

# Newsletter

## Parish of St John Vianney

Halewood & Hunts Cross

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Open 9am-1pm: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri

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

**28 January 2024**

**Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time, p132**

### **Mark 1:21-28**

#### **Pointers for Prayer:**

1. In the first chapter, Mark familiarises his readers with the type of things Jesus did to proclaim the kingdom, the Reign of God. Our passage today touches on two of these, the first being that 'he taught as one having authority'. It makes a difference when you listen to someone who is clearly speaking from experience and personal knowledge. Remember people who impressed you in this way.

2. Jesus' combined teaching with healing, and he drove the evil spirit out of the man. The power of God that worked this wonder through Jesus is also at work in and through us today. When have you been freed from some bad habit?

3. The evil spirit convulsed the man before it left him. The path to liberation can be a painful struggle. If you have found it so, who was the Jesus person that helped you through the struggle to freedom?

4. It is not only individuals but groups that can be struggling with an evil spirit – jealousy, rivalry, malicious gossiping, abuse of power etc. Sometimes a Jesus person comes into the group and drives out that evil spirit. Have you experienced this? Perhaps you yourself have been this person on some occasion?

## Prayer

Faithful God, your Holy One, Jesus of Nazareth, spoke the truth with authority and you confirmed his teaching by wonderful deeds.

Through his healing presence, drive far from us all that is unholy, so that by word and deed we may proclaim him Messiah and Lord and bear witness to your power to heal and save. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Keep In Your Prayers

Alan Corlan RIP, Norah Potter RIP, Lois Mailey, Maureen Skillicorn, Amber and Zoe Lynch, 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, Silva, 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.



## LiveSimply Is Here!

This weekend we launch our LiveSimply plan. 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.



## Sign up Sunday

Thank you to the many people who filled in one of the pink forms last week to indicate that they would be willing to help out in some way or at least find out a bit more information.

If are bringing your form back this weekend please hand it to one of the stewards or put through parish office. Someone will be in touch to follow up on all those generous offers that will really make a big difference.

If you missed out last weekend – you can find out more information about the many roles our volunteers fulfill, along with an opportunity to sign up, through the parish website.

### **Baptismal Information**

Next meeting to register and find out more is Monday, 5 February at 6pm, St Mark's annexe. All enquiries please ring Chris Myles on 07443 018 816.

Baptisms:

Sebastian Philip Harrison

### **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](http://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.

### **Bereavement Drop-In**

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

Our next meeting is Tuesday, 6 February, 2pm in St Mark's annexe, all welcome for a confidential chat and a listening ear over a cuppa.

### **Vianney's Voice**

The next Vianney's Voice meeting will be on Wednesday, 31 January at 6pm in St Mark's annexe. The youth group is open to those aged 14-23 and involves making friends, reflecting as part of our faith, supporting our parish with fundraising particularly for our Lourdes fund. This meeting will be a time to reflect before the start of Lent and we will be discussing fundraising ideas for Easter. Never been before? Then come along, we hope to see you there.

### **Parish Retreat Day**

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.

### **World Day of Prayer**

We are starting to prepare for World Day of Prayer which this year is on Friday, 1 March. The service has been written by the women of Palestine. We are asked to give each member of the congregation a sprig of olive tree. This might prove to be a problem! It has been suggested we should appeal to see if anyone has an olive tree from which we can take cuttings. Please let the parish office know if you are able to help.

## **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!

## **Austen Ivereigh Synod Visit St Anne's, Overbury Street**

Author of the highly acclaimed biography of Pope Francis, *The Great Reformer* (2014), Dr Austen Ivereigh is a writer, journalist and commentator on religious and political affairs.

Pope Francis invited Austen personally to attend the recent Rome Synod in October 2023 at the Vatican where he gained invaluable experience from participating in the synodal process. He will share his insights and expertise with an audience at St Anne's, 6pm on 28 January. The event will be live-streamed and recorded. Everyone is most welcome to attend. This is an unrivalled opportunity to hear first hand, reflections on what many

consider to be the greatest event in the Catholic Church since the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council with profound implications for the future.

## **The Liverpool Pilgrim Way**

Phil McCarthy, who designed the Liverpool Pilgrim Way, has updated this pilgrimage route to include Bishop Eton Shrine and Church of the Holy Family in Cronton. For the updated route, as well as a few lovely photos taken en route follow the link which can be found on our parish website.

## **LEPRA**

Next weekend, our second collection is for LEPRO. Over 3 million people are living with undiagnosed leprosy, which if not treated early enough may result in life-changing physical and mental health issues that can destroy people's lives. Leprosy, although curable is sadly surrounded by myths and discrimination, which often prevent people from coming forward to seek treatment. Lepra aim to change the negative that surrounds the disease of leprosy and are committed to making sure that people affected by leprosy have the chance to live with dignity and their disease be of little adverse consequence to their lives.

## **Medjugorje from Manchester 4 April 2024**

For more info visit:  
[info@joewalshtours.co.uk](mailto:info@joewalshtours.co.uk)

## **Lourdes Nominations**

If you wish to nominate someone from our parish to go to Lourdes in 2024 and be supported through our fund, please contact the office as soon as possible.

