

# 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)**

**19 February 2023**

**Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time, p139**

### **Matthew 5:38-48**

#### **Pointers for Prayer**

1. Jesus tells us to act out of love and says that acting out of love is better than acting out of revenge. What does your experience tell you?
2. Perhaps you have at times hit back in revenge when you have been hurt or offended. What effect did this have you, on others, and on your relationship with them? Contrast this with the times when you resisted the urge to retaliate. What effect did this have on you, on others, and on your relationship with them ... at the time, and in the long-term?
3. From other passages in the gospels, it is clear that Jesus did not mean that we should ignore injustices and never make a stand against others. What lessons have you learned in life on when and how to make a stand? What wisdom would you share with others from your experience?

#### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, in Christ Jesus you challenge us to renounce violence and to forsake revenge. Teach us to recognise as your children even our enemies and persecutors and to love them without measure or discrimination. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

## **Our Parish Community**

You may remember towards the end of last year we reflected on our experience of being welcomed. The results of the questionnaire that many filled out showed that we have much to be thankful for in the very positive experience of feeling welcome that so many of us have when we come to Mass in our parish.

I am very grateful to Mark White, Sara Wilson and Margaret Campbell who volunteered to have a look at the feedback with me in order to pick up on some of the things that you said might help us to be even more welcoming.

So here are a few things, from what you said, we thought to start with:

1. Tea and coffee after weekend Masses at Holy Family Church - if you might be interested in attending or might be willing to volunteer to help, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church.
2. Prayer intentions - a box will be located at the back of both churches, insert your prayer intention and it will be taken to the altar by the children during the Prayer of the Faithful.
3. New bookmarks will be inserted inside Mass books - this is intended to assist parishioners in finding the correct page and follow the Mass more easily.

4. This weekend (18/19th February), Fr Matthew's homily will focus on how we might use Lent to get to know those around us at Mass a bit more.

Fr Matthew

## **Lectio Divina**

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

Starting on Monday, 20 February at Holy Family and Wednesday, 22 February at St Mark's after exposition the church will remain open for a further one hour. All are welcome for a special Lent.

## **Parish Office**

Please note the office will be closed on Thursday, 23 and Friday, 24 February and open 9am-5pm on Wednesday, 22 February instead. Apologies for any inconvenience.

## **Eucharistic Ministers Meeting**

Wednesday, 1 March, 7pm to 8.30pm in Holy Family meeting room. This is for EM's who minister at Mass as well as those who go out to the housebound.

## **Eucharistic Ministry Training Day**

The next training day will take place on Saturday, 20 May 2023 at the Irenaeus Centre in Waterloo.

Please speak to any Eucharistic Minister to see what's involved and/or give your name to Ann Farrell (07855 981 691) if you would like to register.

Becoming a minister is a wonderful way of serving our parish and is very rewarding particularly as it gives those who have undertaken the training to visit parishioners who are no longer able to join us at Mass. If you are not current engaged in a ministry within our parish this is a great way to get involved. We would particularly welcome interest from Holy Family.

### **Keep In Your Prayers**

Freda Tanzey RIP, Ian Platt RIP, Margaret Macauley RIP, Catherine Atkin, Margaret Facenfield, Kitty Heisley, Freda Tansey, 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.

### **Rite of Welcome**

5.15pm Albie Lucas Heron

### **Baptismal Information**

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

If you are hoping to book a baptism in 2023, please register now as dates are filling up.

Please note, children due to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion in 2023/24 require to have first received the Sacrament of Baptism.

### **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.**

### **Sacrament of Confirmation**

If you are in Year 8 and would like to receive the sacrament of confirmation then please register at:

[Liverpoolcalled.co.uk](http://Liverpoolcalled.co.uk)

Registration is open:

16 January - 17 March 2023

### **St Mark's Cleaning Session**

Wednesday, 1 March, 9am, all welcome.

## **Holy Family Church Jubilee Mass Update**

This will take place on Wednesday, 8 March with Mass at 6.30pm celebrated by Bishop Tom Williams. The Mass will be followed by light refreshments and for catering purposes, it would be helpful if you could sign the form at the back of church to indicate whether you will be attending.

Please pass in any photos or memorabilia to the parish office which relates to **either the church or the school** and your name if you would like to support putting the evening together.

The Planning Group will meet after 5.15pm Mass on Saturday, 18 February in the Holy Family meeting room.

