Try to identify the movement in the section you

take for prayer. The objective is to discover the Good News in the story. The Good News is that the story of grace is deeper than the story of sin, both in the gospels and in our lives. One should also note the different characters in the story, for each of them could be a character with whom you can identify. In this story we have Jesus, the blind beggar, the disciples, the neighbours, the blind man's parents and the Pharisees.

### **Prayer**

God our Creator, show forth your mighty works in the midst of your people. Enlighten your church, that we may know your Son as the true light of the World and through our worship confess him as Christ and Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### **Parish Office**

Due to staff holidays, the office will be closed on Friday, 24 March.

### **Ordination of Peter Renwick Sunday, 16 July 2023**

On 16 July there will be an ordination ceremony of 4 Acolytes to permanent deacons taking place at the Cathedral at 3pm and Peter Renwick will be among them.

For those interested a coach has been booked from St Mark's leaving at 2.15pm to take those who want transport to the Cathedral and will be

returning to St Mark's leaving the Cathedral at 4.30 pm. There will be a celebration at St Mark's Parish Centre when we return, say around 5ish.

If you are interested in catching the coach please let the office know asap. A small donation towards the coach hire would be appreciated.

### **Keep In Your Prayers**

Jim Dowdall, Catherine Atkin, Margaret Facenfield, Kitty Heisley, Sally Moore, Valerie Higgins, Mary Mount, Veronica Humphreys, Nora Bartley, John and 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.

### **Lectio Divina**

#### **Praying the Gospels for Lent**

Holy Family will remain open for a further one hour after exposition during Lent and the Lectio Divina will be prayed in St Mark's annexe. All are welcome for a special Lent.

#### **Stations of the Cross During Lent**

Friday, 24 March, 6pm, Holy Family  
Friday, 31 March, 6pm, St Mark's  
Friday, 7 April, 10am, Holy Family

## **Caring for Creation**

The LiveSimply award is an opportunity for Catholic communities - parishes, schools, religious orders and chaplaincies - to respond to Pope Francis' invitation in Laudato Si' to "work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us". The award is earned by communities and schools who can show how they have been living:

- simply
- in solidarity with people in poverty
- sustainably with creation

Celebrating what communities have already done and inspiring everyone to do more, the Live Simply award helps a community to live, not just more simply, but also more fully.

Next weekend - March 24/25th - we will be launching our parish Live Simply campaign with a visit from staff and children from one of our three parish schools to each Mass. The three schools have already started the Live Simply award and are going to share with us how and what they are doing now.

## **Carrying the Cross**

The annual Carrying of the Cross will take place on Saturday, 1 April at 2pm. Meet at the junction of Church Street and Lord Street at 1.45pm. Stewards required, if you can help

please contact Jim Ross at jimmy.ross7@gmail.com

## **Week 4 of Pauline's Big Lent Walk**

Thank you all so much for your continued support with donations and encouraging words, it really is very much appreciated.

So this week marks almost the half way point of Lent and on my travels this week I've unintentionally done some "twitching", I spotted a beautiful blue parakeet in Calderstones Park and a huge heron along the canal from Spike Island to Fiddlers Ferry. Check out the photos on the website and see if you can spot the heron. My total distance is now just over 90km (56 miles) which is 10K (6 miles) behind schedule so I'll pick up the pace a bit this week and get back on track!

## **Online Lent Retreat**

Hosted by The Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow the theme for this year's retreat is 'Live to Inspire.' For more info visit:

<https://www.onlineprayer.net/saints/>

## **Quiet days in Lent**

Places for a themed day of prayer in the quiet and beautiful surrounds of Ince Benet are available (see [incebent.co.uk](http://incebent.co.uk) for a tour) Wednesday, 22 March: 'Lent as a Season of Growth'; Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> 'Eden and Gethsemane: Temptation to do the right thing in the wrong way.' Suggested donation £10 for the day.

For details and to book, please phone  
07931 902 346.

### **Lenten Services of Reconciliation in our Deanery**

7pm, Monday, 3 April, Our Lady of  
the Assumption church, Gateacre.

7.30pm, Tuesday, 4 April, St Francis  
of Assisi church, Garston.

### **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.

### **Rite of Welcome**

5.15pm:

Connie Jane Booth, Aine Kate Booth  
Bobby James Joseph Mooney

9.15am:

Archie O'Shea Jinks

11am:

Tilly-May Ennis Edwards, Tallulah  
Rose Edwards, Orla Cunningham,  
Oscar Cunningham

### **Baptismal Information**

Next meeting to register and find out  
more is Monday, 3 April, 6pm, St  
Mark's annexe. All enquiries please  
ring Chris Myles on 07443 018 816.

### **Holy Family Memorabilia**

Anyone who gave memorabilia for  
Golden Jubilee can now collect it from  
the meeting room at Holy Family.  
Please check all your items are correct  
in your package. There are also some  
dishes, trays and containers that  
people might want to pick up.

### **Children's Liturgy**

There will be a Children's Liturgy  
service of Stations of the Cross in St  
Mark's annexe at 3pm on Good  
Friday. Parents may drop their  
children off before going into the main  
service in church.

### **Ladies Group News**

At the recent Ladies Group meeting  
we discussed who we would donate to  
from the proceeds of the Christmas  
afternoon tea. It was agreed to donate  
to three causes - 1. The Parish Lourdes  
Fund 2. EYFS at St Mark's school  
towards seating and 3. An orphanage  
and hospital in Ukraine which one of  
our parishioners has connections with.  
Thank you for your support on the  
night. We will be donating to our  
other two schools following on from  
our next fundraisers.

### **Easter Raffle**

Our Lourdes Group are holding an  
Easter raffle to raise funds. They  
would be very grateful to receive any  
Easter eggs/chocolate for the prizes.  
Any donations can be placed in the  
box at the back of each church. Thank  
you for your ongoing support.

