



Parish of St. Vincent de Paul

# Newsletter

## Christmas

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Our new crib this year has a single star on a black, empty background, fully illustrating the singular, bright star that shone in the night sky above Bethlehem, where our Saviour was born.

The star was so bright in the sky that it attracted much attention. In the same way, the birth of Jesus, according to St Luke's gospel, attracted the attention of all the hosts of heaven. The angels sang in the hills around his birthplace, disturbing the peace of the shepherds, guarding their flocks by night.

Our Parish Community is also a star shining brightly in the darkness of this pagan world. Where refugees feel alone and far from home, our parish community members give them welcome, in their own homes or in the church. Where people are cold or hungry, parish members share their clothes and their food with them. Where there is injustice, parish members work to correct it. Faced with the crisis of climate change, parish members do their best to make amends to Nature and to save the planet. Where someone is housebound and unable to care for themselves parish members visit them and share their time with them. Where the Word of God is not known or is not understood, parish members study it and try to

live its values.

By these works and by our prayer, we become a star shining in the darkness of our city, where fear reigns in some streets, where people sleep in shop doorways, where drugs destroy lives and split up families, where most no longer know that Jesus is the centre of the Christmas festival; far more than the family gathering, or the office parties, of the Christmas-driven night clubs.

We Missionaries of Africa, give thanks for all the works of love done within and by our Parish Community, whether in the care of the church building, the well-being of the community, the care of the liturgies, the passing-on of our faith to the next generations, or the welcome of strangers. We give thanks, too, for the care and support you give to us in person.

So many of you do great things to make us feel part of this Community and we are happy to be at your service. We enjoy your presence. We are happy to be part of your Christian effort to be the Light of Christ in this part of the extraordinary City of Liverpool.

*We wish each and every one of you a very blessed and happy Christmas and we look forward to continuing our friendship in the New Year.*

*May God bless you all.*

### Mass Times in the Octave of Christmas

Sunday 25	10h00
Monday 26	09h00
Tuesday 27	09h00
Wednesday 28	No Mass
Thursday 29	No Mass
Friday 30	09h00
Saturday 31	18h00
Sunday 01/01/23	10h00

### Mass Intentions

Sat 24: Christmas Flowers  
Sun 25: Parishioners  
Mon 26: Margaret & John O’Gorman  
Tue 27: Jack & Bridget Shaw  
Wed 28: No Mass  
Thur 29: No Mass  
Fri 30: Jackie Blaksted  
Sat 31: Birch Family

### Christmas Flowers and Christmas Tree

*Thank you very much for the support you gave for the purchase of the Christmas Tree and Flowers. You gave £330. Thank you also to the people who gave so much time to decorate the tree, build the crib and put up the beautiful flower displays. May the Lord bless your efforts and your generosity.*

### Lottery Results - 18<sup>th</sup> December

**04 05 08 09 10 11**

**Jackpot £500**

### Christmas Raffle

*The draw will be made after the Christmas Vigil Mass*

### OFFERINGS 18<sup>th</sup> December

Envelopes: £ 20.00  
Plate: £ 343.40

😊 Thank you 😊

### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

**Please Note:**

**There will be no adoration this coming Friday.**

### Christmas Message of The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool

We always speak of Christmas celebrations as being a time of joy and happiness, and a time to gather with family and friends. We see this in the weeks leading up to the feast - a time of preparation when people want to make sure that everything is perfect. This year may have to be different – a recent survey suggested that 54% of people in this country will be cutting back on Christmas celebrations against a backdrop of rising food prices and energy costs. It’s very easy to lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas amidst the tinsel, glitter, food and drink, and yet the realities of the first Christmas are all around us today and we don’t have to look far to see them.

Life was uncertain for Mary and Joseph too as they travelled the long road to Bethlehem where they had to take part in a census called by an occupying power. Christ was born in a stable on a cold winter’s night – not an ideal time or place for our saviour to be born. His first visitors were shepherds who had been looking after their sheep on a cold, bleak hillside, not the visitors you might expect. Our times may be uncertain, and our Christmas may be different this year but the reason for our celebrations remains unchanged.

Our annual celebration of Christmas is one of love and peace and nothing can change that. We believe that our love for one another is a sign of God’s love for us - ‘God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son’ – and through our celebrations we give thanks to God for sending us Jesus, born of Mary in Bethlehem, announced by the angels, and visited by those shepherds and later by wise men.

It is the love of God that shines through this great feast, and we show that love by the ways in which we reach out to those around us. To our relatives and friends, to those alone at Christmas, to those in need who have much less than ourselves and by the way in which we welcome those seeking refuge in our country.

While some things may have to change for us the message of Christmas remains the same, precious moments with those we love and care for, this is the warmth, the comfort and the joy which Christmas brings to us and those around us. Above all Christmas is, has always been, and always will be a time of hope. The hope which the birth of Jesus brings is for all time and eternal. In his Gospel St John says, ‘the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it’. Jesus is the light of the world shining through any darkness in our lives. May this Christmas be a time of hope for us all.

I wish you a happy, peaceful and blessed Christmas.

The Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP

Archbishop of Liverpool

December 2022

*Happy Christmas  
and a Peaceful New Year*

### PRAYER INTENTIONS

**Our Prayers are asked for the following who are sick:** Lorraine ALLEN, Natasha BAKER, Kitty BAXTER, Baby Bobby ENWRIGHT, Christopher BROWNE, Emma DOLAN, Baby Daisy Marcia DUNN, June DUNNE, Joe EDIE, Jean ENNIS, Baby FRANKIE, Irene GREEN, Margaret HIGGINS, Mary HOWARD, Raymond JOYCE, Kai, Jane MANN, Helen MARTLEY, Eddie McKENNA, Mary MELODY, Sarah MORGAN, Cathy MURRAY, Ava RUDZINSKI, Eileen SALTERS, Martha TAGUE, Jean TAYLOR, Mary TUIE, Camila WILD

**Also, for the intentions of:** Kathy BANKS, Anne BAXTER, Ryan EDWARDS, Rita & Jimmy FLATLEY, GERMAINE, Beverley HARPER, Joan HART, Theresa HASTIE, Frances KERWIN, Ian McNICHOLAS, Ann MOORE, Susan MORSELLINO, Maureen RICE, Sarah Jane, Teresa SWIFT, David THOMAS, Cath WILSON,

**And for those who have died:** Ellen Packwood (née Crane)