

THE PARISH OF ST CHARLES AND ST THOMAS MORE

Postal address for all communications:

St Charles & St Thomas More, 224 Aigburth Road, Liverpool L17 9PG
 Office opening hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 2pm. Phone: 0151 727 2493
 Website: www.stcharles.org.uk Email: church@stcharles.org.uk

PARISH PRIEST

& Vocations Director Fr James Preston

Deacons

Rev Paul McNicholl
 Rev Jeremy Mitchinson

Office Admin

Mrs Val Hogg

Primary School

St Charles, Tramway Road
 Liverpool L17 7JA.
 Tel. 0151 727 5830

Headteacher

Mrs A Roberts

Newsletter items to mart.wood52@gmail.com by 8pm on **Wednesday**

3rd Sunday of Advent (A) - 11th December 2016

| DAY | FEAST | TIMES | MASS INTENTION |
|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|---|
| Sat 10th Sun 11th | Gaudete Sunday | 5.00 pm | Parishioners |
| | | 9.30 am | Parishioners, in Thanksgiving from the Roberts Family |
| | | 11.00 am | Ryan Family |
| Mon 12th | | 10.00 am | Catherine Helliwell (RIP) |
| Tue 13th | St Lucy | 7.00 pm | Agnes Hilliard (bd) |
| Wed 14th | St John of the Cross | 12 noon | Fr Thomas Mangan (A) |
| Thu 15th | | 12 noon | Mary Lawler (A) |
| Fri 16th | Church open for private prayer | No Mass | |
| Sat 17th | Wedding Service | 12.30 pm | Marc Hannon & Jennifer Callaghan |
| Sat 17th Sun 18th | Vigil 4th Sunday of Advent (A) | 5.00 pm 9.30 am 11.00 am | Parishioners David Roberts (A) Thomas Power (A) |



You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord is coming soon

James 5:8

Confessions:

Tue. 6.15pm—6.45pm
 Sat. 4.30 pm - 4.50 pm

PLEASE PRAY for all who are sick and housebound or in hospital, for all those who have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

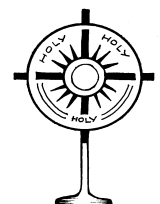


ANNIVERSARIES: Thomas Power, David Roberts, Fr Thomas Mangan, Mary Lawler, Joan Barr, Anne Heighway, James Buckley, Patricia Ann Grout, Angela Buckley, Helmut Schneider, Mark Morrison, Charlotte Kent

LATELY DEAD: Mrs Hughes, Veronica Pemberton

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Every Tuesday in Advent 6pm - 7pm with the opportunity for Confession during this time.



TO OUR YOUNG CHILDREN

There are some prayer books and story books in a box at the back of church for you to use while you are at Mass. Hope you enjoy them.

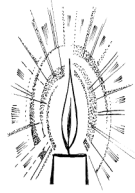


IF SOMEONE IS ILL

If you, or someone you know of, becomes ill, goes into hospital, or is no longer able to get to Mass, please contact the parish office 0151 727 2493.

PRESENTS for PRISONERS' CHILDREN - as last year gifts of stationary, jigsaws, games & toys would be appreciated. Please leave unwrapped.

The **Sanctuary Candle** is lit this week for **Frances Joan Roose** and the **Marian Candle** is lit for **Brenda Cotter**.



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Congratulations on wanting your child to receive the gift of Baptism. Please see Fr James after Mass to discuss it. A date can be arranged, for a Sunday, after completion of a three-week course.

Courses are held in:

January for baptisms in **Feb, March and April**

April for baptisms in **May, June and July**

July for baptisms in **Aug Sept and Oct**

October for baptisms in **Nov, Dec and Jan.**

LOURDES FUNDRAISING

Three delicious Chocolate hampers are being raffled to raise funds for the youth to attend the Annual Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes in summer 2017.

Tickets are being sold at all Masses this weekend 10th of December, with the draw taking place at the 9.30 Mass on the **18th of December**.

We really appreciated your support this year and look forward to fund-raising next year.

Blessings from the Youth Group going to Lourdes.

