

THE PARISH OF ST CHARLES AND ST THOMAS MORE

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

The Parish of St Charles and St Thomas More, illuminated by the Light of Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, seeks to bring that light to South Liverpool always striving to be a loving and welcoming community where all people are included and valued, and strangers are treated as friends. Fed and nurtured by scripture, prayer and the Sacraments, we journey together to come closer to God so that we can proclaim His love in our thoughts, words and actions.

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Newsletter items to barbaracharles50@gmail.com by 8pm on Wednesday 8th January 2020

Parish Priest

Fr Ron Johnson

Deacons:

Rev Paul McNicholl,

Rev Jeremy Mitchinson

Pastoral Associate:

Helen Jones,

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Mrs Val Hogg

Primary School:

St Charles, Tramway

Road, L17 7JA

Tel: 0151 727 5830

Headteacher:

Mrs Rebecca Dean

Website:

www.stcharlescatholicprimary.com

rimary.com

Baptism of the Lord (YEAR A)

12th January 2019

DAY	FEAST	TIMES	MASS INTENTION
Sat 11th	Confessions Vigil Neocatechumenal Community	4.30-4.45pm 5.00 pm 6.00 pm	John Wilcox (A) Parishioners
Sun 12th	The Baptism of the Lord	9.30 am 11.00 am	Helen & Peter Kane (bd) Smith Family
Mon 13th	Confessions St Hilary of Poitiers	6.30-6.45pm 7.00 pm	Michael Doyle
Tues 14th		9.30 am	Bob Roberts (A)
Wed 15th		12.00 noon	Barbara Miller (RIP)
Thu 16th		12.00 noon	Tom Poole (A)
Fri 17th	St Anthony, abbot	No Mass	Private Prayer
Sat 18th	Confessions Vigil Neocatechumenal Community	4.30-4.45pm 5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Kathleen M Roberts (A) Parishioners
Sun 19th		9.30 am 11.00 am	Marie O'Connor Colman Fitzgerald (A)



to all visitors and new parishioners.

Thank you for your participation in our worship.

Your presence has enriched our Eucharistic celebration.

May the same Eucharist enrich your life. We wish you all a blessed week.

We hold in prayer all who are sick in body, mind or spirit, at home or in hospital, the housebound and all who care for them, those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. We pray also for those who mourn that they come to experience the peace of the Risen Christ.



ANNIVERSARIES: John Wilcox, Henry Mangan, Francis McMahon, Catherine Douglas, Caroline Scales, Nora Staunton, Thomas Morris, Kathleen Winter, Kathleen Hand, John Adedze, Thomas Barnes, Vera Williams, Tony Foran, James Nugent, Dorothy Kean, John Codd, Edward Bernard, Henry Burquest, Catherine Angell, Neville Ashton, Bob Roberts, Tom Poole, Kathleen M Roberts, Marie O'Connor, Colman Fitzgerald.

SICK: Susan Bell, Rachel Gordon, Mary Owens, Betty Roberts

LATELY DEAD: Mary Magdalen Kelly, James Colin Lafferty, Marie Whewell, Barbara Holm, Colette McCaughran, Peter Corley.



Candle Intentions This Week:

Sanctuary Candle: Thanksgiving

Marian Candle: Thanksgiving

Sacred Heart Candle: Tommy McAndrew
(Id)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Today we welcome to God's family
Noah Robert Farrington who will be
baptised. Please remember him and
his family in your prayers.



Welcome Child of Light. Receive my Life!

Music Sunday 19th January

9.30 am MUSIC GROUP

11.00 am ORGAN



Offertory 4/5 January

Plate: £581.92 Envelopes: £456.85

S/O: £410.00 **Total: £1448.77**

Thank you for your generosity.

Mass Attendance

28/29 December

5.00 pm: 191

9.30am: 146

11.00am: 195

Total: 532

Thought for the week:

It's the little things that reveal the chapters of the
heart - the little attentions, small incidences and
simple acts of kindness that make up the sum of life's
happiness.

TEA AND COFFEE

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



POPS (Partners of Prisoners)

HMP Liverpool

Many thanks to all who donated to the Christmas
tree appeal for this charity. Letter received from
the manager, "Many thanks for all the amazing
toys and gifts. They will be used on visits the
children have with their dads. We also hold 'family
days' which are longer sessions where dads can
play with their children and enjoy fun and games.
We really appreciate your generosity." Gemma
Richardson.

Baptism Preparation Course

Today at the 9.30am Mass we welcome
to our Parish Community the families
whose children will be Baptised
over the next few months.

Nugent - Crib Appeal 2019/20

Please help us to continue the work
of our founder, Fr James Nugent,
by giving your support to our Crib Appeal.
All proceeds will be used to help children
and adults in need across the Archdiocese.
There is a box marked Crib Offerings in between
the doors at the back of the church
if you would like to donate.

MESSY CHURCH - Saturday 18th January at 11am in the Parish Hall.

Lots of messy crafts, fun, stories and songs for you
to enjoy. Messy Church is for all ages and for
everyone in our community so feel free to bring
your friends and neighbours. We also enjoy lunch
and a cup of tea together. Messy Church is free to
attend but it is your donations that keep us going.
All children must be accompanied by an adult and
we are always looking for new members. If you
want anymore information, follow our Facebook
page or call Nickie on 07545613590.

Pizza and Prayers

meets again on Sunday, 19 January 6:30-8pm in the parish room. All young people in Secondary School are welcome. Bring along £1 for pizza. We will be starting to plan for our away week-end in Keswick 13-15 March.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Meeting

Soon after I arrived in the parish a number of questions and suggestions were made about how we function as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion during the Liturgy and while making visits to people's homes. At that time I suggested we left everything just as it was until I had an opportunity to see how things were done, keeping true to the principle not to change things if they worked okay.

