

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND DAY OF PRAYER FOR MIGRANTS

Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	9.30 am	First Sunday of Advent Day of Prayer for Migrants	Peter Haigh – Lately Dead
Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 am 2.00 pm	St. John Damascene, Priest	Dorothy Mather – Birthday Remembrance Holy Rosary Group – all welcome
Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> December		St. Birinus	
Wednesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> December		St. Nicholas, Bishop	
Thursday, 7 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 am	St. Ambrose, Bishop	Joseph Richardson – Lately Dead
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December		Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
Saturday, 9 <sup>th</sup> December			
Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 am	Second Sunday of Advent Human Rights Day	Edward Rex Anderson - Anniversary

**Sick** - Philip Akehurst, Sylvia Armitage, Peggy (Margaret) Atherton, Philip Bond, Sarah Bond, Luke Bryan, Vincent Carr, Pat Chapman, Patricia Chisnall, Imelda Cowley, Francis Curran, Ava Davidson, Tony Devereux, Gerada D'Orsi, Dennis Edmund, Jim Evans, Elaine Fairclough, Marjorie Fairhurst, Ellen Firth, Father Tom Gagie, John & Lily Glover, Hilda Hamlett, Mary Hill, Jack Kelly, Shelagh Lowe, Will McDookin, Angela Monks, Margaret Murphy, Annie Plant, Beryl Pudifer, Tanya Rattigan, Nathan Sa Joe, Jean Sharkey, Patsy Shiel, Danny Singleton, Georgina Smith, Margaret and Frank Speakman, Stan Springford, Howard Thomas, Michael Twist, Marjorie Wills, Eden Rose Wilson, Baby Callum James, and those suffering from Covid.

**Lately Dead** – Keith Bullivant, Peter Haigh, Grattan Hamlet, Brian Kett, Kathleen McKeon, Jean Pye, Joseph Richardson, Margaret & Tom Stalker, John Waterfield / **Anniversaries** – Edward Rex Anderson / **Birthday Remembrance** - Dorothy Mather

**Confirmations** – Registration for Confirmations for those in Year 8 (or above) will open on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January and end of the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2023. Anyone wanting to be confirmed should register on the [Liverpool Called website](#) from Jan to March and they will be invited to preparation meetings along with other young people.

**Weekly offertory** - Last week's collection was £313.00. Last month we received £1,460 directly into our bank account. Anyone wishing to donate directly into the bank the details are: 40 29 12 / 41545612. St Julies (206).

**After many years of preparing families for Baptism, Margaret Markey will be stepping down.** I wonder how many hundreds of people Margaret has supported over the years? Deacon Brendan will take over the co-ordination of Baptism preparation and would like to hear from anyone who would be in a position to help. Please speak to Christine in the office.

**Would you consider becoming a Eucharistic Minister** and take Holy Communion to those in the parish who cannot get to Mass? Or becoming a chaperone or driver to support the Eucharistic Ministers? This is a very rewarding ministry and means so much to the sick and housebound. You would not be required to distribute Holy Communion or lead Eucharistic services in church unless you wish to! Please contact Fr Michael to find out more.

**Appeal for Altar Servers** We would love to see more boys and girls become altar servers in church. Anyone who has made their first Holy Communion can be a server.

**Dementia Support Group** - next meeting Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December – 1 pm in St. Julie's Parish Hall, Howards Lane, Eccleston WA10 5HJ. It is an opportunity for Carers to meet up and gain emotional and practical support. Carers are more than welcome to bring along the person they care for. **Do you care for**, or have cared for someone with **memory problems**, then come along, you will be very welcome. For further information please contact Joan O'Hanlon on 07984 735 590.

**Families of Parishes** - Do you want to know about Families of Parishes? Did you miss the roadshows that took place recently? Join a zoom meeting led by Fr Philip Inch and Fr Matthew Nunes at 7.00pm on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December: here is the link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86421512557?pwd=SVd5cFhtQ0dwUFJzQjhLSlQ5SVJJQT09>

**LGBT+ Catholic Gatherings: Out on a Limb.....a meeting with Jesus** - This is an invitation to come for a time of reflection and prayer. Venue: All Saints, Oakfield, Liverpool, L4 2QG. **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**; Venue: All Saints Church, High Street, Golborne, WA3 3BG - Mass at 2.00pm.

**Invitation to De La Salle SVP Pensioners' Christmas Party** on **Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December** at De La Salle School 1.30 pm until 4.30 pm. Tea, Coffee, BINGO, treats, cakes, entertainment and much more! If anyone is interested, please get your **FREE** tickets from Eileen Kennedy (telephone 01744 756114). Also if anyone requires a lift, the SVP can arrange.

**St Helens Singers** – are performing "Joy to the World" a programme of Christmas Music, in the **Church on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm**. Tickets £10 each available from Marie Holden or any choir member. (01744 612485 / 07857 677844). There will be refreshments in the hall afterwards. Proceeds to St Julie's Church.