The final meeting to put things together and set things out will be on Sunday, 5 March, 2pm, Holy Family meeting room.

Finally, there will be lists at the back of church in the next couple of weeks for people to sign if they would like to make/donate cakes and/or sandwiches for the evening.

## **Step into the gap – a gap year with CAFOD**

A Gap Year opportunity: Are you 18-30, or do you know someone who is? Do you want to develop a wide range of skills including leadership while learning about global justice and

inspiring others to use their faith in action? CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, believes in equipping and inspiring young adults to contribute to a more just and peaceful world. Step into the Gap is a fully funded year of volunteering, with food, accommodation, stipend and training within a UK placement plus a Rome and Assisi pilgrimage. Visit the CAFOD website for more information: [cafod.org.uk/gapyear](http://cafod.org.uk/gapyear) and poster at back of church.

## **Important information for ALL SVP volunteers**

Please see our parish website for the very latest guidance on this.

## **Wanted – Cathedral Stewards**

Small cogs often play a vital part in helping a big machine run smoothly. It's rather like that with Cathedral stewards who act as the link between Cathedral and congregation, making sure everyone feels welcome and can participate fully in the main services, whether presenting the offertory gifts, contributing to collections or receiving communion. The Cathedral needs more people to volunteer for this important role, both on a regular weekly basis and for occasional extra events. If you would like to be more involved in the Cathedral community, or know someone who enjoys meeting people and are good at organising, then perhaps this call is for you! In the first instance please contact Claire Hanlon on [c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk](mailto:c.hanlon@metcathedral.org.uk)

## **Ince Benet Retreat Days in Lent**

During Lent there will be various opportunities for groups and individuals to make the most of the season of prayer and renewal. Please make enquiries for further details, bookings to [ince.benet@gmail.com](mailto:ince.benet@gmail.com) or phone Martin and Maria Bennett on 07931 902 346. More info is available on the parish website.

## **Vigil for Ukraine**

Friday, 24 February marks one year since the Russian invasion of Ukraine. To mark this, there will be a vigil which will start on the plaza of the Metropolitan Cathedral at 4.30pm before continuing at Liverpool Cathedral at 5.30pm.

All are welcome to this vigil which will include speakers representing a range of faiths, a choir of Ukrainian singers, Evensong sung by Liverpool Cathedral Choir and space to reflect, light candles, pray and sit in peace.

## **Would you be willing to open up your home and your heart to welcome people fleeing Ukraine?**

SJOG Homes for Ukraine in Partnership with Caritas Social Action Network is the main Catholic organisation working to help house people from Ukraine in England. As Russia's war in Ukraine continues, the need for hosts and homes is as high as ever. Please consider making a home from home for those in need. SJOG are one of the government's approved providers on the Homes for Ukraine

Scheme and in partnership with CSAN offer a comprehensive matching and support programme. More info at the back of church and our website.

## **A Message from Pablo who works in the Pastoral Development Department**

*Pathways to social action:  
Supporting refugees and asylum seekers "This is church..."*

My work this month has taken me to Support and Helping Asylum seekers and Refugees (SHARe) Knowsley. This project started at St Aidan's when parishioners started helping asylum seekers in the Huyton area. They've gone from volunteers serving hot drinks, to 5 staff seeing hundreds of people a week. They offer English classes, welfare support and a warm welcome to people of all faiths and none. While they don't press any faith, one participant said, "this is what church feels like".

If you would like to find out how you can get involved in refugee work, join our "Refugee network event for parishioners": 6.30pm, 29 March, please get in touch with me, Pablo Guidi at [p.guidi@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:p.guidi@rcaol.org.uk) to register. More info on our parish website.

## **Loyola Certificate in Pastoral Ministry**

An opportunity has arisen for 2 people to join the Loyola cohort in March. If you're interested and would like to

find out more, email  
loyola@rcaol.org.uk by 17 February.  
Some funding is available.

### **Walk of Repentance for Nuclear Weapons**

Ash Wednesday, 22 February, ashes  
will be distributed and will mark an  
image of a Trident nuclear submarine.  
Recalling the words of Pope Francis at  
Hiroshima that the use and possession  
of atomic weapons is immoral, Pax  
Christi invites people to gather at St  
Luke's bombed out church at 11.45am.  
Enquiries: Janharper1@yahoo.co.uk

### **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/>

### **LGBTQ+ Catholics Archdiocese of Liverpool**

The next Mass will be on Sunday, 26  
February, St Bede's, Appleton  
Village, Widnes, WA8 6EL, please do  
let Father Stephen know if you are  
able to attend. There will be  
refreshments after Mass which starts  
at 2pm. For more info please contact  
Canon Stephen Maloney  
frsmaloney@aol.co.uk.

