

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

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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 7th March**

4th Sunday of Lent (B) - 11th March 2018

DAY	FEAST	TIMES	MASS INTENTION
Sat 10th	Vigil Mass with Neocatechumenal Community	5.00 pm	Hugh Halpin (A)
Sun 11th		6.00pm (Hall)	Parishioners
		9.30 am	Anne Bates (RIP)
		11.00 am	Chris McNally (RIP)
Mon 12th		7.00 pm	KSC Council 9 Thanksgiving
Tues 13th		7.30 am	Special Intention (Elizabeth)
Wed 14th		8.15 (School)	Thomas & Mary Jane Farrell (A)
Thu 15th		12 noon	Marie & Vincent Regan
Fri 16th		7.00 pm 7.30 pm	Jean Ennis (birthday) Stations of the Cross
Sat 17th	Vigil 5th Sunday of Lent Mass with Neocatechumenal Community	5.00 pm	Kathleen Langton (A)
Sun 18th		6.00 pm (Hall)	Parishioners
		9.30 am	Baby Dylan (RIP)
		11.00 am	Mary O'Leary (RIP)



'God loved the world so much that he gave his own Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life'

John 3:16

Confessions:

Mon 6.30 - 6.45pm

Sat 4.30 - 4.45 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 Frances Gray, Marie Bernadette Mulhearn, Francis Hilliard, Terence Joseph Whitworth, Josephine Harris, Mary Deegan, Mary Patricia Janssis, Jacqueline Ball, Henry Halliday, James Patrick Fowler, Marie & Terry Donoghue (wedding anniversary)

SICK: Elizabeth Reid, Russell Grindley, Paula Williams.

LATELY DEAD: John Sunners, Elizabeth Conway, Thomas Edward Connell.



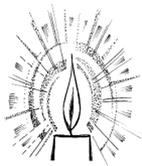
to any visitors and new parishioners.

TEA AND COFFEE will be served after the 9.30am and 11.00am Masses today. All proceeds to the Lourdes Fund.



There will be an obligatory collection after all Masses today for Nugent Care.

The **Sanctuary Candle** is lit this week for **Harry Halliday (A)** and the **Marian Candle** is lit for **Special Intention (Jean Ennis)**



Choir to celebrate Easter

Rehearsals have started but there is still time to join. Come along Wednesday evenings 7-8pm.

Easter Sevice Times

Holy Thursday	7pm	<i>Mass of the Lords Supper Watching until 10pm</i>
Good Friday	10am	<i>Morning Prayer/Office of Readings</i>
	11.30am	<i>Children's Stations of the Cross in the Church Hall</i>
	1.15pm	<i>Good Friday CAFOD Lunch</i>
	3pm	<i>Celebration of the Lords Passion</i>
Holy Saturday	9.00pm	<i>First Mass of Easter</i>
Easter Sunday	9.30am	<i>Mass</i>
	11.00am	<i>Mass</i>

Maundy Thursday – Washing of the Feet.

If you wish to take part in the Washing of the Feet during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday please put your name on the list at the back of the Church. Thank you.

MUSIC ON 18 March

9.30am ORGAN
11.00am MUSIC GROUP



OFFERTORY 3/4 March

Plate: £593.18 Envelopes: £625.19 S/O: £426.25

Total: £1644.62

Lourdes Tea Money:	£ 12.51
Boiler Donations	£ 180.00
Raffle:	£ 83.00
Soup Money (Boiler)	£ 12.00

Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you to all those who organised the **Easter Fair**, and to all who helped. The amount raised was £799.90

MASS ATTENDANCE 3/4 March

5.00pm: 173 9.30am: 142 11.00am: 207
Total: 522

Dear Parishioners,

I've been saddened to hear that there have been some grumbings recently about weekday Mass times having to be changed, or cancelled, as well as the amount of time that I'm not physically in the Parish; as it was put to me by one parishioner, I seem like the absentee Parish Priest. When I was appointed here in 2012, it was clear that my parish commitment was part-time because of my work with vocations. Since then, I have been appointed as vocations director, and this role takes up a large amount of energy alongside that of running a parish. I have always tried to help the parish to grow in faith, and to work with you to make sure that we have an active and vibrant community, and I'm sorry if some of you feel that I'm not as involved as I have been previously. With fewer priests, and more work and responsibility, more is being given to those who are in active ministry, and the challenges will become greater as time progresses. I always try to provide cover when I'm away, but I ask you to be patient with me and to realise that my being away does not always mean I am on holiday.

