**Prayer to God the Holy Spirit**

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Spirit

we may be always truly wise

and rejoice in His consolations,

Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

*Each of our local parish schools, All Saints Catholic High, St Joseph the Worker and St Laurence’s Primary schools break up Wednesday for their Nativity break. I would like to again thank our three Head Teachers and Governors, children and families for all their efforts to build on the work & support that our partnerships continue to see as our children flourish.*

***Children and their families preparing for their next sacraments are especially invited to any Mass: Friday evening, OR Saturday AM/PM , OR Sunday AM weekend Masses. as part of the family-catechesis ‘Living-out’ of the sacraments.***

*Our* ***HOME-CHURCH-SCHOOL*** *links, each support and build up the parish family, as we recognise and celebrate being part of something bigger; the visible Body of Christ; the gathered community; this is what CHURCH is really all about- we are the People of God- mainly lay people, with religious, the deacons, priests, bishops, altogether across our archdiocese of Liverpool- making up part of the world-wide family of the Church, gathered by God the Father, under His Son, the Word of God and with the Holy Spirit joined with the Pope, in prayer.*

 The Parish Newsletters can be found on the school websites each week:

St Joseph the Worker Primary School, or St Laurence’s Primary School,

under ‘Our Catholic Life’ or ‘Our Faith’ sections

**Application forms to attend Catholic Schools~:**

It is that time of year again with Primary Schools and High Schools application forms. Each school has its own admissions forms that must be completed and returned to each school. Parents ALSO need to complete Knowsley Council’s on-line application form for schools. The school admissions criteria, the geographical parish boundary families live within and whether a child is a baptised Catholic at the time of the Council deadline dates, are all important facts that families need to be aware of and ensure they comply with, to be considered by each schools’ Governing Body, for a place for their child at any Catholic School.

**17th/18th December 2022 4th Week of Advent Year A**

Sat 17th 6.00 pmRobert Boyd Vigil & 1st Mass of Sunday

Sun 18th 11.00 am **Parishioners**

Mon 19th7.00 pm Edna Roberts

Tue 20th 10.00 am Jane Kelly

Wed 21st \*\*\*\****2.30 pm* Holy Hour @ The Convent**

Thur22nd **11.30 am Funeral Brenda Byrne**

 7.00 pm George Surriidge

Fri 23rd 10.00 am Albert Thomas

Fri 23rd \*\*\*\* 7.00 pm Joan Denton

Sat 24th **\*\*\*\*** 10.00 am Elizabeth Milburn

**SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

Sat 24th **CAROLs 7.30 pm** Vigil & 1st Mass of the Nativity of the baby Jesus

**MASS 8.00 pm Private Intentions**

 Sunday 25th 11.00 am **Parishioners**

*Mass Intentions received: Brenda Byrne, Ann Anderson, Smulllen Family, Mike Intentions-Knights of St Columba, Kathleen & Roy Williams,*

*Peter Brannan, Deacon Vincent Anderson, Fr Kevin Brennan, Bishop Robert Byrne C.O. Parishioners’ Intentions, and remembrances for all those who have died, anniversaries, birthdays, sick, lonely, unemployed, and the depressed.*

**Red Box- Mission appeal.**

**Can parishioners please bring their Full ‘Red Boxes’ to Church. They will be counted and returned to the back of Church in future weeks.**

**Volunteer Church cleaners’ duty, Thursday 29th December 7.30-8.30pm**

**More information about the Catholic faith is available on-line.**

Archdiocese website [liverpoolcatholic.org.uk](http://liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/)

Pope Francis Website Vatican-Holy See

cafod.org.uk (including Children’s Liturgy materials)

**or** Catholic Pictorial[***www.cafod.org.uk/Pray/Laudato-Si-encyclical***](http://www.cafod.org.uk/Pray/Laudato-Si-encyclical)

**Please join in prayer with the Holy Spirit, for the success of the Archdiocesan Plan**

**ST JOSEPH AND ST LAURENCE’S PARISH**

**Bewley Drive, Southdene, Kirkby, Merseyside L32 7PZ**

Liverpool Roman Catholic Archdiocesan Trustees Incorporated. A Registered Charity No 232709

