

Parish of St. Vincent de Paul

Newsletter

19th December 2020

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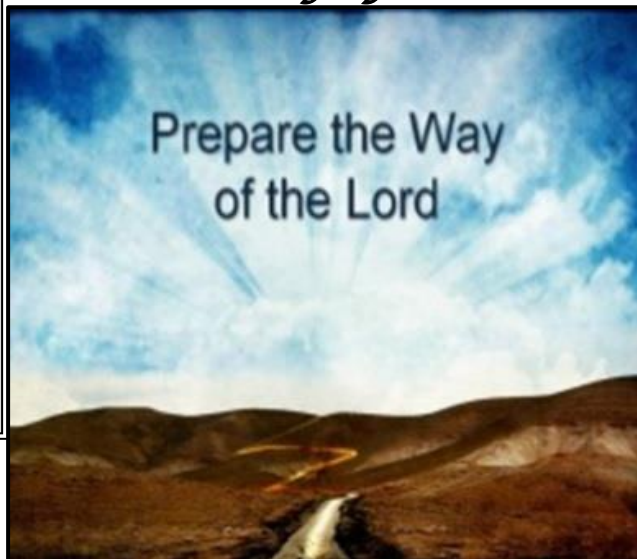
FB: Vincent De Paul Church

Web: www.stvincentsparish.org.uk

Please Note the Times of Mass through the Christmas Octave.

Dec 24: 19h00
Dec 25: 10h00
Dec 26: 09h St.Stephen
18h Sunday Vigil
Dec 27: 10h00
Dec 28: 09h00
Dec 29: 09h00
Dec 30: 09h0
Dec 31: 09h00
Jan 01: 09h00

4th Sunday of Advent



Mass Intentions

Sat 19: Eilee Lally
Sun 20: Nelly & Maxwell Hughes
Mon 21: Patricia Neve
Tue 22: Margaret Cave
Wed 23: Mary Sharkey
Thu 24: Christmas Anniversaries
Fri 25: Parishioners
Sat 26: John & Margaret O’Gorman
Sun 27: William Flatley RIP

Homily Notes

Today the image of God we get from the readings is the one of *God who gives*. In the first reading from 2Samuel (7:1-5,8-12,14,16) we heard about David’s plan to build God a Temple. God was not interested in the building. Instead, David is reminded of the many blessings he has already received from God, and he is promised that he will be given more. He is told; “Your house and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me”. David had to surrender his big plans and had to learn to let God take the lead. The two big words, *Sovereignty and security*, may ring a bell because recently some of our political leaders have talked about sovereignty and about security in the recent Brexit discussions. God is involved in such affairs as well. As Christians, we have to include God when we think about sovereignty and security.

In the gospel reading (Lk 1:26 -38), Mary is chosen and given the task of bringing a Saviour into the world. When the angel broke the news to her, she was deeply disturbed and was afraid. In this we can easily acknowledge our experiences that sometimes God’s intervention in our own lives causes disturbances and fears because it pushes us into new and unfamiliar ways. Mary responded, “Let what you have said be done to me”. It can be a challenge to accept what God gives us. but Mary is a good example for us.

These are good readings for us at this time when we are experiencing many forms of insecurity because of covid 19. We have experienced many losses. For some of us it may mean the challenge of accepting favours and support from others or from the government. We are all welcome to accept God’s gifts through the birth of Immanuel, who is a fulfilment of the reign of David.

Charles

Covid Thoughts

If there is one word to symbolise Advent, it must be “Hope”. Hope that God is coming into this world where hope seems to be so scarce.

I was thinking of this this morning, as I worked on the Newsletter. You may have read on the BBC web site yesterday the story of Pastor Mick and Fr. Alex of Burnley and you may have seen their story told on the News at the beginning of the month. Pastor Mick is a reformed drug dealer and junkie/alcoholic. His life as a youngster was full of violence and addiction. After what can only be called a life-changing encounter with God, in a moment in which he was about to kill another person, he tried to kill himself. This event led on to many months in a secure psychiatric ward where, thanks to the grace of God, his life changed.

Now he uses his own experience to serve the poor of Burnley. As he says in yesterday’s BBC interview, "What I do today, it's not a penance, it's the complete opposite. It's a privilege to serve the people of Burnley. It's a glorious thing." It’s not a penance for his own sinful past but it’s a grace he has received to bring *hope* into the despair of the poor and homeless of Burnley.

We too change despair into hope each time we stop to smile at a homeless person on the street. Donating food, wrapping it in parcels and taking it to those who need it most, as some parishioners did this week, also changes despair to hope. Each time we lend a helping hand, each time we exchange a pleasant word, each time we take time to show a person that she/he is a person and is loved, we change that person’s life, letting them know that there is hope for them.

