



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)

10th January 2021

Saturday - 5pm
Winifred Sherlock

Sunday
9:30am at St. Richard's
Sacred Heart 10:30am
Marie & Neil Burrows.

The Epiphany of the Lord
10:30am

Thomas & Margaret Delaney
and Winnie Foster

Thursday 11am
Funeral Service
Sheila Mary Stout

Next Weekend

Sat. 5pm - Eric Gaskell.
Sun 9:30am at St
Richard's

Sacred Heart at 10:30am
Mrs. E. Flynn (Ints).

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

Neil Burrows.
Robert Fitzpatrick.
Iris Tindall.
Kathleen Battle.
Winifred Sherlock.
Violet Wigman.
Margaret Doherty.
Alan Gorton.

Collection Last Week.

Envelopes: £285:00
Loose Plate: £77:00
CAFOD Box:

**According to Government guidelines
the Church can still remain open for
communal worship.**

**As from this Wednesday there will be
Mass at 10:30am**

Sacred Heart Club is now closed until further Notice.

The Baptism of the Lord. Mark I : 7-11

This is the day we begin a new life in Christ and the nature of this new life was exemplified by what happened to Christ at his baptism.

At his baptism Jesus was called God's beloved son; so too we at our baptism became children of God so we can relate to each other as brothers and sisters.

On the day of our baptism the spirit of God rested on us, as it did on Christ.

There was something else that happened at Christ's baptism. That was his identification with sinners. Jesus, though sinless, allowed himself to be baptised by John like all other sinners, to show that all people including the poorest of the poor and the most sinful have their basic human dignity as the children of God.

At his baptism, Jesus inaugurated his mission entrusted to him by the Father, to bring back the human dignity to all the little ones who suffer, deprived of their dignity in various ways. His mission was therefore 'to open the eyes of the blind, to free those in prison, and to bring out all those who languish in darkness and depression'.

When 'the Holy Spirit rested on him in the form of a dove' God stamped his approval for Christ to begin his saving mission, particularly, to "bring forth justice to the nations".

Like Christ did that day in the Jordan, on the day of our own baptism (or on the day that we finally accepted the baptism we received as infants) we committed ourselves to carry on the mission of Christ to serve the cause of justice.

Therefore, after the example of Christ and by virtue of our own baptism, we have been called to serve the cause of justice. The cause of justice that calls us to serve leaves us in no doubt as to where and how it needs to be served today.

The cause of justice calls us to free ourselves from the false values of our society so that we can see those of other cultures and races, as people like us and as God's children.

The cause of justice calls us to mourn the sins that enslave us, the sin of unemployment and hunger in the midst of plenty and the sin of exploitation of the weak by the strong.

The cause of justice calls us to offer our compassion for those who are depressed and lonely, for those who live under and fear of harassment because they belong to a particular ethnic group.

The cause of justice calls us to work for healing between those who are burning with hatred, to build the Kingdom of love where none shall despise another, where none shall discriminate against another, where all shall be caring, loving children of a compassionate and all embracing God.

Obviously, to work for the cause of justice will demand from us certain personal sacrifices because everyone's freedom necessarily costs everybody. But we won't feel our sacrifices to be burdensome, if we recognise the truth, as St Peter did, about the dignity of every human being; "The truth that I have come to realise", wrote St Peter, "is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him".

Being acceptable to God is one's most basic human dignity. It's this basic dignity of every individual that Pope Francis has been stressing in whatever he writes. Whether he writes on human rights or the rights of workers; on the distribution of goods or work in the world; on evangelisation or mission; on inter-faith dialogue or ecumenism; on the Gospel of life or civilisation of love.

It goes without saying that when we accept each other as what he or she is before God, we will respect and love one another, work for each other's human right and be willing to sacrifice anything for the cause of justice.