

Services, Mass Times and Intentions

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

In Private	Saturday	Annie Butterworth Anniversary
In Private	Sunday	Agnes Walley R.I.P.
In Private	Tuesday	Anne Turner Birthday memorial
In Private	Wednesday	Jeffry David Allinson R.I.P.
In Private	Thursday	Ann Niland successful operation
In Private	Friday	Teresa Ashton R.I.P.

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

In Private	Saturday	Josephine Shovelton R.I.P.
In Private	Sunday	Allan Mathison R.I.P.



Children's Corner

What can you catch
but not throw?

A cold!

What has hands but
can't clap?

A clock!

What do you call a
dog that can tell
time?

A watch dog!



St Edmund Arrowsmith

Sanctuary Lamp

Next week our

Sanctuary Lamps will shine
for....

Pope Francis

at St Joseph's

and

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon

at Sacred Heart

The Parish of Saint Edmund Arrowsmith

Served by the Churches of Sacred Heart and St Joseph



Sacred Heart Church
Walmesley Road
Leigh WN7 1YE

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 24th January 2021

Clergy Team:

Parish Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady
email: k.ogrady@rcaol.org.uk
Deacon: Dcn. Dennis Vint



St Joseph's Church
Mather Lane
Leigh WN7 2PR

Parish Office
St Joseph's Presbytery
Mather Lane
Leigh WN7 2PR
01942 673517

Parish Administrator
Jacqui Unsworth
Parish Office Hour
Mon – Fri 9.00 - 14.00
stedmund.leigh@rcaol.org.uk

Deanery Website:
www.leighdeanery.co.uk

THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SACRED HEART CHURCH AND ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH

In a recent email to priests of the Archdiocese, the Archbishop has written the following:

“Although I have circulated the recent Government advice on the opening of churches, I want to emphasise that the final decision in this regard is yours. Only you know your people, their age profile and the risks they are likely to be exposed to and present to others. You have to consider your volunteers and stewards. You also have yourself to consider and I would not want you to expose yourself unnecessarily to infection from the virus.”

So, after speaking to a number of health professionals, priests in the Archdiocese, nurses and NHS staff, all the priests of the Deanery have decided to cease the celebration of public worship and private prayer in all the churches in the area. We will review our position when hopefully the situation changes but in the meantime there are several reasons for this decision:

- The number of cases in the NW is still very much on the increase.
- continued on the next page*

· The new strain of the virus is more virulent than in the past.

· A good number of people who attend Mass are over 70 and are therefore in the vulnerable category – even though there is no obligation, attending Mass is a further risk.

· It is important to ensure the safety of our stewards. Our thanks go to them for all the hard work they have done in the past few months. Without our stewards we would not be able to open up any of our churches.

The overall message from the Government and health officials is to **STAY AT HOME.**

I will continue to celebrate Mass privately and I will hold you in the Mass each day. Please be assured of my prayers for you and your families at this time. Keep safe and God bless.

Fr. Kieran

We hold in prayer all who are sick in body, mind or spirit and those who care for them. Including: Jim Prescott, Craig Hardman & Dennis O'Halleran...also those who have died recently: Fr. Jim Matthews, Fr. Gerry Britt, Martin Banks (ex teacher at Sacred Heart School) Betty Gerrity, Laurence Hawkins, Arnold Southern and all those whose anniversary is about this time. May the peace of our Risen Lord enfold us all.

LITURGICAL WEEK

Today: Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Monday: Feast of the Conversion of St Paul

Tuesday: Memorial of Ss. Timothy & Titus, Bishops

Thursday: Memorial St Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

Funerals this week

Monday: Betty Gerrity

Howe Bridge Crematorium

Friday: Laurence Hawkins

Howe Bridge Crematorium

FINANCES

Thanks for your continued kindness and thanks to all those who have sent in their offertory collections saved up over these last few months.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Word of God today talks about repentance. Behind the word repent there is a much stronger meaning than simply "saying sorry". - true repentance, means a change of heart and mind – a chance to start again! Jesus is looking for conversion and commitment - a change of attitude that will leave us open to God and allow us to really follow Him. The call of the first disciples is so familiar to us, that we tend to miss the wonder of the disciples response, which was immediate! They change from casting and mending their nets, to catching people and mending them through God's love. Difficulties did await them – but also unimaginable graces too! The disciples immediately left their old livelihood behind - their old boats and family, and found a new 'boat' – the Church – and new 'family'. Jesus 'sees' and 'calls', they 'leave' and 'follow'. Why did He choose fishermen? Maybe He saw how ordinary they were! That's what the Lord wants, ordinary people like you and me. We may think that we've nothing to offer, but the Lord takes what ordinary people, like us, can offer and uses it to build up the Kingdom of God. Jesus speaks the same message to us today: "Catch people"! Just by the way we live our lives will do more good that we could ask or even imagine! How blest we are! Praise Him!!

