



## 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)**

**21<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

### **Church Closure.**

Following the long-awaited plan to ease down the Lockdown last week, the churches in the Deanery will re-open in time for **Palm Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**. Whilst the situation seems to be getting more hopeful, we still have to monitor the Rate of infection after the schools re-open next week and as other parts of society gradually reopen. If there is an increase in the R Rate before that time, then sadly we may have to remain closed. But let us hope and pray that we will enjoy Easter in our churches this year.

### **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**

Bro. Michael Winstanley.  
 David Urmston.

### **Anniversaries**

Elsie Byron.  
 David Meehan.  
 Doreen Rigby.  
 Olive Hayes.  
 Mary Ratchford.  
 Bernard Green.  
 Anne Pennington.  
 Francis Walsh.  
 Magdalen Robinshaw.  
 Dorothy Stephenson.  
 Teresa Tyrer.

### **Collection Last Week.**

Envelopes:  
 Loose Plate:

CAFOD Box:

## **READINGS FOR THE WEEKEND.**

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

#### **First Reading – Jeremiah 31:31-34.**

*The prophet Jeremiah tells a shattered people that God has not forsaken them, but will soon make a new and more intimate covenant with them.*

#### **Second Reading – Hebrews 5:7-9.**

*Through his obedience and suffering Christ Jesus became the source of eternal life for all God's people.*

#### **Gospel Reading – John 12:20-33.**

*In his death Jesus will be glorified and this will bring life to all those who follow him here on earth.*

*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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 Fr. Paul – stjohrigby@rcaol.org.uk

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION.**

*We see two sides to the person of Jesus in today's Gospel. First of all, as with anyone who is planning to leave their family, we see Jesus' human struggle to leave those he has grown to love, namely the disciples. Secondly, we are offered a glimpse of Jesus' hopes for his disciples' future and the hope that, when he is glorified in Heaven, he will once again draw all his disciples to himself. Jesus is sharing the reality of his impending death with his disciples, and in doing so explains it in a way that will make sense to them. He tells them that "unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain". But if it dies, "it yields a rich harvest". Jesus is that grain of wheat, that small, single grain from which the Kingdom of God is to grow on earth. Jesus has to die in order for the Father's Kingdom of peace, love and justice to flourish. This dying is not easy and Jesus tells us that his "soul is troubled". Letting go costs Jesus, just as it costs us in our daily lives. Yet, with the Father's word of love written on his heart, Jesus finds the courage to say, "it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour". Jesus is given the grace to see that his sacrifice is worthwhile. He is able to stretch out his arms on the Cross, thereby revealing the love that the Father has for each one of us – a love so great that he gives up his only Son that we might be healed and have life to the full.*

*What might this all say to us as followers of Jesus today? There are two elements in the Gospel which are part of all our lives: love and sacrifice. This same Word of the father's love is written on our hearts too. It is written in his great generosity of sacrificing his only Son for each one of us. As we know, when we love someone, it is easier to sacrifice something of ourselves for them. Perhaps we can only make sacrifices for the people we love. But what about those we do not love so much? Jesus offered his love to everyone and he calls us to do the same, even though it may seem impossible at times. This is loving as Christ Jesus loved. So, in giving his disciples a vision of the immediate future, Jesus is giving them a vision of the road they will travel too. He is leaving them something that will explain his giving up his life for the world, as well as hope for the future, that one day they will be reunited with him in joy. We can well apply this to our own lives too, for Jesus is teaching his disciples, and so teaching us, how to suffer and how to love.*

### **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 story of Jesus' instruction to his disciples John's Gospel, and reflect on the following questions:-

- Please think about times in your life when you have experienced any kind of loss, whether small or great, spiritual or material, or when you have known of someone who did. How did you or they find a way forward?
- Can you think of any ways you know of in which evil has been turned to good?
- What strikes you most about this Gospel Reading?

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

### **CHURCH RE-OPENING.**

After consultation and following guidance from the Archdiocese, we are looking to cautiously reopen our churches next weekend, March 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>, which is Palm Sunday weekend, the beginning of Holy Week. Please remember that we will still have to adhere to the safeguarding rules and regulations as before, that is, facemasks must be worn in church, safe distancing must be maintained, and the liturgy itself will continue to be much shorter than before the pandemic began. Mass times are the same as before for the time being:-

Sacred Heart Church, Hindley Green – Saturday @ 5pm & Sunday @ 10.30am.

St.Richard's Church, Atherton – Sunday @ 9.30am.

We will re-introduce Midweek Mass times very soon after Easter.

### **EASTER SERVICES.**

Since last week we have had a re-think concerning the Easter Triduum services. Please remember that St.John Rigby is a very new Parish, the newest in the whole of the Archdiocese in fact. With this in mind, please remember that this is our FIRST Easter together. Though we are ONE Parish and are therefore called to come together to celebrate as one Parish family, due to social distancing regulations, it may be difficult to fit everyone into the two churches this year. We have therefore decided that, FOR THIS YEAR ONLY – depending on whether everything is back to normal for Easter 2022 – we will have all the Triduum services in both churches. Therefore, please check the revised times below:-

**Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup> – Mass of the Lord's Supper.**

**St.Richard's Church, Atherton, at 6.00pm.**

**Sacred Heart Church, Hindley Green, at 7.30pm.**

**Friday April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Celebration of the Lord's Passion.**

**Sacred Heart Church, Hindley Green, at 3.00pm.**

**St.Richard's Church, Atherton, at 3.00pm.**

**Saturday April 3<sup>rd</sup> – The Easter Vigil.**

**Sacred Heart Church, Hindley Green at 5.00pm.**

**St.Richard's Church, Atherton, at 7.00pm.**

*Please note that these times and dates are subject to any new rules or changes in the regulations concerning the Covid. Please keep an eye on the Newsletter and the website every week to check if the services are going ahead. In the meantime, stay safe, look after each other, and pray for one another. It will be great to get together at Easter this year and celebrate the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord.*