Now is probably the right time to get together and discuss things and so we are holding a meeting on **Monday 27th January (please note the change from date published previously)** after the 7 pm Mass. If you have any suggestions for topics or questions that might help our discussions please let me know in advance.

Why we need more deacons

"...YOU WILL RECOGNISE THEM AS DISCIPLES OF HIM WHO CAME NOT TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE"

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon will host an evening for men who may be wondering if they are called to serve as deacons and what the formation involves.

Wives, priests and deacons are also welcome.

Wednesday 5th February 2020, 7.30 - 9.00pm

**at St Joseph's Parish Centre, Crow Orchard Lane,
Wrightington WN6 9PA**

(refreshments available from 7pm)

0151 522 1042 or Email: diaconte@rcaol.co.uk

Pastoral Associate Update: A Happy New Year to one and all! Most of my new year's resolutions are already a distant memory (!) but I am resolved to engage with issues I **can** affect in my locality. The Justice & Peace Commission's Annual Memorial Lecture on Sunday 19 January will be given by Kevin Hyland OBE who is a founder member of the Pope Francis' Santa Marta group combating modern day slavery and initiated by our Bishops of England and Wales. Human trafficking is on our streets if we can read the signs, which will be highlighted, and it could be you or I who makes a difference and literally enables captives to be set free. See you there? *"Each one of us can make a difference. Together we make change"* quote by Barbara Mikulski, the longest serving woman in the history of the US Congress. God Bless, Helen.

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH HALL

PENSIONERS CLUB Mondays at 2pm –3.30pm.

CUPPA AND A CHAT Thursdays 2:00-3:30 pm.

BINGO Friday evening at 7.30pm.

Year 8 - Confirmation 2020

Have you been confirmed? Are you in Year 8? Are you ready to receive the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation to empower, guide and strengthen you?

If you are willing to mark this milestone in starting your adult journey in Faith then:

If you are in Year 8 at a Catholic School - Animate Youth Ministries will be delivering confirmation preparation as part of the Religious Education curriculum and you will be contacted through school.

If you are in Year 8 in a non-Catholic School - Please register online to attend the free preparation day on Saturday 29 February 2020. The link is under the tab *Confirmation // Called to Serve* at

www.animateyouth.org

If you are the parent or relative or a friend or neighbour of a potential Confirmation candidate, please do pass on this information. For further details contact Fr Simon Gore on 01744 740461/467 or s.gore@animateyouth.co.uk

OUR FAMILY: SAFE AND SECURE

We will soon have hosted our family in Liverpool for three months. There has been a great deal of activity supporting the mother and her two daughters, some of it strenuous, some of it less so, all of it rewarding. We have learnt a great deal, and some lessons have been tough to learn, particularly about how hard it is for refugees and asylum seekers to navigate our systems without any kind of support, but most of all what we have learnt is how kind people have been, and how willing they have been to help when asked.

For reasons of protecting their privacy it is not possible to divulge too much of their story since they arrived one Tuesday afternoon in October at Manchester Airport, escorted by a member of the International Organization for Migration, acting on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In time we might be able to share this with people, but the tone was very much set in the first week, when we were walking with the family down Lord Street, on a bright and sunny autumn day when Liverpool city centre looked lovely. We were going to an appointment at a bank in order to open an account, when the mother stopped, looked around, and said, in a very broken English, "My dream, my dream: my family free and safe".

We set out on the other side of this Newsletter a brief summary of the progress that has been made in each of the areas we took responsibility for. We are delighted to report that just over a month after the arrival, the Home Office met with the group, and the family, to monitor our progress and declared themselves pleased with things so far.

There are five key areas of support we have offered the family: Finance; Housing; Welfare; Education; and Employment.

Finance: Thanks to your wonderful generosity we collected just over £12,000. This allowed us to pay the rent on the house until the family arrived. Because the family had very little, almost no English, we have had to pay for interpreters when we meet with various agencies, job centres, and go to school meetings. State financial support is now in place, and the family are moving towards independent budgeting. There have been struggles on the way dealing with utility companies, for example, who demand a credit rating the family has not got. This struggle is not confined to refugees.

Housing: The housing association redecorated the house before handing it over, but it was unfurnished, uncarpeted, and without curtains. We were able to furnish it to a good standard, but we have met additional costs to make it suitable for the family, it having previously been fitted out for a disabled resident. We are blessed that the house is in a very good location, and there are lovely neighbours.

Welfare: The basic needs of registering the family with doctors, dentist, seeing opticians have been met, but much more was needed. Members of the group have taken the family out on excursions to the shops, library, theatre for Christmas panto, the Waterfront for firework displays, and enjoyed with them the rich cultural experiences Liverpool has to offer. This has been of as much benefit to our group members and their families, as to our mother and her daughters. The interaction of the children has been one of the loveliest things to witness. Exchanges with other Arabic speakers are increasing.

Education: We were further blessed with places for the two girls, at the two schools we most wanted them to attend. We have much to be grateful for and thank the schools for the vision and witness they have shown. The girls are quick learners, and like their mother are very keen to learn. English is key, and the mother attends Asylum Link classes. The family all have one-to-one language sessions with the specialist members of our group. In the New Year the mother will be able to attend local ESOL classes.

Employment: There has been much research into volunteering opportunities. Language fluency will open doors and there is every motivation for the mother who is keen to give them a push.

Your support and help: We knew that this is a time of great adjustment for the family; there was much anxiety, which by our friendship and support we have calmed. It is good that we have responded to the appeals of Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury to offer sanctuary to victims of war. It is not often we get a chance to change some people's lives for the better: we can see now that that is what we are doing, but only because we have been supported by our congregations. Thank you all.