Advent is a time for HOPE.

See: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-55273677>

Terry

Parish Notice Board

Lottery Results

The winning numbers for
12th December are:
03 06 09 10 11 13

Christmas Church Celebrations 2020

The celebration of

 **Christmas Vigil 7 pm** 

The church is full

 **Christmas Day 10 am** 

Places still available

Cafod Christmas Fun Walk

On Sunday 27th December we could raise some money for Cafod!

Join a 2 hour walk to Sefton Park, after the 10 am Mass.

Please register this weekend with **Fr. Ferdinand**.

If you cannot join the walk, consider sponsoring a walker.

All proceeds to CAFOD's Christmas Appeal *Ferdinand*



40 Christmas Gift parcels for Families in the Parish

St. Vincent de Paul Church Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Friday 11.00 – 13.00

All are Welcome.

ADVENT IN THE LIGHT OF FRATELLI TUTTI

A SERIES OF Reflections as part of "Prepare the Future" given by Cardinal **Michael**

Fitzgerald M Afr.

Monday in Advent

Prayer beginning at 7pm

21 December

GET ON WITH IT LASS



Zoom Registration: jp.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

You Tube: Liverpool J&P FB: [jpliverpooljp](https://www.facebook.com/jpliverpooljp)

CHRISTMAS FLOWER APPEAL

Please place your donation in an envelope with your name and intention included. Mass for your intention will be celebrated on 2nd January 2021. 😊 Many thanks.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

In the last few days, we were able to present forty families in the Parish with a Christmas gift box. A couple in the Parish took the initiative and brought so many biscuits and cakes that we could prepare forty parcels which were gratefully received by the families.

A big thank you to those who took the initiative and to those who prepared the parcels!

Another initiative worth mentioning was taken by the staff of St Vincent's Primary School. On the last day before the Christmas holidays, they prepared twenty big hampers with fruits and vegetables which were delivered to families in the area! *Ferdinand*

Offerings for 12th December 2020

Envelopes £39.00

Plate £109.70

God loves a cheerful Giver

😊😊 THANK YOU 😊😊

Pastoral Associate Update:

This Sunday at 4pm our virtual Advent Service, *The Coming of the Light*, will be broadcast on St Wilfrid's, Garston YouTube channel <https://bit.ly/2JZJNMv> Reflecting on Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, it combines voices (and song) from our schools and parishes across the pastoral area, reflections from Carmel and the FCJs and you may spot our parish priest/s along with some pets! It's an opportunity to take time, to take stock and pray together albeit virtually, as we prepare for our very different Christmas celebration (which is certainly not cancelled!) The short O Antiphon reflections (O come, O Come Emmanuel) are posted on the website

(www.liverpoolsouthpastoralarea.org.uk) each day until 23 December.

I'm having a break until the new year, and I take this opportunity to thank you all for your kindness, support and willingness to try new ways of connecting during this most challenging year. I wish you, your loved ones and your families a prayerful Christmas and may we journey together with lighter hearts in 2021. Keep safe and God Bless,

Helen

Don't Forget ADVENT SERVICE ON YOU TUBE

Prepared by all the parishes of the Pastoral Area.

Sunday 20th December 4pm

<https://bit.ly/2JZJNMv>

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Our Prayers are asked for the following who are sick: Lesley ANDERS, Judy BLOWER, Catherine BOWLES, Craig DIXON, Baby Daisy Marcia DUNN, Tony EDWARDS, Emma, Jean ENNIS, Joan FORD, Barbara HAZELDINE, Lisa HEALEY, Stella HUGHES, Darren KELLY, Molly M^cEVOY, Kathleen M^cGOVERN, Tracey M^cCLEAN, May MURRAY, Teresa NALL, Maureen O'HARE, Danny POWER, Ava RUDZINSKI, Kelly SHEPHERD,

Also for the intentions of: Anne & Joan BAXTER, Khalil Jones BAIDOE, Vera CARTLEDGE, Pauline DEARING & Family, DIXON Family, Ryan EDWARDS, Lilly FLANNERY, Billy FLATLEY, Germaine, Beverly HARPER, Joan HART, Theresa HASTIE, Norman KELLY, Ann KENNY, Madeleine McCANN & Family, Tommy & Mary O'BRIEN, MIDGHALL Family, Joey MORGAN, Ann NEEDHAM, SCOTT Family, Teresa SWIFT, Terri VALIANT, WALKER Family, WILLIAMS Family

And for those who have died: John McGOVERN, Eileen HALLIGAN (anniversary), All our loved ones in Heaven at Christmas