

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**

Christmas - 25th December 2016

DAY	FEAST	TIMES	MASS INTENTION
Sat 24th	Family Mass	5.00 pm	Novena of Masses
	Midnight Mass	12 midnight	Novena of Masses
Sun 25th	Dawn Mass	9.30 am	Novena of Masses
	Daytime Mass	11.00 am	Novena of Masses
Mon 26th	St Stephen, first martyr	12 noon	George Plummer (bd)
Tue 27th	St John, apostle, evangelist	12 noon	Amalia Gonzalez (A)
Wed 28th	Holy Innocents, martyrs	12 noon	Special Intention (TR)
Thu 29th	Funeral Service St Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr	10.00 am 12.00 noon	Leonard Boyland Margaret & Sheila McCarthy
Fri 30th	Private Prayer	No Mass	
Sat 31st	Vigil	5.00 pm	Parishioners
Sun 1st	Mary Mother of God	9.30 am 11.00 am	Brenda Cotter (Id) Mary Rey (RIP)



Glory to God in the highest heaven,

And peace to men who enjoy his favour'

Luke 2:14

Confessions:

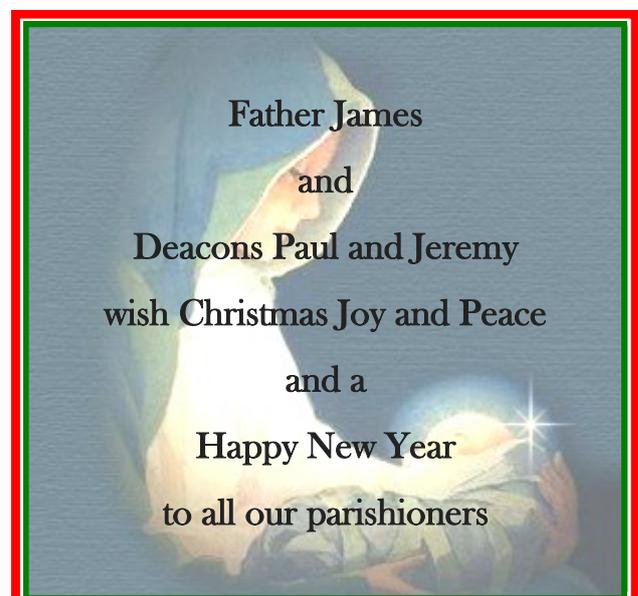
Tue. 6.15pm—6.45pm
 Sat. 4.30 pm - 4.50 pm

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: Mary Ann Kelly, Helen Greatex, Maurice Foran, Peter Michael Farrell, Eileen Woods, Eileen Devaney, Terence Ryan, Frances Joyce Caldwell, William Alben, George McVey, Francis James Coyne, Annie McCarthy, Mary Gledhill, Amalia Paz Gonzalez, Elizabeth Birrell, Thomas Whitworth, Thomas Pritchard, Veronica Quinn, Teresa McAndrew, James Murphy, Gary Peter Smith, Maureen Davies, Louise May Middleton, Charlotte O'Connor, Christopher Duffy.

LATELY DEAD: Sr Christine Warrington, Stan Brittles, Betty Shields



The **Sanctuary Candle** is lit this week for **Dixon & Healey Families** and the **Marian Candle** is lit for **Margaret & Sheila McCarthy**.



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.**

The Pizza and Prayers Youth Group would like to thank the parish for its incredible generosity in the Christmas chocolate raffle. The raffle will pay for one young person to go to Lourdes in summer 2017! Winners of the 3 baskets are: Margaret, Claire, and Ruth Cully and all have been delivered or collected.

Cuppa and Chat

We have now closed for the Christmas break. We re-open on Monday, 9th January, 2017. Happy Christmas to all.

MUSIC ON 1 JANUARY

9.30 am ORGAN

11.00am ORGAN



OFFERTORY 10/11 December

Plate: £493.24 Envelopes: £564.34 S/O: £398.25

Total: £1455.83

Ghana £80.00

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS ATTENDANCE 17/18 December

5.00pm: 158 9.30am: 157 11.00am: 187

TEA AND COFFEE will be served after the 9.30am Mass 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



PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS

Thank you to all those who delivered our parish Christmas cards.

Thank you to everyone who helped clean and prepare our Church for Christmas.

