

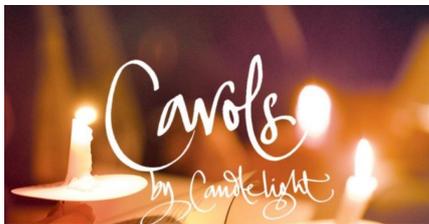
TOGETHER

Newsletter for Catholics in Birkdale
28th November 2021 + First Sunday of Advent
Sundays Year C + Week Days Year I

Advent Celebrations

This Sunday **Family Mass** at St Joseph's Church at 9.30am. Children from Our Lady of Lourdes will take part.

Evening Prayer and Benediction at St Joseph 3.30pm on three Sundays in Advent: 28th November, 12th December and 19th December.



Carols by Candlelight followed by mulled wine and mince pies. Sunday 5th December at 5pm at St Joseph. With the participation of two soloists: Rachel Russell and Ramzi Mechergui. Carols we can all sing and a couple of poems.

Reconciliation Service at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Monday 13th December at 7pm.

Christmas Gifts, Treats and Vouchers

The children that we are buying presents for are aged between 4 and 12. The teenagers will be given vouchers. Please bring what you buy unwrapped so that the presents can be distributed appropriately (and so that Mums and Dads know what is in the parcels). Wrapping paper and gift bags needed.

Thanks to the Free Masons who have donated 126 Selection Boxes (so please buy something else!). James Hargreaves, the Plumbers Merchant is collecting presents for us again this year.

Thanks to all who take part and support the people of our community who are in need. The volunteers who make the deliveries are being contacted. Please let us know if you would like to join them.

Donations can be left at the back of church until 12th December.

400 Club The Christmas Draw will take place on Sunday 12th December.

Raffle tickets for Our Lady of Lourdes School on sale after Mass Draw on December 17th.

Advent Mondays Advent Reflections: On 29 November, the department invite you to a Zoom time of reflection and discussion for an hour each Advent Monday from 7pm. Please register for your Zoom link on

<https://forms.gle/ygGnFTySdvNZZ2776>

Baptisms

Sebastian James Lewis, Our Lady of Lourdes, Sunday 21st November

Lillian Rose Carter, St Joseph, Saturday 27th November.

Congratulations and good wishes to them and their families.

Please remember the tokens for Our Lady of Lourdes School if you shop at Tesco.



There are **NO** tickets left for the Pantomime Saturday 11th December at 2pm in Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

PARISH CHRISTMAS QUIZ at St Teresa's School Hall on 17th DECEMBER FRIDAY at 7.45pm. Tea, Coffee and Mince Pies available. £5 Adults £3 STUDENTS. All Welcome! (In aid of Lourdes pilgrimage fund)



Year of St Joseph

To follow daily Mass from St Joseph go to

www.churchservices.tv/birkdale

Offertory

Collection last Sunday
£1,610.40

Food Vouchers this week
£ 580

You have raised £47,387.32
and are helping 66 families
with 124 children.

Thank you for your generosity!

Need help from the SVP?

Please leave a message or text
07716143603.

Saturday Silent Meditation

Saturday 10am in St Joseph's.

Thursday Art Class continues
via Zoom. Contact Marie
Simmons 550466.

French conversation classes on
Fridays in the meeting rooms at
Our Lady of Lourdes from
10.30am to 12 Noon. For
further information contact
Sophie Payne:

sophie.payne@yahoo.com

Church Cleaning

St Teresa Saturday 10am.

Our Lady of Lourdes Thurs 9am
St Joseph, Fridays after Mass.

Many hands make light work!

**The Music Group at St
Teresa** practices before Mass
on Sunday mornings 10.15am.

Children's Liturgy

Sunday mornings at

St Joseph 9.30am and

St Teresa at 11am

Parish Priest: Fr Atli Jónsson

Office 9am - 2pm Monday; Wednesday - Friday

40 York Road, Southport PR8 2AY, Tel 01704 568313 birkdalecatholics@rcaol.org.uk

Deacon: Rev Bill Ball, Tel 567788. Parish webpage www.birkdalecatholics.com

Facebook: Birkdale Catholics Diocese www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

Other Catholic churches in Southport:

St John Stone & Sacred Heart Tel. 577722 * St Marie & St Patrick Tel. 531229 * Holy Family Tel. 532613

MASS THIS SUNDAY

First Preface of Advent, Eucharistic Prayer II

Collect

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah 33:14-16

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The-Lord-our-integrity.’

