

# Newsletter

## Parish of St John Vianney

Halewood & Hunts Cross

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

**12 March 2023**

**Third Sunday of Lent, p158**

**John 4:5-42**

### Pointers for Prayer

1. Jesus leads the woman along a wonderful journey towards a deeper and fuller life. You can enter the story with Jesus, the ideal leader, parent, teacher, or spiritual guide. Notice how he meets the woman where she is, needing her assistance, how he is patient with her, but also challenges her to grow to what she is capable of. Perhaps you have been such a teacher, or you can recall people who were.
2. You can also enter the story from the perspective of the woman's journey. Notice the steps along the way: suspicion, distrust, curiosity, misunderstanding and conversion. Her journey was one in which a very human motivation attracted her to Jesus: the thought of having water in such a way that she did not have to come and draw it from the well. What have been the human motives that have attracted you to faith, prayer, religion, church and which have been stepping-stones to a deeper personal relationship with Jesus? Perhaps we can also see the same movement in the growth of some of our human relationships.
3. The woman's final tactic is to attempt to buy time before responding (v. 25) - it will all happen sometime in the future. Jesus points out that the time for a faith response is NOW. How have you discovered the importance of the NOW moment?

## Prayer

O God, living and true, look upon your people, whose dry and stony hearts are parched with thirst. Unseal the living water of your Spirit; let it become within us an ever-flowing spring, leaping up to eternal life.

Thus may we worship you in spirit and in truth through Christ, our deliverance and hope, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God for ever and ever. Amen.

## Holy Family Golden Jubilee

A huge thank you to all who took part in the planning and preparation of our celebrations last Wednesday. A lot of time and hard work was put in by so many to make sure everything was just as it needed to be. Some great photo displays and memorabilia, and I've never seen so many sandwiches and cakes. Bishop Tom and Teresa Griffiths cut an amazing cake in the actual shape of Holy Family church – what an incredible creation! It was great to be together with familiar faces from across our parish community, and further afield, to celebrate all the connections that have been held through the last 50 years. There may be some medals and prayer cards still available at the back of church for those who didn't get one.

Pictures will soon be available on our parish website and on the archdiocesan flicker site: [www.flickr.com/photos/liverpoolcatholic/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/liverpoolcatholic/)

So, two 50th celebrations in the last two years – what's the next excuse for a party!

Fr Matthew



## 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 our sick and housebound.

## 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, 17 March, 6pm, St Mark's

Friday, 24 March, 6pm, Holy Family

Friday, 31 March, 6pm, St Mark's

Friday, 7 April, 10am, Holy Family

### **GodCalls Adventure**

If you are looking for something different this Lent, then GodCalls has an app with a 40 day self-guided programme to deepen your relationship with God. More info on our parish website.

### **Week 3 of Pauline's Big Lent Walk**

First of all can I say a big thank you to everyone who has sponsored me this week. Your donations will make a real difference to CAFOD's appeal to Fight Global Poverty.

My total distance so far is 81.5 km (51 miles) so I'm well on my way to achieving 200 km (125 miles) before Easter.

So where have I been this week? I did a bit of cycling this week but only on the indoor bike at the gym! (That's not cheating is it?) I've been "dog sitting" this week so Jake and I had a beautiful afternoon walking on Southport

beach. A couple of days later we walked along the Wirral Way to Thurstaston and found some caves! I also walked to the butchers in Woolton and back but thought it best to not take Jake there.

You can find some photos of this week's endeavours and details of how to sponsor me on the parish website. Let's hope the snow doesn't stick around too long!

### **A message from Pablo in our Pastoral Development Team**

Catholic Social Action - What I like about Lent are the readings. They invite us to change our habits, and act in new ways to care for ourselves and for others. The transfiguration from last week is a great example. I can just picture Peter, James and John with Jesus and the complete surprise and awe that they find themselves in the presence of God. Peter then pulls himself together and offers to build a shelter. He wants to stay in that serene state. But Jesus takes his friends down the mountain to work with those who need to be listened to, to be healed, to be loved. This week we hear about the woman at the well, and for me the theme of drawing water from a deep well, also resonates with life and affirmation (see prayer above). In my work as Catholic Social Action