MUSIC ON 18 DECEMBER

9.30 am MUSIC GROUP

11.00am ORGAN



OFFERTORY 3/4 December

Plate: £618.77 Envelopes: £900.74 S/O: £398.25

Total: £1917.76

Lourdes Raffle £252.11

Lourdes Tea Money £32.00

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS ATTENDANCE 3/4 December

5.00pm: 161 9.30am: 173 11.00am: 196

TEA AND COFFEE will be served after all Masses today. All proceeds to the Lourdes Fund.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2016

Christmas Eve: 5.00pm and Midnight

Christmas Day: 9.30am and 11am

Boxing Day: 12noon



Children's Nativity with Carols



This will be held on **Sunday 18th December** at 3:00pm. This is a service for children, and by children, to help them celebrate the message of Christmas.

We need volunteers to read and take part in the tableau. Please put your child's/children's names on the two separate sheets at the back of church indicating their preference.

MEMORIAL CANDLES FOR CHRISTMAS

On Christmas Eve, and during Christmas week, oil candles will be lit and left burning for 7 days around our church in remembrance of our loved ones. Each candle will have the name of the person in whose memory it is dedicated written on it.

If you would like a candle to burn in memory of one of your loved ones please place £5 in an envelope along with their name. Write 'Memorial Candle' on the front and post it through the letterbox at the Presbytery or leave it in the sacristy.



Christmas Day Mass Intentions.

Many parishioners ask for a Mass to be said on Christmas Day. To try to accommodate everyone, as in previous years, we will have a Novena of Masses. If you wish someone to be remembered please put their name and a donation in an envelope and hand it in to the parish office.

ASSIN FOSO, GHANA FUNDRAISING

TWIDDLEMUFFS AND KNITTED HATS will be on sale at the back of church throughout Advent.

A **Twiddlemuff** is a double thickness hand muff with bits and bobs attached inside and out. It is designed to provide warmth and stimulation for restless hands particularly for people suffering from dementia.



The Pizza and Prayers Youth Group will travel in the mini bus on Sunday night to attend the Animate **Youth Alive Sunday Mass** at 5pm at St Anne's Ormskirk returning 9ish. Sleep in Sunday morning and bring money for a fast food stop off!

Volunteers Please.

If anyone has time to spare and would like to help clean the church brasses for Christmas (ie candle sticks etc) please come along on Thursday 15th any time after 9am.

Well done to **Luca and Francesca** who ran the Santa Dash and raised £150.00 for Ghana.

Toddler group meets for the last time this term on Wednesday 14th December when we have our Christmas party.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS are at the back of the church, in street order per area. If anyone can take a set or two and deliver them it would be very much appreciated. Please return any spares to the church or the Parish Office. Thank you.

MARRIAGE ENQUIRERS

For all enquirers about weddings please see Fr. Preston after one of the weekend Masses. Wedding bookings and preparation cannot be arranged by email. If you are getting married at St. Charles and St. Thomas More, or abroad, six months notice is required for the necessary paperwork to be completed.

CAFOD FUN RUN

Join the annual CAFOD Fun Run on Tuesday 27th December for a fun post-Christmas day out for a great cause. Run, walk or toddle the 3k or 7k routes. For event details visit

cafod.org.uk/Events/Liverpool-Fun-Run2

PIETY SHOP Christmas Cards and gifts for sale in the Piety Shop, open before and after all weekend Masses.

Children's Nativity - there will be a gathering after the service. Please bring a small plate of food to share.

PRAYER INTENTION BOOK

A book will be placed near St. Anthony's statue to write your prayer requests which will be offered to God at the week-end Masses.

ARCHDIOCESAN DIRECTORIES are on sale at the back of the church price £3.50. Please put money in the box marked 'Papers'. Thank you.

PASTORAL AREA CAROL SERVICE

Monday 12th December at 7pm
In St Charles Church

Led by St Edward's College Choir. Please make every effort to come and support the young people who have prepared this service for us. Refreshments will be served in the Parish Hall afterwards.

Annual Parish Carol Service

Our 6th annual Carol Service takes place at 6pm on Sunday 18th December at St Anne's church located next to St Margaret's school on Aigburth Road. We are pleased to team up with the parishioners and choir of St Anne's in a joint celebration of Christmas and our choir has been practising each Tuesday with St Anne's. Please do come along to support the combined choir and this joint initiative with St Anne's parish.