Please know, that even whilst I might not always be in the geographical boundaries of the parish community, my heart is always firmly planted here. I thank you for your ongoing support, and for your commitment to various lay-ministries within the Church in Aigburth. If it were not for this support and selfless giving, the Parish would certainly not be as vibrant as it is.

I pray that the Lord will bless you and your families this Lent,

Fr. James



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday night during Lent there will be Mass at 7.00pm followed by the Stations of the Cross at 7.30 pm. These will be led by different parish groups.

EASTER LILIES

We are reviving an ancient tradition which associates a lily with the resurrection of Christ and our hope in eternal Life. You are invited to buy a lily in memory of a departed loved one by placing £5 and the name of the person in an envelope and bringing it to the Parish Office. The lilies will be used to decorate the Sanctuary during Easter, and the Vigil Mass will be offered up in their names.

Justice & Peace Group

Thank you for your generosity to CAFOD Fast-day. £401.57- a fantastic gift which will be doubled by Government Matched Fund.



Tuesday evening at 7.00 pm we continue Lent Reflections in the Church Hall... All are welcome!

RESURRECTION CANDLES

During Easter there will be the opportunity to burn a candle in memory of a loved one. The candles will be lit on Holy Saturday Night during the Easter Vigil and will be left lit in church for 7 days. 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 write 'Memorial Candle' together with their name on the front and post it through the letterbox at the Presbytery or leave it in the sacristy.

Altar Servers' Rehearsal

On Tuesday 13 and 20 March at 6pm in Church there will be a rehearsal for our Easter Services. Parents are asked to sit in church whilst the training is taking place. Any children in year 3 or above who wish to begin serving at Mass are very welcome to come along to the rehearsal.

Film Night

Monday 19th March at 7.30pm

Another Mother's Son

Entrance by donation. Please let us know if you are coming.

CEILIDH

Sat 17 March 2017, 7.30 PM

St Anthony of Padua, Queens Drive

Tickets £7.50 Buffet Included

Dancing to Gerry Jones Country Dance Band

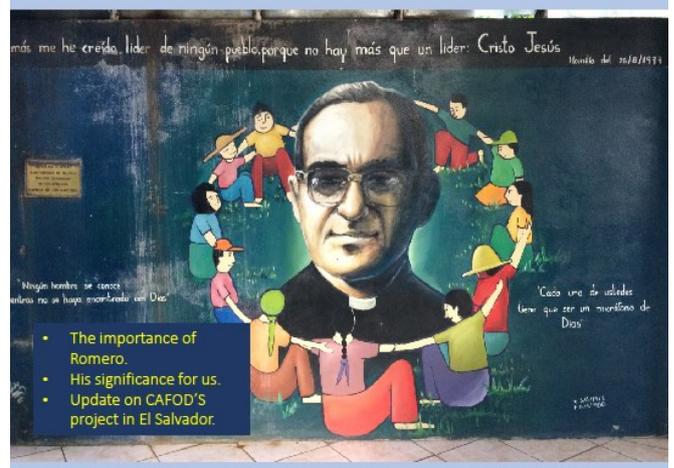
This event is strictly entry by **TICKET ONLY** and tickets must be purchased in advance. There will be no tickets for sale on the night.

Donations of raffle prizes gratefully accepted.

Tickets are available from the Parish Office or after Mass from members of the Social Committee.

PROPHETS... *Livesimply* OF A FUTURE NOT OUR OWN

Speakers: Steve and Anne Atherton
recently returned from a Romero Pilgrimage to El Salvador.



38th Annual Romero Mass

Sunday 18th March 2018 at 11am at St Charles and St Thomas More, 224 Aigburth Road, Liverpool L17 9PG. (Hospitality after Mass.)