### **Come and Sing**

The cathedral is hosting a come and  
sing event for singers of all ages and  
abilities in March. Why not come  
along on Saturday, 25 March and join  
a massed choir under the baton of

archdiocese Choral Director Joe  
Watson?

For this special occasion (the  
Solemnity of the Annunciation) a  
special choir assembled on the day  
will sing Antonio Vivaldi's popular  
Gloria, alongside a special new piece  
of music. There will be two groups:

- 1) singers from the Cathedrals Group  
of Universities (universities across the  
country that have religious affiliations
- 2) A 'come and sing' choir formed  
especially for the occasion.

A 'come and sing' choir is a group of  
individuals (or sometimes an  
established choir/singing group) that  
joins together with other like-minded  
people to form a special choir for a  
day. On Saturday, 25 March, all of  
our singers will come together for the  
first time in the afternoon, rehearse  
together, and then perform in the  
evening!

YouTube rehearsal links are provided  
to all participants so that they can  
practice and familiarise themselves  
with their parts ahead of the day.  
Reading music is not a prerequisite as  
music can be learnt with the YouTube  
links.

### **A Message from St Mary's, Woolton**

100<sup>th</sup> Archdiocesan Pilgrimage To  
Lourdes: We are delighted to  
announce that St Mary's and Bishop  
Eton parishes will be joining the  
Archdiocesan Centenary Pilgrimage

to Lourdes on Friday, 21 July – Friday 28, July 2023, led by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon. We will be accompanied by Fr Tim as our Parish Group Spiritual Leader. Staying at the Eliseo will cost £949.00 (single and double occupancies available) for seven nights full board, including flights from Liverpool Airport. Booking forms can be requested from St Mary's parish office (428 2256).

### Save the Date

Have you got your tickets yet? Saturday, 15 April, St Mark's Parish Centre, brilliant vocalist Alison D plus DJ, tickets just £5 available from the centre. Please support the club if you are able.

### 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	£307.00
GASDS Loose	£247.90
Non Gift Aid	£ 75.00
Standing Orders	£367.23
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>£997.13</b>
Bonus Ball 14	£ 58.00

Second Collections:

19 February, Parish Lourdes Fund

26 February, Lenten Alms



Coffee & Chat

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

## Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

18 February – 26 February 2023	We Pray Especially For
<b>Saturday, 18 February</b> 5.15pm – Mass, Holy Family	People of the Parish
<b>Sunday, 19 February,</b> Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time 9.15am – Mass, St Mark's 11am – Mass, Holy Family	Michael Carr Kathleen Wafer
<b>Monday, 20 February,</b> Weekday in Ordinary Time 6pm-7pm – Exposition, Holy Family 7pm-8pm – Lectio Divina, Holy Family	
<b>Tuesday, 21 February,</b> Weekday in Ordinary Time 9am – Mass, Holy Family  <b>3pm – Funeral Service, Holy Family</b>	Nora & Family  <b>Margaret Macauley</b>
<b>Wednesday, 22 February,</b> Ash Wednesday 10am-11am – Exposition, St Mark's 11am-12noon – Lectio Divina, St Mark's  <b>6.30pm – Mass, Holy Family</b>  7am & 12noon – Mass, Bishop Eton 12noon – Mass, St Ambrose, Speke 12noon & 7pm – Mass, St Mary's, Woolton	<i>Ashes will be distributed at the end of Exposition and at 6.30pm Mass.</i>  Special Intention
<b>Thursday, 23 February,</b> Thurs after Ash Wednesday 9am – Morning Prayer Online via zoom (see website) 6.30pm - Mass, St Mark's	Betty Flynn
<b>Friday, 24 February,</b> Friday after Ash Wednesday 9am – Mass, St Mark's	Mary Lamb
<b>Saturday, 25 February,</b> 5.15pm - Mass, Holy Family	Maureen Byrne
<b>Sunday, 26 February,</b> First Sunday of Lent 9.15am – Mass, St Mark's 11am – Mass, Holy Family 12.30pm – Baptisms, Holy Family	People of the Parish Kathleen & Michael Vasile