

C

GOSPEL REFLECTION.

As Jesus hangs upon the Cross, he is surrounded by the crowd and their jeering leaders.

The language is that of anger and disappointment. Some of them might have had hopes that Jesus would be the Chosen One who would free them from the Romans. Others might have been upset by his clear teaching that the way of the Chosen One was not a political movement, aiming for peace in this world. In both cases they are stuck in the past. Once they had kings. Once they had been an independent people. A king should have the power to save himself as well as others. So, in their minds, how could this man claim to be King? As often in the Gospel, the truth lies elsewhere.

Jesus calls for vision that goes beyond the usual way of thinking. So many of his detractors want Jesus to make their lives easy, to heal their ills and free them from oppression. There is the difference between them and the criminal who prays for Jesus' forgiveness. He clearly understands his own self. He is a criminal who is being justly punished for what he has done, and he accepts his fate. But he still has hope. Through reconciliation and through in Jesus he might yet be saved. In his response Jesus recognizes his faith with the promise that he is already reconciled. He is already in the Kingdom of God.

As we celebrate this wonderful feast of Christ the King, let us pray that we may like the good thief in the way we open ourselves up to the love and mercy of God. Let us remember the beautiful prayer from one of the Stations of the Cross, "Lord, help me to understand that no sin of mine is greater than your love for me."

Sacramental Preparation 2023 at Sacred Heart Hindley Green.

This is a notice for parents of baptised Catholic children who are in Year Four or above if they wish their child to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to receive First Holy Communion, there will be an invitation to attend a preparation meeting in January 2023. More details will follow nearer the date.

Sacred Heart School Reception class Hindley Green applications 2023.

Families are warmly invited to come and tour the school. Please contact the school on 01942 767768 to book a place.

Churches Together.

The Team Vicar at Atherton has sent an invite to an ecumenical Carol Service at St. Phillips Church Atherton at 6-30pm on Sunday 27th November. The Vicar, Tracy, would like any parishioners to attend if they wish and if anyone from our Parish would like to do a reading at the service she would be delighted. Contact her, Vicar Tracy Marshall 01942 933272.

Christmas Masses.

As per usual Christmas Masses are in big demand, so as not to disappoint anyone we will have a list of names to be offered for the masses. These will be read out at each church over the Christmas period. Please put the names forward so we can compile the list.

St. Richard's Masses.

If you are requesting a certain date could you please put your name and contact details, hand it in at least two months in advance.

To email its temporary one (strichards13@gmail.com) this is until Fr. Paul is back.

Special Collection.

Next weekend there will be a special collection for Foreign Priests Fund, please give generously.

Reconciliation Service.

There will be a reconciliation service at Sacred Heart Hindley Green 6pm Wednesday 30th November.

Warm and Cosy.

Our Parish centre at St. Richard's Atherton will be open Thursdays 1pm to 3-30pm. There will be free tea, coffee and biscuits, access to TV and wifi and friendly company.

Response to the Psalm....

"I rejoiced when I heard them say 'Let us go to God's house.'"