## Nominate a Parishioner

Each year our parish financially support some of our young people and adults on the pilgrimage to Lourdes. If you would like to nominate a parishioner please email [johnvianney@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto:johnvianney@rcaolp.co.uk) or phone the office on 486 3992 by Friday, 24 March. Funds are limited this year but we will endeavour to support as many people as possible.

## World Day of Prayer

Thank you to all those who attended the recent service for World Day of Prayer and for making it such a wonderful, prayerful occasion. The collection came to £272 which will be used to help communities around the world. View photos on website,

## Bereavement Drop In

*Lord, may we always be present to those who suffer bereavement and help us to be attentive to their needs.*

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 4 April at 2pm in St Mark's annexe. If you would like to chat in confidence to a listening ear over a cuppa then please come along as you would be made most welcome.

## Missio Red Box Month

Collectors are collecting this month so if you have a box that needs emptying please bring it to church or phone the office with your name and address and we will visit to empty it.

## First Holy Communion Preparation Programme

We have started our new programme and welcome all the children and their families who will be attending our Masses over the next year in order to prepare for their First Confession and First Holy Communion.

The programme has recently been updated and we have placed Mass at the heart of the preparation. **Children can register at the end of a Mass** and work their way through a series of leaflets and books to help them prepare. There is no time limit to completing the programme so families can work through it at their own pace.

**If anyone would like any more information or a registration form please speak to one of the catechists at the end of Mass.**

**St Mark's Easter Cleaning Session**  
Wednesday, 29 March, 9am, all welcome.

## Lourdes Centenary Year We Need Your Help

As you know, this summer will mark 100 years since the archdiocese's first pilgrimage to Lourdes.

We would like to mark this special occasion by asking people across the archdiocese to share their memories of the archdiocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes and any photographs or video clips you may have taken on any trips there over the years. We will collate

these memories and use them on the archdiocesan website, social media channels and the Pic.

It could be that generations of your family have travelled to Lourdes, you could have photos from decades ago or even that a member of your family went on our very first pilgrimage in 1923.

If you have anything you are happy for us to share publicly or if you would even like to record a video message for us, then please email any details to [communications@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:communications@rcaol.org.uk) and [lourdespilgrimage@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:lourdespilgrimage@rcaol.org.uk) and include your name, parish and year(s) you travelled to Lourdes.

### **Faith and Dementia Conference**

On Wednesday, 17 May, Liverpool Dementia Action Alliance will be hosting a faiths and dementia conference at the St Margaret Clitherow Centre. More details can be found on the posters at the back of church.

### **Christian Leadership Formation Programme**

Applications for The Christian Leadership Formation Programme close on Friday, 31 March.

For students in Lower Sixth who are committed to bringing their faith into the public forum, this Catholic programme offers philosophical and theological formation around themes relating to the common good, a

framework of prayer and liturgy, besides workshops and team-building activities.

Students applying for the CLF Programme can find all the application details on our parish website.

### **The North Merseyside Newman Association**

This talk which was to be held in St Helen's, Crosby, has been cancelled.

### **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.

## Links to Access Livestream Masses

These are available on our parish website Latest page.

## Parish Finance

Please consider making your contributions by Standing Order or Gift Aid it, forms are available at the back of the church or contact office and we'll do the rest.

Gift Aid Envelopes	£279.95
GASDS Loose	£335.20
Non Gift Aid	£ 80.00
Standing Orders	£367.23
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>£1062.38</b>
Bonus Ball 36	£ 58.00

## Lenten Alms

Lenten Alms can be donated throughout Lent. Please place in an envelope marked Lenten Alms and pop into weekly collection. Many thanks.

Second collections:

19 March, Nugent

26 March, SVP



## Coffee & Chat

Every Sunday after 9.15am Mass  
in the annexe. All welcome!

## Reminder – NEXT Weekend



## What's On in Our Parish Centre Have you got your tickets yet?

Mother's Day Special Show with  
Cris Quammie singing all the classics  
from soul, Motown and pop plus  
disco this Sunday, 19 March, 7pm

Saturday, 15 April, brilliant vocalist  
Alison D plus DJ, tickets just £5  
available from the centre.

Please support the club if you are  
able.

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

**18 March – 26 March 2023**

**We Pray Especially For**

**Saturday, 18 March**

5.15pm – Mass, Holy Family

People of the Parish

**Sunday, 19 March, Fourth Sunday of Lent**

9.15am – Mass, St Mark's

Fr Colbert,  
Ann Culshaw & Teresa Fox  
Ian Platt

11am – Mass, Holy Family

**Monday, 20 March, Solemnity of St Joseph**

6pm-7pm – Exposition, Holy Family

7pm-8pm – Lectio Divina, Holy Family meeting room

**Tuesday, 21 March, Weekday of Lent**

9am – Mass, Holy Family

Dawn Cauldwell, Ellie Davies

**Wednesday, 22 March, Weekday of Lent**

10am-11am – Exposition, St Mark's

11am-12noon – Lectio Divina, annexe

**Thursday, 23 March, Weekday of Lent**

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

6.30pm – Mass, St Mark's

Margaret Macauley, Teresa Davies

**Friday, 24 March, Weekday of Lent**

9am – Mass, St Mark's

Conor Tuohy, Angela Welsh,  
May McGrath

**6pm – Stations of the Cross, Holy Family**

**Saturday, 25 March**

5.15pm - Mass, Holy Family

Frank Hill

**Sunday, 26 March, Fifth Sunday of Lent**

9.15am – Mass, St Mark's

11am – Mass, Holy Family

12.30pm – Baptisms

People of the Parish  
Terry O'Hanlon, Kerry O'Neill