ANNUAL APPEAL FOR THE HOMELESS

Once again we ask if you would like to donate toiletries, hats, gloves, scarves and socks to the Missionaries of Charity. The Mother Teresa sisters in Seel Street will give these items to the very poor and homeless in Liverpool over the Christmas period. Please leave items in the box at the back of church. Your generous donations are gratefully received.

THE ART OF DYING WELL prayer cards.

The Art of Dying Well is a new website that offers a helping hand to those grappling with issues around death and dying. Based in the Catholic tradition but open to all, it features real-life stories dealing with the journey through death to eternal life. www.artofdyingwell.org.

Prayer cards at the back of the Church - please take one.

Retreat Weekend Away for Parish Young People

(of secondary school age 11-18)
17- 19 March 2017 in Keswick.

Transport to Keswick by parish minibus leaving the parish Friday, 17 March to arrive in time for supper in Keswick. Minibus returns to the parish in the afternoon of Sunday, 19 March. Cost is £45 per young person or £80 for two siblings.

SAFEGUARDING

The Archdiocese requires all volunteers to be DBS checked before assuming roles. If you would like to be involved in any of the Parish ministries please contact Ann Firkins or Christina Reilly (the Safeguarding representatives). Information is also available from the Parish Office on Monday to Friday between 9:00am and 2:00 pm. Thank you.

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon invites you to a



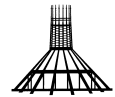
**Dementia Friendly
Christmas Carol Service**
at the Metropolitan Cathedral on
Wednesday 14 December at 2.00 pm.



Featuring the students from St Teresa of Lisieux, Norris Green, English Martyrs, Litherland and Great Crosby Primary Schools plus the "Songs we Remember" choir and the Metropolitan Cathedral Junior Choir.

Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Gibberd Room and everyone is most welcome to attend.

For further information please contact the Pastoral Formation Department
0151 522 1046
or m.knight@rcaol.co.uk



Metropolitan Cathedral
of Christ the King Liverpool

Justice and Peace Group St Charles and St Thomas More

A big thank you is due to the parishioners for their support for the Christmas Card Campaign for the Holyland and also for the Actions by Christians' against torture greeting cards campaign. The donations for postage (£24) were very much appreciated and all the cards have now been posted. Finally, of course it is Missionaries of Charity on Seel St who do wonderful work with the homeless - and is where the Reverse Christmas Calendar boxes are to be delivered to and not Sisters of Mercy as stated last week. My apologies, Sisters! Hannah



Bethlehem Today

"Oh Little Town..." O sad and troubled Bethlehem. We hear your longing cry for peace and justice to be born and cruel oppression die. How deep your need for that great gift of love in human form. Let Christ in you be seen again, and hearts by hope made warm.

"Once in Royal David's city..." Though this city is a symbol to the world of peace and love, concrete walls have closed around her, settlements expand above, and apartheid Israel stands all around on stolen lands.

These words describe the present reality of "the little town of Bethlehem", surrounded by a 9 metre high concrete wall and watchtowers which imprison its population, cutting them off and barring them from their capital city, Jerusalem, just 6 miles up the road. They are also cut off by expanding illegal Israeli settlements bringing in thousands of Jewish-only immigrants and depriving the ancient city of more than 80% of its agricultural and urban land. The reality of Bethlehem today, as in the rest of Palestine, is not the romanticised sleepy place of our Christmas carols, but a strangulated and devastated town where both Christians and Moslems struggle together to live under the cruel military occupation imposed by Israel. Meanwhile, the rest of the world looks on, but does nothing effective to halt the oppression. The occupation deprives Palestinians of their rights and condemns both peoples, Palestinians and Israelis, to a distortion of their humanity. The people of Bethlehem and the rest of Palestine and the wider Holy Land need a Just Peace and ask you and your church to help them achieve that. www.kairosbritain.org.uk The appeal of Palestinian Christians to the churches of the world will be published here next weekend... For more information about Bethlehem: www.openbethlehem.org

Come and join us here at 6.00pm on Tuesday 31st Jan 2017 for our first monthly meeting of the New Year.
Thank you for all your support