



Parish of St. Vincent de Paul

Newsletter

13 Hardy Street,

Liverpool L1 5JN

Tel: 0151 709 8589

stvincent@rcaol.org.uk

FB : Vincent De Paul Church

Web: www.stvincentsparish.org.uk/

The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass Times this Week

Sunday	10.00
Monday	09.00
Tuesday	07:30
Wednesday	09.00
Thursday	07.30
Friday	09.00
Saturday (vigil)	18.00

Homily Notes

The feast of Epiphany celebrates the manifestations of Christ. One of the manifestations in today's readings shows Christ as one

who calls us to the path of unity in diversity. The prophecy in Isaiah 60:1-6 was written after the exile. Though the people were now free, they still suffered the wreckage of the past exile. This prophecy was in tune with the people's longing for a new journey and a change. It starts with an optimistic tone with the words; "Arise, shine out Jerusalem, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples," and it further talks of the nations and kings coming to Jerusalem attracted by her light. Jerusalem is prophesied symbolically to be a place where God's people from different nations will be gathered and united.

The Gospel of Mathew was written when Gentiles and Jews were entering Christian communities. The encounters of Jews and non-Jews in community raised challenges and tensions. The Magi story (Mt.2:1-12), was relevant to this situation by emphasizing that those who were led by the scripture (Jews) and those led by knowledge (stars, i.e. the Gentiles) could access Jesus in equal measure. In Jesus barriers collapsed and unity in diversity was established. It can be said that it was in those challenging encounters (of Jews and Gentiles) in community where also the light of the new king could be encountered.

The unity in Christ is emphasized by Paul who calls it a mystery and considered himself a servant of the mystery. He says that he was given the knowledge of the mystery, and the mystery is that the pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promises have been made to them (Eph 33:1-3,5-6). Like Paul we also have been given the insight and knowledge, and we try to be servants of the mystery. As servants of the mystery, the world becomes a place where we may hear the echoes of Yeats' words; "There are no strangers here; only friends you haven't met."

Charles



Mass Intentions

- Sat 6: Frank Hastie
- Sun 7: Alan Randles
- Mon 8: Parishioners
- Tues 9: Heather & Gary Foggo
- Wed 10: Maria Mwanje
- Thur 11: Elise Dee
- Fri 12: Oliver Cooper-Smith
- Sat 13: Shelly & Joey Glanville
- Sun 14: Sarah Benjamin

Sunday Ramblings

In the Gospel of Mark, 1:7-1, you can read about the baptism of Jesus, by John the Baptist.

The Gospel says, "Just as he was coming up out of the water, the heavens were torn apart and the Spirit descended like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

In his commentary on this in the Universalis App, **Henry Wandsbrough**, a monk of Ampleforth Abbey, says:

"What can Jesus have experienced? It is described as 'the heavens torn apart', a Voice, and the Spirit coming down like a dove. It must have given him the experience of being treasured, being embraced by the Person whom he called 'Father'.

But he is given a task too, for the Spirit of God is an empowering Spirit. It must have felt like a new impetus, a thrill of challenge, a surge of energy and opportunity, an exciting new task. In this new Spirit he went out to bring the good news of peace, gradually gathering his community and spreading God's healing love by his personality, his teaching and his healing.

This is the power which baptism has given to us also, to bring God's healing and God's love, to build a community of love which reflects and extends God's own love. Jesus must have been daunted by the task. He knew it would test him to the limit of his endurance, but he knew he had received the Power of God, and put his trust in his Father.

He never promised us at baptism that it would be easy to live as Christians, but he did promise us that He would give us the surge of strength and power which is the Holy Spirit".

This is what we want parents who bring their children for baptism to understand.

Terry

Parish Notice Board

Today is the feast of the **Epiphany of the Lord**, usually celebrated on the 6th January. It is the end of the Christmas season. The church's calendar now begins Ordinary Time, which will last until Ash Wednesday on the 14th February.

