



## 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)**

**28th February 2021**

### Church Closure.

We are hopeful that we will be able to reopen our churches in the very near future. As soon as we know anything more we will let you know straight away. Until then the message from the Government and from senior health officials is to **STAY AT HOME**. The situation seems to be getting better, especially with the distribution of the vaccines, but we still need to stay safe. In the meantime keep on praying, stay safe and look after one another. Hopefully we will be back together again very soon.

### 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**

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**

Rosalind Richardson.  
Fred Billington

### **Anniversaries**

Thomas Cooke.  
Margaret Ellison.  
Lynn Chapman.  
Dorothy Stevenson.  
Mary Jane Young.

### **Collection Last Week.**

Envelopes:  
Loose Plate:  
CAFOD Box:

## **Second Sunday of Lent.(B)**

### **First Reading – Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18**

*In the Book of Genesis, we listen to the story of Abraham's sacrifice of his son Isaac. This was a test of Abraham's faith in God who then made him the father of many nations. Abraham is seen as a great leader in many different faiths and religions throughout the world today.*

### **Second Reading – St.Paul to the Romans 8:31-34.**

*St.Paul tells the people of Rome that God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for the life of everyone. The reading reminds us of God's great love for us by giving us his only Son.*

### **Gospel Reading – Mark 9:2-10.**

*We hear the great story of the Transfiguration of Jesus on Mount Tabor. Jesus reveals his godly nature whilst joined by Moses and Elijah, who represent the Law and the prophets of the Old Testament. The disciples are told not to say anything about this until "the Son of Man has risen from the dead."*

*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.*

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## **GOSPEL REFLECTION.**

*Jesus had just begun his journey to Jerusalem. Up until this time he had been working mostly in Galilee. Even there, the area where he had grown up, he had met a lot of opposition from the religious leaders and the public at large. But in going to Jerusalem he sensed that a violent death awaited him. Naturally, he recoiled at such a fate. It seems that, to reflect on his situation, he needed time to prayer and reflect. So, with three of his disciples, Peter, James and John, he climbed to the top of Mount Tabor. Jesus had a marvellous experience on top of the mountain. He heard those words come from the cloud, "You are my Beloved Son, I am pleased with you." In other words, he knew that God the Father loved him. This assurance would give him the strength to face the future whatever the future held.*

*Sometimes, when we run into problems, our faith can fail us. Or at least that is what we think. We can think that God has abandoned us in our greatest need. But through prayer hopefully we will come to realise that God has not abandoned us, but is present in our suffering. At all times, but especially in those times when we are struggling, we should remember the words of St. Paul: "God is on our side." And with God on our side, we can face anything.*

*To know that nothing can separate us from the love of God is our strength in times of weakness and our hope in times of adversity. In the face of pain, all we have to do is abandon ourselves to his care. Like Jesus on Mount Tabor, we too can experience rare moments of light and joy. We get glimpses of the Promised Land towards which we are travelling in faith. In his love for us, God allows us to taste on earth the joys of the world to come.*

### **CAFOD LENTEN REFLECTIONS 2021.**

Usually at this time of year we hold a series of Lenten Reflections based on the Gospel Readings and some of the writings of Pope Francis. They are always really good meetings and it is always good to hear what people have to share. The meetings are meant to inspire us to take a few moments out of our busy lives and think what we can do to make our planet a better place. So why not read today's Gospel, the Transubstantiation of Jesus in Mark's Gospel, and reflect on the following questions:-

- How can we relate to everything that the disciples experienced on Mount Tabor?
- Do we ever have any experiences of the presence of God – a Mount Tabor experience – in our lives today?
- Why do you think that, during his Transubstantiation, Jesus was joined by Moses and Elijah, one of the great prophets of the Old testament?

For read some of the other reflections please visit the CAFOD notice on the Deanery website.

### **EASTER 2021.**

Hopefully we will have our churches open to celebrate Easter this year. At the time of going to press it is looking very hopeful, but we will have to keep on checking. If we do open the churches then Easter will be very different this year. We will still have to abide by social distancing guidelines as before. No singing sadly and maybe shorter services. Also it will be the first Easter in the new Parish of St. John Rigby, so service times and venues may differ from other years. Please keep an eye on the Newsletter over the next few weeks for further news. And hopefully we will be able to say ALLELUIA together this year.

