



St. John Rigby Parish NEWSLETTER.

Incorporating the Former Parishes of Sacred Heart, Hindley Green, St. Richard's, Atherton & Sacred Heart, Hindsford.

Priests: Fr. Paul Seddon. (Tel: 883395)
Deacon: Ken Holding (Tel: 255834)

9th Jan 2022. The Baptism of the Lord - C

The Baptism of the Lord
Saturday.

Sacred Heart @ 5pm.
Charlotte Sweeney.

Sunday January 9th.
St. Richard's Church 9-30am.

Ronnie Scott.

Sunday @ 10-30am.
Sacred Heart Church.

Winifred Sherlock.

Mon. 10th Jan. at SH 10am.

Helen Prior (sick).

Tue 11th Jan. St.R's. 10.30am

Phillip Costello.

Wed 12th Jan. 12noon SH

Tony Lee.

Thur 13th Jan. St.R's. 10-30am

Francis Hankinson.

Fri 14th Jan. SH. 10am.

Robert O'Connor Ints.

Next Weekend

Sat. Sacred Heart @5pm.

In Thanksgiving (RC).

Sunday January 16th.

St. Richard's Church. 9-30am

Jean Gorse.

Sunday @10-30am.

Sacred Heart Church.

Mary Gaskell. Celebration.

Pray for our sick

Joan Baines.
Eileen McAlister.
Joyce Gorton.
Nora Smith.
Jed Bamber.
Cheryl Morris.
Eileen Watkinson
Shelia Ratcliffe.
Maureen Blears.
Jean Culkin.
Phyllis Smith.
Bernadette Boardman.
Peter Weatherhead.
Neil Gunson.
Jean Rafferty.
Teresa Gallagher.
Dennis Green.
Jimmy Allen.
Elaine Owen.
Frank Vose.

Lately Dead

David Wyatt.
Elfriede Cunliffe.
Joseph Nelson.
Francis Hankinson.
Vera Healey.
Georgina Mary Marsh.

Anniversaries

Neil Burrows.
John Kelly.
Kathleen Battle.
Winifred Sherlock.
Margaret Doherty.
Alan Gorton.
Irene Rosbotham.
Alan Urmston.
Bernadette Duffy.
Barbara Prescott.
Mary Thompson.
Kevin Thomas Brady.

READINGS FOR THE WEEKEND.

First Reading –Prophet Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

The prophet Isaiah consoles God's people who are in exile in Babylon.

Second Reading – Titus 2:11-14;3:4-7.

The writer of the Letter to Titus tells us that God has saved us by the cleansing water of rebirth in Baptism.

Gospel Reading – Luke 3:15-16.21-22.

At his Baptism, Jesus hears the voice of His Father, "You are my Son, the Beloved, my favour rests on you."

Sacred Heart Parish Centre
is open for functions.
We have snooker and
dominoes on Friday nights.

Please keep safe everyone. If you feel you have any of the symptoms of Coronavirus, please stay at home until you feel better. This is to protect yourself, your families, and friends. Please follow all the guidelines listed at this time. Let us pray that we can get through this next stage and help each other in whatever way we can.

If anyone would like to add any items for the Newsletter each week then please let Deacon Ken or Fr. Paul know by Wednesday evening at the latest.
Deacon Ken – ka.holding1@gmail.com
Fr. Paul – stjohrigby@rcaol.org.uk

GOSPEL REFLECTION.

The Baptism of Jesus reminds us of our own Baptism. There are many positions in the life and mission of the Church, but all of these are nowhere near as important as being one of the baptised. When we come before God, nothing that we have done on earth will have any importance except how we have lived out our baptism calling. In Baptism we are formally given a name and welcomed into the family of God's people. Prayers were prayed over us. Our body was signed with the sign of the Cross, the mark of God's great love for us. Water was poured over us, as a symbol of cleansing but also as a symbol of new life. In Baptism we are given a share in the undying life of God himself. We were anointed with holy oil, especially with the Oil of Chrism, the Oil of Christ. We were covered with a white garment, the outward sign of our Christian faith. Then we were given a lighted candle from the Easter Candle to signify the precious light of faith that we receive in Baptism. What happened at the Baptism of Jesus happened at our own Baptism too. God calls us by name to follow him. He says to us, "You are my beloved child". And we are blessed with the Holy Spirit, in order to help us live the life of a Christian and to participate in the mission of Jesus. From a spiritual point of view Baptism is, perhaps, one of the greatest things that can happen to us. To be baptised is to be "Christened", that is, to be made like Christ. Through Baptism we are called to share in the mission of the disciples, the first followers of Jesus. As we know from their story, and from our stories too, this doesn't happen automatically. It can take a lifetime to get it right. What we need to do is to reflect every day on what it truly means to be a disciple so that, like Jesus and his disciples, we may live out our baptismal calling to the full.

MASS INTENTIONS.

At present we are running short of Mass Intentions at St. Richard's Church. If you would like a Mass Intention for a loved one, please book it early. Even then it is not always possible for the date you may wish to have, but we will try to celebrate the Mass as near to the date as possible. Also, priority for Funerals obviously must come first, and this may lead to the Mass being cancelled, usually the week before.

UNIVERSAL SYNOD 2023.

Here in the Archdiocese of Liverpool, we have already engaged in our own Synod which has culminated in the Liverpool Archdiocesan Pastoral Plan. In the meantime, Pope Francis has asked the whole Catholic Church throughout the world to engage in a similar process of discernment under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Even though we began our own synodal journey in 2018, it is important that we engage with the Universal Church. As with our own Synod, this universal synod involves everyone – lay people, religious and clergy. As an Archdiocese we can obviously share our own findings and suggestions from Synod 2020, but it is important that we take the chance to respond Pope Francis' call to reflect on the Universal Synod. We will bring more information about how to respond in the next few weeks.

COVID RESTRICTIONS.

We are still living with the Pandemic so please continue to follow the guidelines and keep safe. Face coverings are still to be used in church as they are to be worn indoors everywhere. We must continue to keep the building well ventilated and ensure that people are not in the church for too long. Certain parts of the Mass will continue to be omitted for the present time. We have received some good news over the last couple of weeks that the new variant Omicron is not as strong as the other variants – so long as you have had your booster jab – but it is still spreading more quickly than ever and could still lead to serious illness. So, we cannot underestimate what it can do. So please, continue to do the right thing. Keep watching the latest guidelines on the TV News. If we hear any further instructions from the Archdiocese, we will let you know as soon as possible. If you feel like you may have any of the symptoms of Covid then you MUST stay at home until the symptoms end or until you have a negative Lateral Flow Test. Please stay safe and let us hope and pray for a better year in 2022.

Response to the Psalm....

"The Lord will bless his people with peace".