

GOSPEL REFLECTION.

Isaiah uses the image of the desert, made fertile by rain, to portray the confident hope that God would restore his people, who have been crushed by such misfortune. All their misfortunes will be relieved when God sends salvation to his people. In the Second Reading, St. James talks about the Second Coming and shares his hope that people will be patient, just as farmers have to be patient in waiting for the harvest. According to James, if the people remain faithful and hopeful, then peace and salvation shall reign for them.

John the Baptist's image of the Messiah was that of a stern judge who would execute his fiery judgment. But Jesus did not fit this image. Hence, John seems to doubt that Jesus could be the Messiah at first. However, Jesus dispels John's doubts by showing that he was doing precisely the kind of king that the Messiah was sent to do – heal the sick, raise the dead, help the poor and reveal the Kingdom of God to all people. Like John the Baptist, amongst the doubts and fears we sometimes have to face, let us open our hearts to the love and mercy of God, given to us through the life of Jesus himself.

Sacramental Preparation 2023 at Sacred Heart Hindley Green.

This is a notice for parents of baptised Catholic children who are in Year Four or above if they wish their child to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to receive First Holy Communion, there will be an invitation to attend a preparation meeting in January 2023. More details will follow nearer the date.

Sacred Heart School Hindsford.

Sacred Heart School Hindsford are having a Carol Concert in St. Richard's Church 2pm. Monday 12th December, all welcome.

Christmas Mass Times.

Christmas Eve Sacred Heart 5pm. St. Richard's 7pm.

Christmas day St. Richard's 9-30am. Sacred Heart 11am.

Au Revoir Father Patsy.

Father Patsy, Thank you for looking after us since September, we shall miss you and hope you will keep in touch. Good Luck in your new temporary home in Bryn, I'm sure they will look after you. We will come and call on you for a cuppa. May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

You can always contact us if you need anything, like decorating or moving things, we'll be there.

DONATIONS TO UKRAINE.

To donate, text:

HELPUKRAINE to 70085 to donate £2.

HELPUKRAINE to 70450 to donate £3.

HELPUKRAINE to 70460 to donate £5.

HELPUKRAINE to 70470 to donate £10.

Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message.

Advent Taize Service.

Sacred Heart Church Wednesday 14th December @ 7pm.

St. Richard's Church Tuesday 20th December @ 7pm.

Warm and Cosy.

Our Parish centre at St. Richard's Atherton will be open Thursdays after 10-30am. Mass.

There will be free tea, coffee and biscuits, access to TV and wifi and friendly company.

Walsingham Pilgrimage.

Parish of St. John Rigby Pilgrimage to Walsingham 14th -17th August 2023, a deposit of £20 is required to secure a place. Please give your name and tel. no, with the deposit to Lauren, the weekend 17/18 December.

Poinsettias

As usual, if you want to donate a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas, please bring them to church in the next two weeks

Response to the Psalm....

"Come, Lord, and save us."