

# Newsletter

## Parish of St John Vianney

Halewood & Hunts Cross

Parish Priest: Father Matthew Nunes

Deacon: Reverend Peter Renwick Mob: 07707 917 554

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)**

**\*\* This Newsletter covers the next two weekends \*\***

**10 December 2023**

**Second Sunday of Advent, p85**



### **Mark 1:1-8**

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

1. John the Baptist is presented as a messenger to prepare the way for Jesus. Who have been messengers to you, preparing the way for the Lord? To whom have you been such a messenger?
2. The voice cries in “the desert” or wilderness ... a reminder to us that when we feel that we are in a desert place in our lives, we should not give up hope. It may be that God’s grace will come to us at any moment. Have you had an experience of God’s grace coming to you when you were in a desert place?
3. John calls the people to repentance (a change of heart), as a way to a new life. Can you recall times when you had a change of heart and the change led to new life for you?
4. John baptised people with water as a gesture to mark their change of heart. Sometimes we perform an action to symbolise our change of heart - write a letter, throw away our last cigarettes, etc. Can you remember a symbolic gesture with which you marked a change of heart?

5. John did not claim to be greater than he was and freely acknowledged the greater role that Jesus would play. When have you seen yourself, or others, act with that kind of humility, freely acknowledging the place of God and of others in what is happening? What difference does it make to you when you are comfortable with your own important, but limited, worth?

### **Prayer**

With tender comfort and transforming power you come into our midst, O God of mercy and might. Make ready a way in the wilderness, clear a straight path in our hearts, and form us into a repentant people, that the advent of your Son may find us watchful and eager for the glory he reveals. 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 forever and ever. Amen.

**17 December 2023**

**Third Sunday of Advent, p87**



**John 1:6-8, 19-28**

### **Pointers for Prayer:**

1. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to you of the good news of the gospel that God loves you, a friend, a parent, a

teacher, for example? To whom have you borne that witness?

2. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of loud and aggressive people. 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 able to be yourself, 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 will 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?

4. The priests and Levites challenged John the Baptist on his authority for speaking as he did and tried to put a label on him so that they could more easily dismiss what he had to say. When were you open to accept a truth from a person whom you had previously dismissed as having nothing to say to you?

### **Prayer**

O God, most high and most near, you send glad tidings to the lowly, you hide not your face from the poor; those who dwell in darkness you call

into the light. Take away our blindness, remove the hardness of our hearts and form us into a humble people, that, at the advent of your Son, we may recognise him in our midst and find joy in his saving presence. This prayer we make through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Parish Office**

The office will be closed on Thursday, 14 and Friday, 15 December.

### **Keep In Your Prayers**

Lorraine Stanley RIP, Michael Morrissey RIP, Amber and Zoe Lynch, Karen Smith, John & Enid Allerston, Clare Williams, 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.

### **Baptismal Information**

Next meeting to register and find out more is Monday, 8 January 2024 at 6pm, St Mark's annexe. All enquiries

please ring Chris Myles on 07443 018 816.

### **Rite of Welcome: 9 December**

Kyro Kabiro Rea-Bayero  
Dante Fredrick Kabiru Rea-Bayero  
Ernest Christopher Sharples-Dobson

### **Baptisms: 10 December**

Zachery Peter Leyshon  
Phoebe Wenndy Leyshon  
Benjamin James Sergeson  
Rose Hayley O'Malley  
Roman Michael O'Malley

### **Baptisms: 17 December**

Kyro Kabiro Rea-Bayero  
Dante Fredrick Kabiru Rea-Bayero  
Daniel James Jardine  
Lilly Tiana Ebieri Diboe-Rooke

### **Youth Raffle**

Raffle tickets are on sale after all Masses with proceeds going towards the parish Lourdes fund. Please support this if you are able, there are hampers to be won and the draw will take place after all Masses on 24 December.

### **Poinsettias**

If you would like to bring these plants in to church to enhance the decoration these would be gratefully received from 16 December. If possible, please remove all plastic wrapping. 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. Please leave at the back of church.



### **The Choir of Angels Parish Nativity Concert**

This will be a modern re telling of the birth of Jesus through song and dance with the story taking us from the annunciation to the adoration of the three wise men. The children from our parish will be singing in both Italian and English so please come along and enjoy this short concert and support the children and the team who have been rehearsing for many weeks to put this production together. The concert starts at 3.30pm and will last for approximately 1 hour, taking place at St Mark's church on Saturday, 16 December. All welcome!

### **LiveSimply News**

In January we will launch the LiveSimply Action Plan at our weekend Masses (27/28 January). Further details to follow. Next meeting dates for those involved are 4 and 18 January, 7.15pm, St Mark's annexe.

### **Lights to Remember Sunday, 10 December**

All are welcome to attend Marie Curie's Lights to Remember Service at Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral from 5pm with refreshments and mince pies served afterwards. The event is for people who have been affected by terminal illness or

bereavement and an opportunity to come together in our local community, joined by Marie Curie staff and inspirational supporters. All are warmly invited.

### **Missionaries of Charity Carol Singing – Saturday, 16 December**

Missionaries of Charity invite everyone to join them for carol singing at the roadside crib on Church Street, Liverpool at 2pm.

### **Christmas Afternoon Tea at St Julie's School**

Students from Year 12 Justice and Peace Group at St Julie's School are inviting any parishioners, especially those living alone, are 'more mature' in years and would appreciate an invitation to Afternoon Tea on Wednesday, 20 December at the school, starting at 1pm until about 2.30pm with students providing the music. If you would be interested or know of someone who would, please let the parish office know asap. It's a lovely idea and a great way of supporting our young people as they work towards their Live Simply award. Ring the parish office on 486 3992.