On Monday, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Mass will be at 7.30am.

Peace Sunday 2024 is Sunday 14th January and the theme chosen by Pope Francis is 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'. Read a full copy of his message for the World Day of Peace here:

[Pope Francis Message for World Day of Peace 2024](#)

Sacrament of Reconciliation by appointment

Barbara Tolmie,

our Deanery Synod Representative, will speak at the end of each Mass on the subject of **Families of Parishes**. This is an important development in the synod discernment for the local church. Please be so good as to remain behind after Mass for 5 minutes or so, to listen to what she has to say!

Monday 8th January Meeting of Parish Council, 6.30pm.

This is the last meeting of the present council. We owe the councillors a debt of gratitude for all they have done over the past 2 and 4 years. Two of them, Andrea and Marie, have already served 2 terms and will be able to take a rest now from the council's responsibilities. Thank you to them.

Elections for a new council will take place at the end of the month. Also on the agenda will be the replacement of the wooden panels on the porch doors with glass. This will allow people to see into our beautiful church and see what is going on: another step in the development of our "open doors" practice.

You can also expect news about the Pilgrimage to Walsingham from this council.

AUSTEN IVEREIGH SYNOD VISIT

LIVERPOOL ST ANNE'S 28.01.24

Author of the biography of Pope Francis, *The Great Reformer (2014)*, Dr Austen Ivereigh is a writer, journalist and commentator on religious and political affairs. He also authored *Wounded Shepherd: Pope Francis and his struggle to convert the Catholic Church (2019)*. He was then invited by Pope Francis to be part of a remarkable conversation leading to a further book *Let us Dream: The path to a better future (2020)*.

Pope Francis invited Austen to attend the recent Rome Synod in October 2023 where he gained invaluable experience from participating in the synodal process. He will share his insights and expertise with an audience at **St Anne's Overbury Street on Sunday evening at 6.00pm on 28th January 2024**. The event will be live-streamed and recorded. Everyone is most welcome to attend. This is an un-rivalled opportunity to hear first-hand reflections on what many consider to be the greatest event in the Catholic Church since the 2nd Vatican Council with profound implications for the future.

It will be followed-up by a **3-session Lenten on-line series** reflecting upon the content of Austen's talk in relation to the lives of 3 Liverpool priests in whose ministry was reflected elements of the synodal process (Thursdays 22nd February, 7th and 21st March).

We are sorry to announce the death of **JOANNE RAMSEY**, beloved wife of Philip and mother of Grace, daughter of Madeleine & Tony Gilbertson. Her funeral will take place here on 18th January at 11am. *She always held that St Vincent's is her home parish.*

OFFERINGS 31st December

Envelopes: £25.00

Christmas Envelopes: £54.00

Christmas Plate: £409.35

31st December Plate: £163.80

Christmas Flowers £165.00

Many thanks to you all. The generosity of our Parish Community members is beyond measure.

*In case you're wondering what happened to our usual **Luxurious Christmas Flower Display**, it was absent this year due to **Pat Donovan** being really not well. We wish her better health by Easter!*

Prayer Intentions

Last week we asked that all the requests for prayers for the sick and needy should be renewed. Some requests have been there for a long time and we have no news of the people. If you wish to add a name to the list below, please let a priest know.

Lottery Results – 31st December

01 04 05 11 12 14

To donate to the Parish, please scan this QR Code

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Our Prayers are asked for the following who are sick: Joe EDIE, Maureen MAGUIRE, Henri Potier, Martina STEWARD, Mary TUIE, Pauline WALSH, Joanne WILCOCK

Also, for the intentions of: Anne BAXTER, Rita & Jimmy FLATLEY, Beverley HARPER, Joan HART, Theresa HASTIE, Mary HOWARD, Frances KERWIN, Susan MORSELLINO, Skyla REID, Maureen RICE, Teresa SWIFT, Martha TAGUE

Those who have died recently: Mary MWANJE, Joanne RAMSEY