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 24(25)

R: *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **R.**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
He guides the humble in the right path,
He teaches his way to the poor. **R.**

His ways are faithfulness and love
for those who keep his covenant and law.
The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere him;
to them he reveals his covenant. **R.**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

‘Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here
below

gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gospel reading for the 9.30am Mass

The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

God sent a messenger named Gabriel, to a young woman called Mary. She lived in Nazareth and was going to be married to Joseph.

The messenger said: “Rejoice, Mary, God has blessed you and God is very close to you.”

Mary did not understand these words. She was worried and wondered what it all meant.

Then Gabriel said: “Don’t be afraid, Mary.

You have pleased God very much. Listen! You are going to have a baby. It will be a boy and his name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God.”

Then Mary said: “I want to please God. I am happy to do whatever God wants.”

And the messenger left her.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil at Our Lady of Lourdes 6.00pm

Joseph, Jane & Rose Maria Pillai

First Sunday of Advent 28th November

St Joseph 8.30am Parishioners
St Joseph 9.30am Mary Lou White A
St Teresa 11am Pious List

Mon 10am Saving our Family
Tue 10am Special Intention
Wed 10am Ruth Parker
Thurs 10am Int of Tom Hughes
Fri 10am Int of Peter and Marion Maher

Saturday Vigil at Our Lady of Lourdes 6.00pm

John Gillow

Second Sunday of Advent 5th December

St Joseph 8.30am Vincent Hawkins
St Joseph 9.30am Mike Kenny A
St Teresa 11am Int of Jane Chmielowski

Funerals

Richard Huyton at St Teresa, Monday 6th
December at 12 Noon.

James O'Connell at St Joseph, Tuesday 7th
December at 12 Noon.

Julie Maughan at St Joseph 8th December at
12.30pm

From the Piety Stall Religious Christmas Cards
and other Christmas items reasonably priced.

Stepping Beyond

The Jesuits in Ireland offer an online Advent Retreat entitled Stepping Beyond. This year has continued to offer many challenges for us in the shadow of the global pandemic. Thankfully, however, many of us are now moving to brighter days and are called to step out again into the fullness of life and step beyond our isolated worlds.

The theme of our retreat this year is exactly that - Stepping Beyond - and will be inspired by Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter Fratelli Tutti, on fraternity and social friendship. Other words for fraternity include fellowship; friendship and companionship, all words that are central to the Christian message, especially at Christmas. The weeks of Advent are a call to a deeper reflection on the life of Jesus as he stepped beyond his world into ours as our companion and friend. Advent is a time to help us prepare to welcome Jesus our Saviour, God made man in Bethlehem and to hear his call to Step Beyond ourselves.

www.sacredspace.com/en/retreats/advent-2021

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve: 6pm St Joseph, 8pm St Teresa,
10pm Our Lady of Lourdes
Christmas Day: 8.30am and 9.30am St Joseph
11am St Teresa
Sunday 26th Dec: 8.30am and 9.30am St Joseph
(Boxing Day) 11am St Teresa



Praying with the Pope in December

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

www.thepopevideo.org

We Pray for the Sick

Baby Max, Baby Leighton Callan Sankey, Tyler (6 yrs), Joseph Harnick (5 yrs), Nella (6 yrs) Ryan Ward, Karen Manley, Sheila Smith, Pat Mills, Pauline McNulty, Jonathan Morley, Edna Smith, Olive Walshe, David Leatherland, Elizabeth Loudon, Pam Wheeler, Dave Formby, Barbara Tomlinson, John Smith, Valerie Bennett, Nola Nelson, Jemima Jenkins, Zoe Waters, Kathryn Harding, Michael Hegarty, Audrey Rogers, Marian Ball, Muriel Appleton, Claire Kenyon, Michael Brady, Margaret Chisnall, Leo O'Reilly, Pat Stoneman, Mike Barber, Pat Little, Ciara Lea, Richard Hughes, Mary Stanton, Sylvia Flynn, Minna Moffatt, Lindsey Rodgers, Kathleen Jenkinson, William Dobson, Margherita Grilli, Peter and Marion Maher

The Lately Dead

Mary Fenner, Richard Huyton, Kevin Milles,
Bryan Miles, Jim O'Connell, Julie Maughan

Anniversaries

Joseph, Jane & Rose Maria Pillai, John Foulds,
Mike Kenny

We pray for

Our parish and schools.
The emergency services and healthcare workers.
The sick and the housebound.
All affected by the coronavirus.
All who work to make the vaccines available.
For a fair sharing of the vaccines!
All worried about their health, jobs and finances.
The poorest in our society & around the world, who suffer
the most because of the coronavirus.
The families preparing for baptism.
Success of the Climate Conference COP26
All at St Teresa's School

Sacrament of Reconciliation

St Joseph 9.30am Fridays
Our Lady of Lourdes 5.30pm Saturdays
Other times upon request.
Face to face possible if preferred.