## **Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes Mass Saturday, 10 February**

Diocesan celebration for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of Prayer for the Sick, 12noon, Christ the King Church, Queens Drive.

## **Ash Wednesday**

14 February, Walk of Witness for Peace, Repentance and Reconciliation. Assemble from 1.15pm on steps of St Luke's 'bombed out church' at the top of Bold St, Liverpool, L1 2TR. The walk starts at 1.30pm with Stations of the Cross. Organised by Merseyside Pax Christi. Further info from Jan Harper: janharper20211@outlook.com

## **Archdiocesan Environment Conference 2024**

Saturday, 9 March, 10.30am-3.30pm at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School (Hardybutts, Wigan, Lancashire, WN13RZ) will play host to the annual archdiocesan environment conference. Speaking at the conference is Environment and Issues Lead for the Catholics Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and Salford Bishop, Bishop John Arnold; Sister Margaret Aitken, and John Paul Dequay. In groups, delegates will begin to think about

what environment and sustainability plans and pledges they can make moving forward. The event will also be attended by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon O.P. and a cold buffet-style lunch will be provided. There is a capacity of 50 places so if you are interested in attending, please book your free tickets, check the parish website for the link.

## **Nugent Appeal**

Their Charity Shop on Allerton Road is currently very low on stock and in urgent need of donations. They are looking for: clothing, shoes, accessories, handbags, books, jigsaws, bric-a-brac, they cannot accept toys, soft toys, furniture or electrical items. Donations can be dropped off at the shop which is open Wednesdays and Saturdays 10am-5pm, 73 Allerton Road, Liverpool, L18 2DA. They may also be able to collect your items, please call the shop to discuss on 737 2951 (please note the shop is currently only open on Wednesdays and Saturdays).

## **Facilitation Training**

The archdiocesan are now offering training for people in our parishes who lead groups. Whether they are for praying, liturgy or volunteering this 2-hour workshop will provide an opportunity to come together to discuss the format of your group and share new ideas to support the facilitation of your group moving forward. If you are interested in

arranging a workshop please contact  
e.parsons@rcaol.org.uk

### **St Mark's Parish Centre**

HCPT Group 153 are holding a Pig Race Night on Friday, 2 February at 7.30pm, come along and join in the fun, tickets £5, pay on the door.

### **Happy Days**

Happy Days Group operate premium serviced accommodation and hotel operations in Liverpool and support many local good causes and initiatives. Happy Days Group founders and co-owners Alan Cosgrove and Peter Schriewersmann are passionate scousers and they love to see the city develop and thrive and see people fulfil their potential. Having overcome their fair share of lows and adversity themselves, Alan and Peter decided it is time to give back to deserving local people who have gone or are going through tough times.

Do you know someone who could do with a Happy Day? The group can create memories for a local unsung hero; someone who may have faced adversity or who is deserving of a nice treat. You can make nominations for individuals from across Liverpool City Region (Knowsley, Sefton, Halton, St Helens, Liverpool and Wirral) for a chance for the group to make their wish come true. For more info please visit:

<https://yourhappydays.org/>

### **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**

Our parish exists and functions only with the financial support of the members of our community. Please consider making your contributions by Standing Order (ring the office) or Gift Aid it.

#### **Collection 14 January 2024:**

Gift Aid Envelopes	£229.20
GASDS Loose	£341.65
Non Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 48.00
Standing Orders	£331.76
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>£950.61</b>

#### **Collection 21 January 2024:**

Gift Aid Envelopes	£221.15
GASDS Loose	£333.90
Non Gift Aid Envelopes	£ 48.00
Standing Orders	£331.76
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>£934.81</b>
Second Collection SVP:	£370.65

Second Collections  
4 February, LEPR

**Church Cleaning**  
Wednesday, 31 January,  
9am, St Mark's

Wednesday, 14 February,  
9am, Holy Family

All Welcome.



St Mark's annexe, every Sunday after  
9.15am Mass.

Holy Family church, every Sunday  
after 11am Mass.

All Welcome.

## Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

**27 January – 4 February 2024**

**We Pray Especially For**

**Saturday, 27 January**

5.15pm – First Mass of Sunday, Holy Family

Margaret Greenwood

**Sunday, 28 January**, Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

9.15am – Mass, St Mark's

11am – Mass, Holy Family

12.30pm - Baptisms

Pat, Marian & John, John Parry  
People of the Parish

**Monday, 29 January**, Weekday of Ordinary Time

6pm-7pm - Exposition, Holy Family

**Tuesday, 30 January**, Weekday of Ordinary Time

9am – Mass, Holy Family

Albert Lamb, Gerry Marsh

**Wednesday, 31 January**, Memorial of St John Bosco

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

11am-12noon - Lectio Devina, annexe

**Thursday, 1 February**,

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

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

6.30pm – Mass, St Mark's

Special Intention

**Friday, 2 February**, Weekday of Ordinary Time

9am – Mass, St Mark's

Billy Davies

**Saturday, 3 February**

5.15pm – First Mass of Sunday, Holy Family

People of the Parish

**Sunday, 4 February**, Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

9.15am – Mass, St Mark's

11am – Mass, Holy Family

Dora Kavanagh  
Candida Ward