



## 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)**

**21st February 2021**

### Church Closure.

Sadly all of the churches in the Deanery remain closed at this time. The urgent 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. When we are in a position to re-open the churches we will let you know as soon as we can. 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.  
David O'Halloran.

### **Anniversaries**

Madeline Burke.  
Thomas Cooke.  
Michael Duffy.

### **Collection**

### **Last Week.**

Envelopes:  
Loose Plate:

CAFOD Box:

### **FEASTDAYS.**

As we continue our journey through Lent we celebrate two feast days this week.

### **Monday February 22<sup>nd</sup> – See of St.Peter.**

*We celebrate the Feast of the Sea of St.Peter, the first Pope and leader of the Church. The word "See" refers to Peter's area of responsibility. For him it was the Church throughout the world. Peter was the "rock" on which Jesus built his Church. We celebrate the fact that all of us are linked together through history to Peter who became the first leader of the Church.*

### **Tuesday February 23rd – St.Polycarp.**

*Polycarp was a disciple of the Apostles John and the Bishop of Smyrna. He was partly responsible for settling the date of Easter in the early Church. He was martyred in the year 155.*

*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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## **READINGS FOR THE WEEKEND.**

### **First Sunday of Lent.**

#### **First Reading – Genesis 9:8-15.**

*Adam and Eve succumb to temptation and cause a rift between themselves and God.*

#### **Second Reading – 1 Peter 3:18-22.**

*By his obedience to God, Christ won back for us the gifts lost through the disobedience of Adam.*

#### **Gospel Reading – Mark 1:12-15.**

*Jesus was tempted by the devil, but unlike Adam and Eve, he did not succumb.*

## **GOSPEL REFLECTION.**

*The story of the fall of Adam and Eve, and the story of the temptation of Jesus are two very similar stories. They are essentially about making choices. Before the fall, Adam and Eve, had no choice. It was as if they were programmed to do the will of God. They had no sense of being responsible for their actions and choices. They knew no such thing as remorse or regret. But then they had no sense of well-being at doing the right thing either. But then God gave them the freedom to choose. In doing so he made it possible for them to be moral, that is, to choose what was right, or what was wrong. They had the freedom to say “Yes” or “No” to God. Unfortunately they abused that freedom.*

*In the desert Jesus was faced with the same choice. He made the choice to do the Father’s will. Some might argue that it was easier for Jesus. We must remember though that Jesus was fully human. It was a difficult choice for him too, but he did the Father’s will, not just in the desert, but throughout the rest of his life. Every day we are face with choices to do good or to do evil. We sometimes make the wrong choices, and go against doing God’s will, even though we know it is the wrong thing to do. This is part of being human too. The fact that Jesus won an important victory in the desert did not mean that the war was over. Every choice in life must be made many times over. There is in every heart a longing for the lost Eden and the lost Paradise. Throughout Lent and beyond, Jesus recalls us to our lost childhood. He recalls us to the source of our beginning. No matter how old or wise we may think we are, Jesus makes it possible for us to be reborn in God’s love. But only if we answer his call and say “Yes”.*

### **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 temptation of Jesus in the desert in Mark’s Gospel, and reflect on the following questions:-

- How do we distinguish between divine and merely human commandments?
- Do we have any practices in our lives that we do purely because we have always done them?
- What is meant by the word “unclean” in the Gospel story?
- How do we learn what is in our hearts?

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