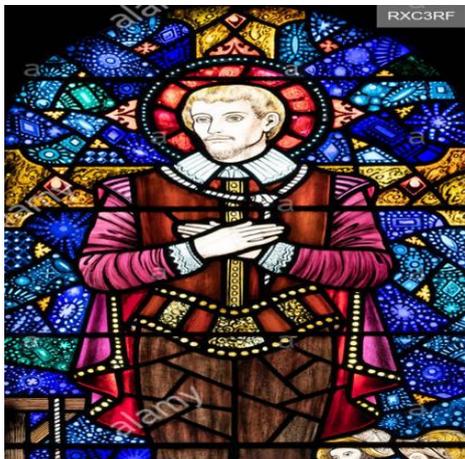


# St. John Rigby Parish NEWSLETTER.

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)**



## 26<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2021- Feast of the Holy Family. C

### **Feast of the Holy family C**

#### **Sunday Boxing Day**

#### **St.Richard's Church 9-30am.**

Christmas Mass Intentions.

#### **Sunday @ 10-30am.**

#### **Sacred Heart Church.**

Christmas Mass Intentions.

#### **Mon.27<sup>th</sup> Dec. at SH 10am.**

Fr. Martin Delaney.

#### **Tue 28<sup>th</sup> Dec. St.R's.10.30am**

Sean McLoughlin.

#### **Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Dec. 12noon SH**

Liam Dalton.

#### **Thur 30<sup>th</sup> Dec.St.R's.10-30am**

Joseph Nelson.

#### **New Years Eve.**

#### **Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. SH.10am.**

Theresa Weatherhead.

#### **New Years Day.**

#### **Sat. Sacred Heart @5pm.**

Peter Harrison &  
Bernard Derbyshire.

#### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January.**

#### **St. Richard's Church.9-30am**

All NHS Workers.

#### **Sunday @10-30am.**

#### **Sacred Heart Church.**

Eucharistic Service.

### **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.  
Bill Usher.  
Frank Vose.  
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### **Lately Dead**

David Wyatt.  
Sean McLoughlin.  
Georgina Mary Marsh.  
Joseph Nelson.

### **Anniversaries**

Jeffrey Byron.  
Liam Dalton.  
Andrea Robinshaw.  
Vincent Moore.  
Joan Huelin.  
Constance Duckworth.  
Kathleen Horan.  
Thomas Kelly.  
Jean Gerrard.  
John Kennedy.  
James Smart.  
Alan Ariss.

### **READINGS FOR THE WEEKEND.**

#### **First Reading – 1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28**

*Samuel's mother gives Samuel to God, not to lose her son but to find him again.*

#### **Second Reading – 1 John 3:1-2,21-24.**

*The commandments of God are life, because they are given to us that we might live the life of God.*

#### **Gospel Reading – Luke 2:41-52.**

*The hidden life of Christ was not hidden from everyone. Christ needed other people to grow, just as we do.*

**Sacred Heart Parish Centre**  
**is open for functions.**

**We have snooker and dominoes on Friday nights from 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2022.**

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.**

*This weekend we celebrate the moment when the Word of God was born as a human baby, someone small and helpless, someone whom Mary and Joseph could pick up and cuddle. They used their own human words to tell the new-born Jesus that their hearts were bursting with love for him. When a parent – or indeed almost anyone – holds a new baby, they don't expect a reply, but pour love and tenderness in words that are supremely gentle, in quiet sounds that we wouldn't usually use with an older child or an adult. Great academics and scientists suddenly abandon complicated language. Technical jargon disappears when speaking to a new-born. A new baby can often bring out the best in us: even the biggest and strongest of people can become extraordinarily careful and hold an infant with great gentleness and love.*

*Was this how the carpenter, Joseph, held the baby Jesus? He also used words to express his love and joy. Mary and Joseph spoke the first words that Jesus heard. In human terms, God communicated, not just the infinite Word who was God's Son, but also the finite words of a language and dialect that could be understood and shared. In Jesus, God also learned the limitations of words in moments when Jesus' experiences were simply too deep for words. God's Word was spoken in human words and lived among us.*

*So, as we celebrate this wonderful season of Christmas this week let us remember that we too are challenged in our lives each day to share the Word of God with those around us. There is a sense in which we should celebrate Christmas every day, not with rich food or parties or presents, but in remembering that God loved us SO MUCH that he gave us his only Son Jesus to be our Saviour and our friend. His Word was made flesh and came to live among us in a stable in Bethlehem just over 2000 years ago. As we celebrate Christmas let us pray that he may be reborn in our hearts and our lives every day. As we continue to journey through these dark days of the pandemic, let us remember the story of THE Holy Family, who lived in exile, on the run from Herod's forces, who were homeless and lived in poverty, who must have gone through so many worries and doubts. Yet they welcomed Jesus into their hearts and lives with great joy and hope. May this same Jesus bring us the joy and hope we need to live out our faith in him to the full.*

## **CHRISTMAS THANKYOU.**

*Fr.Strowbridge, Deacon Ken and Fr.Paul would like to say a big thankyou to you all for your Christmas gifts and cards this week. Thanks especially to all those of you who are involved in Parish life in whatever way you can. Both churches look beautiful this Christmas, as always – why not visit the other church in the Parish for one of the midweek Masses and take a look? We are still a very young Parish – just over two years old – and, though we have been greatly affected by the Pandemic, we are still somehow managing to work together as a Parish team. Let's hope and pray that the New Year will bring us better news and we can start meeting more often and bring people together to work and pray. Happy Christmas to you all! God Bless you.*

## **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 will continue to provide an area in church which is reserved for those who perhaps feel vulnerable. That is, the pews remain at a certain distance.*

*We must continue to keep the building well ventilated. This means opening the windows during Mass and so we encourage you to wrap up warm in these colder days.*

*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 this week 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 us to becoming very ill. So we cannot underestimate what it could do. At best, it can still lead us into 10 days of isolation if we catch it. So please, continue to do the right thing. Stay safe and let us hope and pray for a better year in 2022.*

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

*"O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!"*