### **Feeding Liverpool**

Deacon Andrew Cleary, who is a Trustee of Feeding Liverpool has asked if you are able to support the following.

"This Christmas, we are asking people to join together to support Feeding

Liverpool's Christmas Appeal to help us and the 70 member charities we support that provide emergency and community food support in the region. Your support will help us continue to put good food on tables this winter and beyond, at a time when government statistics indicate that 132,000 people in the Liverpool City Region – or 9% of the population – are having to turn to emergency food charities to feed themselves or their family." Please visit Feeding Liverpool's donation page: Help Feed Liverpool this Christmas - JustGiving

### **LGBT+ Catholic Gatherings**

Sunday, 10 December, 2pm, All Saints Church, High Street, Golborne, WA3 3BG (Please note this Mass is NOT in Anfield, it is in Golborne just off the East Lancs Road.)

### **What's on at our Cathedral**

A Celebration of Christmas: Saturday, 16 December, 7pm. A magical night of Christmas carols and seasonal favourites at our cathedral. Featuring The Metropolitan Cathedral Choir, Knowsley Catholic Children's Choir and special guests The Rock Choir

Advent Sequence: 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. Dates as follows:

Sunday, 10 December, 3pm. Benjamin Britten's A Ceremony of Carols. Benjamin Britten's famous carol sequence will be sung following a shorter Evening Prayer.

Sunday, 17 December, 5pm. Festival Carol Service. A mix of seasonal music and readings as well as congregational carols.

### **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 Sunday, 3 December:

Gift Aid Envelopes	£211.00
GASDS Loose	£242.00
Non Gift Aid	£ 58.00

Standing Orders	£367.23
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>£878.23</b>
Bonus Ball	£ 58.00

Second Collection:  
10 December, SVP



## **Mass Times over Christmas**

### **Mass for Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December  
5pm Holy Family

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December  
9.15am St Mark's  
11am Holy Family

### **Masses for Christmas Day**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December  
6pm St Mark's  
9pm Holy Family (with  
Carols from 8.30pm)

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December  
9.15am St Mark's  
11am Holy Family





## Second Sunday of Advent

**9 December – 17 December 2023**

**We Pray Especially For**

**Saturday, 9 December,**

5.15pm – First Mass of Sunday, Holy Family

Alec Turner, Jonathan Hannah

**Sunday, 10 December, Second Sunday of Advent**

9.15am – Mass, St Mark's

11am – Mass, Holy Family

12.30pm - Baptisms

Anne Howard, Maureen Dodd,  
Kathleen Adamson  
People of the Parish

**Monday, 11 December, Weekday of Advent**

6pm-7pm - Exposition, Holy Family

**Tuesday, 12 December, Weekday of Advent**

9am – Mass, Holy Family

Hilda Chapman, Mary Thompson

**Wednesday, 13 December, Memorial of St Lucy**

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

11am-12noon - Lectio Devina, annexe

2pm – Mass, Servite Court

Residents

**Thursday, 14 December,**

Memorial of St John of the Cross

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

**11am – Requiem Mass, St Mark's**

6.30pm – Mass, St Mark's

**Michael Morrissey**  
Lacey Family, Josie Dunn,  
John Gaughan

**Friday, 15 December, Weekday of Advent**

9am – Mass, St Mark's

Peter Crompton, Alma Fagan,  
Maria Jones

**Saturday, 16 December**

5.15pm – First Mass of Sunday, Holy Family

Joanne Malone, Betty Carr,  
Gerry Marsh

**Sunday, 17 December, Third Sunday of Advent**

9.15am – Mass, St Mark's

11am – Mass, Holy Family

12.30pm - Baptisms

George Biggs, Natalie Rigby  
People of the Parish

# Third Sunday of Advent

16 December – 25 December 2023

We Pray Especially For

**Saturday, 16 December**

5.15pm – First Mass of Sunday, Holy Family

Joanne Malone, Betty Carr,  
Gerry Marsh

**Sunday, 17 December, Third Sunday of Advent**

9.15am – Mass, St Mark's

11am – Mass, Holy Family

12.30pm - Baptisms

George Biggs, Natalie Rigby  
People of the Parish

**Monday, 18 December, Weekday of Advent**

6pm-7pm - Exposition, Holy Family

**Tuesday, 19 December, Weekday of Advent**

9am – Mass, Holy Family

Helen Jones, Kathleen Adamson

**Wednesday, 20 December, Weekday of Advent**

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

11am-12noon - Lectio Devina, St Mark's

**Thursday, 21 December, Weekday of Advent**

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

**12noon – Requiem Mass, St Mark's**

6.30pm – Mass, St Mark's

**Lorraine Stanley**  
Tony Crompton, Anna Henning

**Friday, 22 December, Weekday of Advent**

9am – Mass, St Mark's

Josie Sexton, John Carden

**Saturday, 23 December**

5.15pm – First Mass of Sunday, Holy Family

Addy, Rose & Jawssis Families

**Sunday, 24 December, Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9.15am – Mass, St Mark's

11am – Mass, Holy Family

People of the Parish  
Sheila Parkinson, Mrs R Duncan,  
Gerry Marsh

**Sunday, 24 December**

6pm – Mass of Christmas, St Mark's

8.30pm – Carol Service, Holy Family

9pm – Mass of Christmas, Holy Family

People of the Parish

People of the Parish

**Monday, 25 December,**

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

9.15am, Mass, St Mark's

11am – Mass, Holy Family

People of the Parish

People of the Parish