Church is open for prayer every day 8.30 am til 4pm, except Sunday 8.30 am til 1pm

**Parish Priest: Canon Sean Kirwin Parish Secretary: Maria Byrne.**

**Office Hours: Mon – Fri, 9.00am – 4.00pm Tel: 546 3674**

 **St Joseph & St Laurence’s Parish Centre- Manager: Elaine Churchill Tel: 07377341977**

St Joseph the Worker RC Primary: Head: Mrs Jude Ryan. Tel: 477 8173

St Laurence’s RC Primary: Head: Miss Sarah Jane Carroll Tel: 546 4733

All Saints Catholic High: Head: Mr Tony McGuinness. Tel: 477 8740

**(Week 143 of Covid-19 UK guidance)**

**Our Parish e-mail:** **sjsl@rcaol.org.uk** **for any queries/ concerns/volunteers**

[**https://donate.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/st-joseph-st-laurence-kirkby**](https://donate.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/st-joseph-st-laurence-kirkby)

**A WARM WELCOME to everyone at Mass this week, as we mark the fourth week of the season of ADVENT, at the start of the Church’s new liturgical year. The focus now shifts to the celebration of the birthday of the baby Jesus in 7 days’ time . These next days are a time for intense preparation and busy-ness, but whatever we find ourselves doing this week reflect on why we are doing all this- it is all about the baby, Jesus, our Saviour; also to reflect upon who/what is truly important in our lives here on earth, as we both wait for the future return of Jesus from Heaven, the resurrection of the dead & to bring His kingdom of peace and justice here on earth, and His first coming in the past, with the fast-approaching Nativity Feasts. FR SEAN**

**St Joseph & St Laurence’s Parish Centre** –

Elaine and staff would like to welcome back all customers, old and new.

All welcome! & Lounge open every week. Thur/Sat 8.00 pm & Sun12.30pm **07377341977** to book future functions

for all days of the week & any enquiries

**TODAY Sunday 18th December** ‘Festive Bring & Buy sale’ 10am – 3pm

& **From 1pm Santa Claus** will be here for the children

CLOSED on Saturday 24th December & Saturday 31st Dec, NEW YEAR’s EVE

Sunday 25th December Open 12-2pm

**BOXING DAY** Monday 26th December Evening Entertainment

Tickets- £6 per person Bar 7-11.30pm

Thurs 29th 8-10.30pm, Fri 30th 8-11pm. Mon 1st Jan New Year’s Day open 1-3pm

**2023 Saturday Function dates now available**

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR PARISH CLUB**

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Across England the average Covid infection rate is 1in 60 now carrying the virus to others. **On-going booster injections seem to protect most people from severe illness, including from the now multiple Omicron variants.** Numbers are still affecting hospitals, although the vaccination is working to reduce the severity of the cases for most people. For some time, the demands for A&E and beds will delay ambulances, clinics & operations and worsen the speed & level of treatment available. Larger crowds in-doors are still riskier, as is mixing with the elderly whilst infected. In these still unusual times, the Church building is still open: Masses, lighting of candles, silent prayer in benches before the Blessed Sacrament.

 ***Some may still wish to continue to wear face masks in Church.***

*The Bishops’ Independent Review of Safeguarding in England & Wales & the ICSA reports: The published national inquiry ICSA report into the crimes and sins of abuse across many organisations, including the Catholic Church, has highlighted historic cases over the last fifty years and recent examples. It and a separate report have recommended further reforms to the Church’s safeguarding processes and to address the victims & survivors needs. All our bishops have accepted the recommendations and committed to constantly further improve safeguarding & support throughout Church & society and this continues to be something that has to be continuously prioritised*

**With Covid guidance still in place for visiting the elderly and vulnerable and with the need for Eucharistic Ministers to have their DBS checks renewed, we currently cannot normally provide communion visits at home. If a parishioner is ill in hospital, please ask family to inform nursing staff that they are Catholic and wish to be seen by a Catholic Chaplain on their ward.**

**If parishioners are sick at home and their condition is likely to get worse, please telephone the presbytery and Fr Sean will arrange a visit for the Sacrament of the Sick and Holy Communion.**

**Fr Sean is the Catholic Chaplain to Alder Hey Children’s Hospital.**