Annual Parish Carol Service

A big thank you to the choir and parishioners who made the carol service with the family of St Anne's church a very uplifting and wonderful start to our Christmas celebrations. The church was full with people from both communities including families from further afield. Also a huge thank you to Vicky Merriman of St Anne's for leading the combined choir over the last few months.

WANTED: USED STAMPS

There is a box at the back of church for used postage stamps, cut out from envelopes with a wide border please, for the Marie Curie Centre in Woolton.

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



St Charles and St Thomas More Parish Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi

Led by Fr James Preston

Mon 12th - Mon 19th June 2017

For further information and booking form contact:
Fr James Preston - Tel 0151 727 2493 or
Gill Didino - Tangney Tours, Pilgrim House, Station Court, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8AF.
www.tangney-tours.com Tel: 01732 88 66 66 Email: gill@tangney-tours.com

2016 Christmas Message of the Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool.

It is very easy to lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas amidst the tinsel, glitter, food and drink, and yet the realities of that first Christmas are all around us today and we don't have to look far to see them. Refugees in a strange land, homelessness, oppression, poverty, cold, hunger - all part of our world today. It would be easy and simplistic to say that nothing has changed, but it has: Jesus embraced our human condition in its entirety: born a refugee under an occupying power, born homeless and in poverty, cold and hungry. In so doing he brought us hope.

Christmas time is rightly a time of celebration but its also a time of giving. We give presents, we share with others, we give our time, our food, our money, our goods, to help those in need in today's world. We open our hearts to others and in so doing open them to God as we do in prayer when we celebrate Mass at Christmas. In remembering the birth of the Christ child we hear his cry for those in need, not least in the land of his birth. I visited the Holy Land recently and saw at first hand a suffering people, I will pray for and with them at Mass this Christmas and for all at home.

In the darkest days of the year when we have a lot to worry about such as keeping warm, feeding our family, the effects of economic changes and Brexit, the true Light has come in our lives to give us real hope, not just wishful thinking. The Light of the world shows us the way out of the gloomy low point of the seasons to a brighter future ahead. It is our belief that the child born in the manger will guide us and support us, that makes all the festivities worthwhile.

Let us make the song of the angels our own: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to people of goodwill.'

Most Reverend Malcolm McMahon OP Archbishop of Liverpool

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.

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.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE AND THE MARIAN CANDLE

can be requested for many reasons. A dedication to a member of your family, young or old, living or dead. For a friend who is in need of prayer. An anniversary, or for yourself for a private intention. Choose a particular week throughout the year, put the name and date on an envelope together with a donation and give it to Fr James or bring it to the parish office.

First Communion Parents Meeting

If you haven't already done so please contact the parish office and make an appointment for the next parents meeting with Fr James.



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.

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.

PARISH PRAYER GROUP

Next meeting Monday 2nd January, 8.00—9.00 pm. Everyone welcome, 727 2195 for information or details. Why not try something new for 2017?



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.

All details will be confirmed closer to the date. Any questions? Please contact the parish office.

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.

ANNUAL APPEAL FOR THE HOMELESS

Many thanks to all those people who answered our appeal for the homeless. The Missionaries of Charity will distribute these items to the poor and homeless in Liverpool. Thank you once again for your kindness.

Christmas Update from the Ghana Group

The Committee want to provide an update on the progress we have made so far and to thank the whole parish for its support. We have been in contact with Father Emmanuel and he asked that the following message be passed to you "We appreciate, and are most grateful, and the Lord bless and replenish all who are helping in diverse ways not forgetting the pupils of St. Charles school."

When Father James suggested our parish offered support to the parish in Ghana one thing he said that struck a lot of us was the fact that if pupils do not have stationery they are not allowed to start the school year. The group decided to focus on this as our first action, so 10 shoeboxes of pens and pencils have been sent to the school to be given to the children at Christmas. The pupils of our school got involved by making some lovely Christmas cards and wrapping the boxes.



We were delighted when one of our parishioners made a donation that has been sent to the school to enable them to buy paper and notebooks so hopefully all of the children will have the tools they need to study.



It has been possible to do this through your kind donations including Ossie's pictures and the fantastic homemade craft items that have been on sale at the back of church during Advent. We have some very talented and generous parishioners.

The committee is already starting to plan some new fundraising activities for the New Year so keep any eye out for our next update.

Many thanks and a Merry Christmas from the Ghana Committee