Catholic Chaplaincy Southport Hospital and Queenscourt Hospice Need the support of your church when in hospital? Please contact Maria Parker: **07467 374830** (during normal office hours). In an emergency ask the ward staff to contact the priest on-call.

The next LGBTQ+ Mass will be at All Saints Anfield on Sunday 5th December at 12.30pm, followed by a social gathering. This is an open invitation to our LGBTQ+ Catholics, their families and friends, but also to anyone who would like to come along and support fellow Catholics. It would be helpful to know who might attend for catering purposes. If you are attending, please contact 0151 287 8787, or email Fr Steve: frsmaloney@aol.com.

Pastoral Letter

Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 November 2021

Dear Friends,

The opening prayer of Mass today, the first Sunday of Advent, invites us to “run forth to meet Christ”. It is with this spirit of hope and joy that today I present to you the Pastoral Plan for the archdiocese.

This is the first of the fruits of Synod 2020; of your prayer, listening, discerning and planning. The Synod journey gave us an experience of being what Pope Francis calls 'the Synodal Church' – a Church that listens carefully to how the Holy Spirit speaks through the lives, wisdom and concerns of all its members.

The four years of the Synod invited us all to ask ourselves: what kind of Church is God calling us to become here in the archdiocese? What is the Holy Spirit saying to us at this critical point in history?

I put before you today a vision for the future of the Church in this archdiocese which has arisen from the way the Synod members voted in June 2021.

The Synod considered nineteen recommendations. The three that received the most votes were concerning evangelisation, lay ministry and young people. You will see how the Pastoral Plan tries to respond to these. But all nineteen were clearly endorsed by the people of the archdiocese.

If we are to truly embrace these and all that we have learned from our journey over these years, then Christ must be our starting point. The first Sunday of Advent is the right time for us to reflect on this as we once again prepare ourselves to welcome Christ.

In the writing of the Pastoral Plan, guided by the Synod, four issues have been highlighted that will underpin every part of our planning and thinking for the years ahead.

We must be immersed in the joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties of humanity today;

We need to be brave and creative in renewing local structures;

We will develop leadership to attend to changing needs;

And finally we must make sure that synodality is embedded in every aspect of archdiocesan life.

Thinking carefully about these issues, alongside all that the Synod has given us, has led me to place before you six action areas that will be our focus in the years to come.

Becoming a Church that accompanies people through life.

Becoming a Church that honours the vocation of all the baptised.

Becoming a Church where synodality is embedded.

Becoming a Church that renews its organisational structures and administers its property to serve its mission.

Becoming a Church where young people and young adults flourish.

Becoming a Church that cares for its priests.

I have used the word “becoming” not because we haven’t already been doing many of these things and often doing them very well, but because we are going to develop and strengthen our Catholic life, decision making and action in these areas.

The call of Pope Francis, and of popes and ecumenical councils before him, to be a Church which accompanies people, walks with people, is the key change in attitude and approach that I want to place before you. Walking with others, accompanying others, will influence the way we live and work as Catholic Christians in the archdiocese. It will help us re-think our approach to Catholic life.

Being together on the road has led us to this plan. It will serve as the way forward for us in the archdiocese in the years to come. I commend it to your prayers and your action.

I wish you and your families a blessed season of Advent as we, together, become more and more the Church that God is calling us to be.

May God bless you,

Malcolm McMahon

Archbishop of Liverpool

The Pastoral Plan

On this 1st weekend of Advent, the beginning of a new Church year, we are delighted to be able to receive the pastoral plan. As the Archbishop has said: “This is to chart the way forward for the archdiocese in the years to come.” The Plan will be available online at <https://liverpoolpastoralplan.org.uk/> or you can arrange to purchase it from Pauline Books and Media, 84 Church Street, Liverpool at a cost of £2 per copy.

There is a summary document for you at Mass this weekend and a postcard for you to take home containing some of the key words from the plan and details of how to access the pastoral plan online.

To find out more, you are welcome to any of these open meetings:

Saturday 4th Dec 11.00am – 12.30pm in St Mary’s Church, Leyland

Tuesday 7th Dec 7.00pm – 8.30pm in Holy Rosary Church, Aintree

Thursday 9th Dec 7.00pm – 8.30pm on Zoom.

The link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86421512557?pwd=SVd5cFhtQ0dwUFJzQjhLSlQ5VjJjQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 2151 2557 Passcode: 132667

