



## 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)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021**

**Saturday 5pm**

**Liam Dalton**

**Sunday 9.30am**

**St. Richard's**

**Sacred Heart 10:30am**

**Bride & Jack Phillips**

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

**10:30am**

**William & Elizabeth  
Gaskell**

**1pm. Requiem Mass**

**Mary Thompson**

**Next Weekend**

**Saturday 5pm**

**Winifred Sherlock**

**Sunday 9.30 am at**

**St. Richard's**

**Sacred Heart 10.30am**

**Marie & Neil Burrows**

**Just a Reminder.**

Please remember, if you or someone you live with has Covid-19 symptoms, then please stay at home and help us to protect everyone. You should stay at home if you are unwell or awaiting a test result. People who are vulnerable or who feel unsure about returning to Mass need to consider the wisdom of doing so. Remember the Sunday obligation has not been reinstated.

**Pray for our sick Lately Dead**

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.

**Anniversaries**

Peter Wild.

Elsie Kelleher.

Michael John Finan.

Roy John Crompton.

John Kelly.

John Middlehurst.

Mabel Wetherby.

Martin Owens.

Irene Rosbotham.

Grace Foster.

**Collection Last Week.**

Envelopes: £337:00

Loose Plate: £95:50

CAFOD Box:

Crib Coll; £214.

**As the Epiphany of the Lord is on Wednesday  
Fr. Paul will say Mass at 10:30am and a requiem  
Mass for Mary Thompson at 1pm.**

**Church will remain open for communal worship  
in accordance with government guidelines.**

**Sacred Heart Club is now closed until further Notice.**

## **Mark 1:7-11.**

**That Jesus, the perfectly holy one, should seek baptism and from an ‘inferior’ is not only puzzling for us, but was also for John the Baptist himself.**

**The best we can do is to suggest a few reasons.**

**Throughout his public life, Jesus showed great humility and a desire to identify as much as possible with those whom he had come to serve; therefore his seeking to be baptised was in conformity with these two aims. Also, his baptism was an element in his epiphany, his being presented to the Father and with the Holy Spirit dwelling within him; although, somewhat perversely but keeping with his desire to preserve from the people’s knowledge the kingly messianic identity of Jesus, Mark indicates that only Jesus himself, and not the people there, were aware of the Father’s voice and the Spirit’s descent.**

**John the Baptist, although he seems to be largely unfamiliar with Jesus in spite of the relationship of their mothers, nevertheless knows that he is someone exceptional, that in fact it is he (John) who should be subservient to Jesus, and that, while he baptises with water, Jesus, ‘will baptise with the Holy Spirit’.**

**Since the baptism that Jesus will offer also uses water, what is the meaning of this statement of the Baptist?**

**To solve this question, we need to recall the effects in us who have received the baptism that Jesus instituted. It removes our sins, brings us into friendship and reconciliation with God, confers a share in Christ’s threefold role of priest, prophet and king, gives us the gifts needed to be active members of the Church that God wishes us to be, and enables us to be fit for the Holy Spirit (and indeed the Trinity) to dwell in us.**

**John’s baptism was the occasion for repentant sinners to receive God’s forgiveness but it did not confer a share in Christ’s mission, nor the presence of the Spirit with gifts. Hence the statement that the baptism of Jesus, and by implication not that of John, confers the Spirit on the recipients. The assertion has particular relevance because we are told that it was at this point that the Spirit descended on Jesus.**

**This feast is an occasion for being reminded that we are baptised with the baptism of Christ, that we have received the Spirit and gifts with a lifelong commission to be active in the Church and in the community to which we belong, so that we may share, in whatever way God calls us, in helping to build the kingdom.**

**It is also a day on which parents, godparents and parish community should recall their responsibility for helping those in their care to fulfil the trust placed in them.**