



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)

2nd May 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Saturday @ 5pm.
Sacred Heart Church.

Fr. Joe Weston.

Sunday @ 9-30am.
St. Richard's Church.

John McKiernan.

Sunday @ 10-30am.
Sacred Heart Church.

In Thanksgiving.

Mon 3rd May (10am) SH.

Jason Lowe.

Tues 4th May (10.30) St.R's

A Special Intention.

Wed 5th May (12) SH.

Mark Lysyia.

Thurs 6th May (10.30) St.R's

The Church in China.

Fri 7th May (7pm) SH.

Maureen Baxter.

Next Weekend.

Saturday @ 5pm.
Sacred Heart Church.

Special Intention.

Sunday @ 9-30am
St. Richard's Church.

Eileen McKiernan.

Sunday @ 10-30am.
Sacred Heart Church.

Please remember that if you are unwell or awaiting a test result please **STAY AT HOME**. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass has not been reintroduced. Please take care of yourself and others.

Is there someone in need of an arm chair, if so see Deacon Ken.
 Bank Holiday Mass at 10am.

Pray for our sick

Joan Baines.

Eileen McAlister.

Joyce Gorton.

Nora Smith.

Jed Bamber.

John Atkins.

Eileen Watkinson.

Shelia Ratcliffe.

Maureen Blears.

Jean Culkin.

Martin Culkin.

Bernadette

Boardman.

Teresa Weatherhead.

Neil Gunson.

Frank Vose.

Lately Dead

Margaret Brereton.

Anniversaries

Ellen Baldwin.

Jimmy Jolley.

Catherine Carney.

Hannah Price.

William Foster.

Terence Trueman.

Bertha Power.

Alba Crompton.

Barbara Duffy.

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Collection Last Week.

Envelopes: £361-00

Loose Plate: £130-00

CAFOD Box:

PTF. £108-50

READINGS FOR THE WEEKEND.

First Reading – Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31.

Barnabas introduces Paul to the apostles, and prepares him for his future mission as one of the greatest Christian missionaries ever.

Second Reading – First letter of St. John 3:18-24.

We know that God lives in us when the Holy Spirit enables us to believe in Jesus and love one another as he told us to.

Gospel Reading – John 15:1-8.

Just as the branch has to be attached to the vine if it is to bear any fruit, so we have to be united to Christ if we are to bear the fruits of love.

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.

Today, in the Gospel Reading about the vine and the branches, Jesus teaches us a new way to live in relationship with God. He uses the well known image of the vine. In an agricultural society, people often understood how to get the best out of the vine. If the grapes are to develop so that they can be turned into good wine, they need careful management. The energy of the plant has to be directed to the fruit through proper pruning. The vine cannot be left to do its own thing or it will simply produce lots of leaves and poor quality grapes. There is an obvious connection between root and branch, leaf and fruit – they share the one life. Cut off from each other they will simply shrivel and die.

This is the same for our relationship with God. Cut off from him we cannot have life. We are one with him and with each other, sharing the one life, his life, and in this way we can live with him and like him and produce the fruits of his love. But, as Jesus warns us, the vine cannot be left to its own devices. It needs a vinedresser to manage its growth and encourage its fruitfulness. God is our vinedresser. He knows us and knows what part of us needs to be cut away and what needs encouragement. We are in partnership with God to produce the best version of ourselves, the best fruit, the best wine.

In the wake of this awful pandemic, we have to re-evaluate our role. One thing we have learned from the past year or so is that human life is very precious. It is worth putting the world on hold to preserve life. Those who save lives and help keep life safe are as valuable as anyone. The cleaners, the carers, those who keep our food supply chains moving, who were perhaps once considered to be less important roles, are quite rightly now recognised for the vital role that they play. We are surrounded by people who remind us that we need each other, that we are NOT alone, but are part of the vine that is Jesus, through his love and the life he brings to each and every one of us.

MASS INTENTIONS.

We are running short of Mass Intentions at St. Richard's Church at the moment. If anyone would like Mass to be celebrated for a loved one, or for a special anniversary, please let Fr. Paul know asap. Always best to write the Mass Intention down on an envelope along with a preferred date. We will try our best to fit it in on or as close to the date as possible.

READERS AT MASS.

As we are gradually seeing a time when it is safer to do more, it would be good to have more readers at Mass. If you would like to do a reading at any time please speak to deacon Ken, for Sacred Heart Church, or Fr. Paul for St. Richard's. Many thanks to all those who have been reading so far.

SYNOD 2020.

Any of the Synod helpers are invited to the third online reflection meeting with the Synod Team this Wednesday April 28th between 7pm-8.30pm. If you would like to join the reflection evening please contact Fr. Paul on stjohnrigby@rcaol.org.uk and he will send you the link. Please join us on Wednesday and for any other meetings we may have very soon.

ST. JOHN RIGBY PARISH OFFERING.

For those people support Gift Aid your new box of envelopes is now available at the back of church. If you have not already done so, please collect your box which should be marked with your name. Covid 19 restrictions have made the collection of weekly offerings very difficult. It would be a great help and much appreciated if more people gave their donation by Standing Order. Standing Order Forms are available at the back of church. Please take one and once you have completed it post it through the presbytery door. This will allow your weekly contributions to be automatically sent from your bank to the Parish account. Thank you for your continued support.