



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 March 2021

Mass Intentions.

Saturday @ 5pm
Sacred Heart Church
Eric Gaskell.

Sunday @ 9.30am
St. Richard's Church
People of the Parish.

Sunday @ 10.30am
Sacred Heart Church
Mrs.E.Flynn.

Let us pray that we have a wonderful Easter this year, bringing hope and love as we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord.

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

Margaret Moran.
 Eric Rawsthorn.
 Mary Teresa Rudd.
 John Silcock.
 Agnes Franklin.
 John Neary.
 Emma Newton.
 Eric Selfe.
 John Hunt.

Patricia Ann Worgan.
 Stephen Bibby.
 Andrew Rigby.

Collection
Last Week.

Envelopes:
 Loose Plate:

READINGS FOR THE WEEKEND.

Palm Sunday Weekend.(B)

Entrance Gospel – Mark 11:1-10.

Jesus sends two of his disciples to prepare for the Passover. Then Jesus rides on a colt into the city of Jerusalem where he is proclaimed the King.

First Reading – Isaiah 50:4-7.

The Lord does not cover his face against insult and spittle.

Second Reading – Philippians 2:6-11.

God raised him high, so that every tongue should proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.

Gospel Reading – Mark 14:1-15:47.

Mark tells the story of the passion and death of Jesus.

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.

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 – stjohrnigby@rcaol.org.uk

GOSPEL REFLECTION.

The accounts of the Passion of Jesus in all four Gospels tell the same story are sometimes very different. The differences in Mark's Gospel, which we listen to this weekend, are perhaps less noticeable, especially when we compare it to the Gospel of Luke and Matthew. In Mark's Gospel Jesus is a man of action. He is on the move, teaching and preaching, healing and feeding the multitudes. But once Judas has handed Jesus over, once he has betrayed him, the man of action disappears and we are faced with someone who is on the receiving end of others' words and actions, most of which are hostile and violent. In Mark, Jesus only speaks three times after his betrayal. The first two occasions are to state the truth of his identity in the face of questions from the high priests and then Pontius Pilate. Finally, there are the words from the Cross: "My God, my God, why have you deserted me?" Was Jesus quoting a Psalm or was he expressing the utter feeling of abandonment? We need to remember that Mark was writing for an audience that was experiencing its own torture and persecution. Was Mark trying to reassure them that Jesus himself had passed this way before them, letting go of everything that might alleviate his distress?

We can read the Passion stories as foundation stories of our belief. Jesus suffered, died and rose again that we might be saved and join with him in glory. But what difference do the stories make to the way we understand life and the way we live? Like Mark's first audience, we too have to deal with the way things go wrong in our lives, not necessarily through any fault of our own. What we learn from the Passion story is that our lives, too, are part of this great mystery of redemption. How we live, the choices we make, can become part of that great act of love. This is more difficult to grasp in relation to our own suffering. It is easier to grasp when we consider how we can use our lives to relieve the suffering of others. We often think about those whose lives are so often undervalued by our world. What can we do to turn such attitudes around? We may think we are able to do very little, but that little could be as precious as a drop in the ocean for others, which, along with other drops of help from other people, can change their world. So as we think about Jesus' Passion this weekend, and begin the journey of Holy Week, let us hope and pray that Jesus' suffering will bring more understanding into our own lives as we try our best to follow him each day.

EASTER SERVICES.

Please try your best to come along to all the Easter Triduum services this week. You will need to book a place for each of them. If you wish to attend Sacred Heart Church, then please contact Deacon Ken on 01942-255834. Or if it is St.Richard's, please contact Fr.Paul on 01942-883395. Please leave a message with you full name and a contact phone number. Please check the times below:-

Thursday April 1st – Mass of the Lord's Supper.

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

Sacred Heart Church, Hindley Green, at 7.30pm.

Friday April 2nd – Celebration of the Lord's Passion.

Sacred Heart Church, Hindley Green, at 3.00pm.

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

Saturday April 3rd – The Easter Vigil.

Sacred Heart Church, Hindley Green at 5.00pm.

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