Coordinator that story is so true when I see all the good work going on in our parishes. Food banks, warm spaces, welcoming refugees, care for the environment, or just the time that people give to listen. So, for me Lent is about breaking old habits, doing something new. So why not give it a go! Pablo

### **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 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### **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 May Surridge  
Bobby Joseph James Mooney  
Hannah D'arcy Pownall

11am:

Denny Joseph Small Jr  
Phoebe Susan Hart  
Macie Rose Cover-Harrald

### **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.

### **Eucharistic Ministers Meeting**

Many thanks to all those who attended the recent meeting. Some of the things that came up:

- Look to re-commissioning of all our Eucharistic Ministers in the Spring (around Pentecost) with a re-fresher training offered beforehand.
- Great to have 3 new people joining our Eucharistic Ministers team: Alison Worthington, Jocelyn Williams and Mark White.
- Would be helpful to have some further new EM's (see below) for us

to continue to effectively support our housebound parishioners.

- Those ministers with outstanding Request for Communion at Home forms and Record of Visit forms, please kindly drop these into the Parish Office.

### **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 currently engaged in a ministry within our parish this is a great way to get involved.

### **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

Registration is open:

16 January - 17 March 2023

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

Wednesday, 15 March, 9am, all welcome.

### **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 on 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.

### **Liverpool Archdiocese Networking and Information Session**

This is for volunteers and staff in  
asylum and refugee work:  
Wednesday, 29 March 6.30pm,  
online. The purpose of this event is to  
bring together all the work that is  
going on across the archdiocese to  
support refugees. Who is it for? From  
anyone who wants to help but are  
unsure how to and volunteers/workers  
who can share experiences and  
services with others. For information  
and registration go to:  
[https://Archdiocese\\_network\\_4\\_vols\\_  
staff\\_supporting\\_refugees.eventbrite.  
com](https://Archdiocese_network_4_vols_staff_supporting_refugees.eventbrite.com)

### **Oscar Romero Mass**

To mark the feast of St Oscar Romero,  
there is a Mass followed by talk  
“Responding to the Cry of the Poor  
Today” at 7pm on Thursday, 23  
March, St Edmund of Canterbury  
Church, Waterloo. After the Mass,  
there will be refreshments and a talk  
by Peggy Healy.

### **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**

The association will be presenting a  
talk on "The Building of the  
Cathedral" by Dr. Philip Harrison, the  
resident architect who worked closely  
with Sir Frederick Gibberd. Please  
join us at St Helen's Parish Centre,  
Crosby, L23 7TQ. Light refreshments  
are at 7.15pm before the talk begins at  
7.30pm on Thursday, 16 March.  
There is no charge and free parking.

## 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	£187.00
GASDS Loose	£212.20
Non Gift Aid	£ 65.00
Standing Orders	£367.23
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>£831.43</b>
Bonus Ball 22	£ 58.00
Second Collection	
CAFOD	£ 420.00

## Lenten Alms

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

Upcoming second collections:

19 March Nugent

26 March, SVP

## Coffee & Chat

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

## Third Sunday of Lent

**11 March – 19 March 2023**

**We Pray Especially For**

**Saturday, 11 March**

5.15pm – Mass, Holy Family

Frank Gallagher, Margaret Smith,  
Ellen Merse

**Sunday, 12 March, Third Sunday of Lent**

9.15am – Mass, St Mark's

11am – Mass, Holy Family

Alan Mulcahey, Mark Hunter,  
Charlotte Burns  
People of the Parish

**Monday, 13 March, Weekday of Lent**

6pm-7pm – Exposition, Holy Family

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

**Tuesday, 14 March, Weekday of Lent**

9am – Mass, Holy Family

Angela Loftus, Maya & Jude

**Wednesday, 15 March, Weekday of Lent**

10am-11am – Exposition, St Mark's

11am-12noon – Lectio Divina, annexe

**Thursday, 16 March, Weekday of Lent**

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

6.30pm – Service of the Word, St Mark's

**Friday, 17 March, Feast of St Patrick**

9am – Mass, St Mark's

10.30am – Requiem Mass, St Mark's

6pm – Stations of the Cross, St Mark's

Colin Birkett, Carol Roberts

**Shelagh O'Keefe**

**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

11am – Mass, Holy Family

Fr Colbert,  
Ann Culshaw & Teresa Fox  
Ian Platt