**Advent recollection on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023.** We are planning a day of recollection for readers, Eucharistic ministers, Sacristans and others who prepare for Mass, funeral teams, musicians, church cleaners, welcomers and anyone else who helps with the liturgy. The theme will be on Advent and spiritual preparation for Christmas. There will be scriptural input from Dcn Brendan and Fr Michael, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction and Mass. The event will take place at St Julie's on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 10.00-3.00pm. Please register with the Parish Office. Tea and coffee will be available but please bring your own lunch.

**St Julie's Christmas Raffle and Coffee Morning after Sunday Mass on 24<sup>th</sup> December** Raffle tickets will be on sale each week after Sunday Mass for a Christmas Hamper donated by St Julie's Mums & Toddlers' Group. Draw will take place on Christmas Eve in the Parish Hall after 9.30 am Mass. Donations of additional prizes would be much appreciated and can be left in designated box at church entrance or passed to Audrey Baines, Mandy Roberts or Ann Unsworth. Please join us for tea, coffee, mince pies and cake! All proceeds to St Julie's Church.



# Our Faith on Sunday

## LITURGY

### 1st Sunday of Advent (B)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Cf. Ps 24:1-3  
 To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
 In you, I have trusted; let me not be put  
 to shame.  
 Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
 and let none who hope in you be put  
 to shame.

#### FIRST READING:

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8  
*Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and  
 come down.*

**PSALM:** Ps. 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19. R. v4

**R) God of hosts bring us back; let your  
 face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
 shine forth from your cherubim throne  
 O Lord, rouse up your might,  
 O Lord, come to our help. (R)

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
 look down from heaven and see.  
 Visit the vine and protect it,  
 the vine your right hand has planted. (R)

May your hand be on the man you have  
 chosen, the man you have given your strength.  
 And we shall never forsake you again;  
 give us life that we may call upon your  
 name. (R)

#### SECOND READING:

1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
*We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be  
 revealed*

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Ps 84:8  
 Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
 and give us your saving help.  
 Alleluia!

#### GOSPEL:

Mark 13:33-37  
*Stay awake, because you do not know when the  
 master of the house is coming.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Ps 84:13  
 The Lord will bestow his bounty, and  
 our earth shall yield its increase.



## GOSPEL REFLECTION



The only certainty in life is death. And yet we often live our lives as if we going to live forever. In today's Gospel Jesus reminds us that we must always keep the fact of our death, and the fact that we don't know when it will come, at the front of our minds. This doesn't mean that we should have a morbid awareness of death, but rather a realistic one: we don't know when it will come, so - be ready. And how can be always ready? By living God's will as well as we can in each present moment. However hard we try, we will find ourselves wandering away from what God wants of us because of our flawed human nature. So what should we do when find we have wandered off the track? Get back on it as soon as we can. One good way to do this is to take advantage of the gifts God has given us to help us 'start again' when we have fallen. The Sacrament of reconciliation is that gift. Through this very special gift, we are reconciled with God and with our brothers and sisters and all

our sins, our mistakes, our selfishness is consumed in God's mercy. When we come out of the confessional we are like new people, ready to start again on our journey towards God. Some people say they don't see the point of confession because they always have the same sins. Think of it this way: if I only clean my windows once a year, by the end of the year I won't see much through them; if I clean them once a month, I will have a clear view most of the time.

### EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



#### POPULAR VS. POPULIST

158. Here, there can be a misunderstanding. "People" is not a logical category, nor is it a mystical category, if by that we mean that everything the people does is good, or that the people is an 'angelic' reality. Rather, it is a mythic category... When you have to explain what you mean by people, you use logical categories for the sake of explanation, and necessarily so. Yet in that way you cannot explain what it means to belong to a people. The word 'people' has a deeper meaning that cannot be set forth in purely logical terms. To be part of a people is to be part of a shared identity arising from social and cultural bonds. And that is not something automatic, but rather a slow, difficult process... of advancing towards a common project".<sup>132</sup>

132. ANTONIO SPADARO, S.J., *Le orme di un pastore. Una conversazione con Papa Francesco*, in JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO - PAPA FRANCESCO, *Nei tuoi occhi è la mia parola. Omelie e discorsi di Buenos Aires 1999-2013*, Rizzoli, Milan 2016, XVI; cf. Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (24 November 2013), 220-221; AAS 105 (2013), 1110-1111.



### The Fire of Love\*

#### CONVERSION IS A LONG PROCESS



It is obvious that those who are in love with God do not attain the heights of devotion straight away. They experience the sweetness of contemplation only sporadically. Hard work is needed to prepare the ground, for only then can we feel some joy in loving God.

We can be very virtuous and yet not experience the warmth of God's love

and be able to sing in our hearts the song of divine praise. It is rare for anyone to be raised to the level of jubilant song. This song is that which is constantly sung in heaven, full of harmony and sweetness. Those who experience it are the true contemplatives. Having sat long in solitude they have kept company with angels, exulting and rejoicing in Jesus.

\*The Fire of Love by Richard Rolle. Published by Arctura Press

