



## **GOSPEL REFLECTION.**

*As we approach the end of the church's year – we begin a New Year on the First Sunday of Advent, in today's Gospel, we listen to Jesus warning his disciples about the end times. Our scripture readings encourage us to think about and reflect on our faith and whether we are ready and prepared to meet God face to face. This is not meant to scare us, but simply to enable us to enjoy and make the most of the time we have together. Jesus tells us that "as for that day or hour, nobody knows it, neither angels of Heaven, nor the Son; no one but the Father". The Book of Genesis makes it clear that the earth is given to human beings to be used, but also to be treated with respect. All the climate change protests at the moment remind us that this has not always been the case. In some ways the teachings of Jesus can be summed up as "love and respect one another". Every time we celebrate the Eucharist, we pray, "thy Kingdom come". These readings are put before us to remind us of our responsibilities towards one another, especially the poor and the needy, and our world as a whole, so that whenever the Lord comes, he will find us truly awake and ready.*

## **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.**

*This weekend we celebrate remembrance Sunday. This year we will gather at Atherton Cenotaph at 11am to remember those who gave their lives for our freedom. There will also be a special Service of Remembrance in Atherton Parish Church, on Market Street in Atherton, next Sunday afternoon at 4.00pm. Please come along and join us if you can.*

## **NEW DEANERIES & NEW DEANS.**

*As part of the response to Synod 2020 most of the deaneries in the Archdiocese are being merged as a way of looking ahead and working together more. Our deanery, the Deanery of Leigh, will be twinned with the Wigan Deanery. The new Dean will be Fr. Gordon Abbs who is based at All Saints, Golborne. Watch this space for further information.*

## **COP26 – A PRAYER FROM CAFOD.**

*May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 and instill in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the most vulnerable.*

*Please visit the CAFOD website to learn more about Climate Change and its impact on the poorest nations.*

## **LGBT+ CATHOLICS LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESE SUPPORT GROUP.**

*This new group has been formed as a result of the Synod. Following further conversations, they are now looking to have regular gatherings for Mass, prayer and support. This is not intended to be and will not be a kind of alternative Church. The next Mass will take place at All Saints Church, Anfield, on Sunday December 5<sup>th</sup> at 12.30 followed by a social gathering. This is an open invitation to our LGBTQ+ Catholics, their families, and friends to gather together in prayer. If you would like to go please contact Fr. Maloney on 0161-2878787 or email frs.aloney@aol.com*

## **LEGION OF MARY REUNION.**

*The Legion of Mary will be having a reunion on Thursday December 9<sup>th</sup> in Sacred Heart Church at 7.30pm, preceded by the Rosary at 7.00pm. This will be followed by a buffet in the Parish Centre afterwards. Tickets for the buffet are £7 each available from Legion members and Susan on 07952822440. The Legion of Mary will be having the Rosary in Church on the first Sunday of every month before the 10.30am Mass. Please come along and join them in prayer.*

## **500 CLUB.**

*Please reminder that the St. Richard's 500 Club will be closing in December. All members must contact their banks to stop their direct debits or standing orders since there will be no more draws taking place after December. Many thanks to all those who have helped or supported the 500 Club in any way. It has helped the Parish a great deal over the years.*

## **Response to the Psalm....**

*"O blessed are those who fear the Lord".*