



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)

5th September 2021– 23rd Sunday of the Year.

23rd Sunday of the Year.

Saturday @ 5pm.

Sacred Heart Church.

Mary McGrath (sick).

Sunday @ 9-30am.

St. Richard's Church.

Angela Walters.

Sunday @ 10-30am.

Sacred Heart Church.

Eucharistic Service.

Mon. 6th Sept. at SH 7pm.

Edward & Jenny Higginson.

Tues. 7th Sept St. R's 10.30am.

John & Jean Neary.

Wed 8th Sept. 12noon SH

Private Intention (RLC).

Thur. 9th Sept. St. R's 10.30

Marie Langin.

Fri. 10th Sept. SH. 7pm.

Roma Vickers.

Next Weekend.

Saturday @ 5pm.

Sacred Heart Church.

Tony Sutton.

Sunday @ 9-30am.

St. Richard's Church.

Brenda Charlson.

Sunday @ 10-30am.

Sacred Heart Church.

Theresa Weatherhead.

Pray for our sick

Joan Baines.

Eileen McAlister.

Joyce Gorton.

Nora Smith.

Jed Bamber.

John Atkins

Eileen Watkinson

Shelia Ratcliffe.

Maureen Blears.

Jean Culkin.

Mary McGrath.

Bernadette

Boardman.

Peter Weatherhead.

Neil Gunson.

Frank Vose.

Teresa Gallagher.

Dennis Green.

Jimmy Allen.

Bill Usher.

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Lately Dead

Nora Hamilton.

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Anniversaries

Edna Theresa Atkins.

Lynn Marie Unsworth.

Michael James Sullivan.

Mary Margaret King.

Thomas J. O'Connell.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEKEND.

First Reading – Prophet Isaiah 35:4-7.

The prophet Isaiah urges the people to take courage, because God is coming to save his people.

Second Reading – Letter of St. James 2:1-5.

Class distinction should have no place among Christians, for everyone is equal in the sight of God.

Gospel Reading – Mark 7:31-37.

Jesus cures a Gentile man who is deaf and has a speech impediment. He goes on to proclaim the Word of God.

Please Remember!!!

If you feel unwell, especially if you feel you have symptoms of the Coronavirus then you MUST STAY AT HOME.

Please stay safe!

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.

In today's readings the riches of the Kingdom of Heaven are offered to those who are poor, deaf and blind, who are chosen to remind us that God does not have preferences of culture, class or race. We might say God only views us through one lens, the lens of the heart. We are being challenged to look beyond external appearances and see the holiness and beauty within the heart of others. It isn't always obvious at first sight, but we are called to look through the eyes of God. In the First Reading, the prophet Isaiah speaks of a time of joy to come, when "the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed" and the tongues of those without words will "sing for joy". It would seem that the Lord is offering everything to those who, having little or nothing in this world, still cling on to faith and hope. To these people Isaiah proclaims the message, "Courage! Do not be afraid... your God is coming to save you."

In the Gospel Jesus travels by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee. By taking this route Jesus goes into the world of the gentiles, people regarded as being outside the love and care of the God of Israel. Jesus chooses to open the ears and give back the voice of a deaf man who has an impediment in his speech. Jesus shows his great love for this man, who is an outsider in the Jewish society of the day, by touching his ears and his tongue. Jesus gives this man his dignity as a beloved child of God. The man responds with faith in Jesus. Like the man in the Gospel, and those listening to Isaiah in the First Reading, we too are called to "open our ears" to God's call to have courage; to "open our eyes" to the living presence of God in all people; and to "open our hearts" to respect the inner beauty of every human being. From a heart without borders, we will then be able to offer the unconditional love of God to everyone we meet.

AFGHAN REFUGEES – EMERGENCY APPEAL.

A number of people have been asking what we can do to help the refugees fleeing the terrible situation in Afghanistan. At present there are one or two appeals taking place, mainly online. We will let you know if we are ever called upon to have collections in church. You can visit the CAFOD website – cafod.org.uk – to find out more. There is however another website – care4calais.org/afghan-refugees-appeal – who are directly helping the refugees who are already in this country at the moment.

COVID RESTRICTIONS.

Don't forget that, whilst many aspects are getting back to normal, we are not yet through the Pandemic and certain guidelines still have to be followed in Church....

Face coverings still remain mandatory for all those attending a church service.

Social distancing will not be mandatory but please respect the space of those around you.

Hand sanitising will remain necessary as people arrive AND leave.

Further details may emerge soon.

ST.RICHARD'S CRAFT CLASS.

The Craft Class which takes place in St.Richard's Parish Centre will begin again on Thursday September 16th at 10am. All welcome.

LEGION OF MARY.

A reminder that the Legion of Mary are holding their special day of prayer in Sacred Heart Church this Tuesday, beginning with Mass at 12noon and end with Exposition and Benediction in the afternoon. If you cannot make it to the day we will keep you all in prayer.

Sacred Heart Parish Centre.

As from the Wednesdays in September the Friendship Club will restart 1pm till 4pm and we hope to start a Dance group on Thursday nights, plus to open Saturday nights soon.