For further information please contact Steve Atherton:
0151 522 1080 or s.atherton@rcaol.co.uk

[facebook.com/jpliverpoolj](https://www.facebook.com/jpliverpoolj)

[@liverpooljandp](https://twitter.com/liverpooljandp)



ADDITIONAL MASSES THAT WILL BE CELEBRATED BY FR JAMES THIS WEEK:

DAY	PLACE	TIME	INTENTION
Monday	St Edwards College	8.45am	Eileen Byrne (RIP)
Tuesday	House Mass	Evening	
Wednesday	House Mass	Evening	
Thursday	Bellerive	9.00am	Lynn (RIP)

Pizza & Prayers are proud to bring you their Easter raffle to raise funds for 17 of us going to Lourdes this summer. We have 4 fab chocolate— filled hampers ready for the lucky winners! Tickets will be on sale after each Mass on 24th and 31st. Tickets will be £1 each with the draw taking place after the 11.00 o'clock Mass on April 1st.

Afternoon Tea

15th March

Moscow PowerPoint

All are welcome – Thursdays 1.30-3pm in the Parish Hall.

BLESSED OSCAR ROMERO

This year we celebrate the 38th annual Romero Mass to commemorate the martyrdom of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, the onetime archbishop of El Salvador. There are only two places in the world that have commemorated his assassination every year since he was murdered in 1980: one is El Salvador and the other is our archdiocese of Liverpool.

During the three years that Romero was archbishop of El Salvador the country was building up to a civil war that exploded into its full horror soon after his death.

Archbishop Romero's mission was one of hope, of Good News. His appointment as Archbishop was welcomed by the rich and powerful, including the military rulers of the country because he was 'a safe pair of hands'. But they were wrong about him. He was quiet so they thought he was unthinking; he was gentle so they thought he was weak; he was traditional so they thought he was conservative; he was a friend of the rich so they thought he was an enemy of the poor; he was old so they thought he couldn't change. They didn't reckon on the power of the Gospel.

Romero was evangelized by the people he visited in impoverished and brutally violated communities. The people of God changed him. Romero believed that each person's life, each one's history is his or her meeting place with God. And this is one of the things he can teach us: God is active in our lives. Two months before he was killed Romero said: *"the Word of God is not a reading of the past but a living Word, a Spirit that is being accomplished here and now."*

Romero listened to the stories of the people, one after another, day after day, and he held them sacred. He gave the *campesinos*, the peasants, priority. He would leave meetings with 'important' people if one of the poor came to see him, saying *"They have walked all day to see me. You came in a car."*

Romero chose sides in the complex, violent socio-political reality of his time but still maintained his commitment to nonviolence. He positioned himself so that he could speak truth publicly and privately based on the stories he heard and the reality he witnessed day after day – where he could plead for an end to all the violence, for a peace that was not, in his words, *'the silence of cemeteries'*. Archbishop Romero's deep spirituality and his powerful witness make him an exceptional model for would-be disciples of Jesus. He is like a brother to Pope Francis who has warned us recently about losing the Gospel in *'an ocean of words'*.

Romero was a deeply spiritual man who spent long hours in prayer. There's a story of a man waiting at the chapel to meet the archbishop but there was no sign of the him, just an old priest saying his prayers. The visitor waited impatiently for nearly an hour, looking at his watch and wondering where Romero was. Then the priest got up from his knees and came to the door. It was Romero.

To remember Romero is not just a nice thing to do. Despite his fear – and his diaries reveal a man in fear of his life - he had the strength to defy death. He recorded that one day as he was being driven through the city he saw a man climb up a telegraph pole, turn towards the approaching car and reach into the bag he was carrying. Romero feared the worst and broke into a cold sweat. The 'assassin' turned out to be a telephone engineer.

Romero absolutely believed in Resurrection and he constantly gave witness to that belief in the way he lived and the words he spoke. To remember Romero is to embrace the fullness of life.

During this century, the world has experienced unremitting violent conflict or brutal repression every day: Sudan, Colombia, Palestine, Iraq, Afghanistan, DR Congo, Mexico, Libya, Mali, Pakistan, Syria. We have witnessed the globalization of social injustice, with a growing gap between a very few who are extremely wealthy and a majority in almost every country who are increasingly poor. We have seen the emergence of a battlefield without borders. Even in this country we have a government that favours the rich and targets the poor. We see the earth's ecosystems dangerously threatened.

Archbishop Romero taught us to be in solidarity with those who are poor; to accompany people living precariously on the margins of life; to look at reality through their eyes; to embrace the risks that come with being connected to suffering and marginalized people.

Romero challenges us to risk acting on the Gospel.

Blessed Oscar Romero - Monseñor - the Saint of the Americas:

Pray for us.