

Christmas Mass Times

So as you know, Mass times for Christmas will be

Sunday 24th December 7.00pm

Carols from 6.30pm

Monday 25th December: Midnight
10.00am

If you can pass the word around please, so people will know the times.



St. Brigid's Nativity

Tomorrow afternoon, (Monday) the children of St. Brigid's school will be performing their annual Nativity play, here in Church. Everyone is welcome and the Nativity will begin at 2.00pm



Joint Schools Mass

Tuesday morning Mass this term has been joyful, as we have been joined by the classes from St. Albert's school each week. This coming Tuesday we will be joined by all the children of St. Albert's and St. Brigid's schools for their end of term Christmas Mass. Our celebration will begin at 10.00am and everyone is invited to join us for our Mass.



Christmas Crib

We will be putting the Christmas Crib up next Saturday 23rd December and we need some volunteers to help moving it and setting it up. If anyone would be willing to help, could you come along to Church next Saturday at 11.00am please. The more here, the quicker it can be assembled.



Christmas Flowers

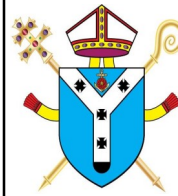
We will be getting the flowers for the Christmas Altar in the next few days. If anyone would like to make a donation towards the cost of the flowers, there is a basket at the back of the Church for you to leave your donations, or please see either Jackie Dalton or Father David and leave it with one of us.



Parish Offertory Collection

When we were talking about financing the parish a few months ago, a couple of people asked if there was any chance of getting a card reader for the parish. The answer was yes there was and after months of asking the diocese for one, it has finally arrived. If you need the card reader, please ask and it will be available for you to use. All you need to do is put in the donation you wish to make and either tap your card or put your card in the reader and put in your pin number and your donation will be made to the parish.

If you are buying items from the Piety Stall, you can also use the card machine for purchases.



The Parish of Saint Albert the Great

31 Hollow Croft, Stockbridge Village, Liverpool L28 4EA
☎ 0151 228 7308 ✉ stalberts@rcaol.org.uk

Parish Priest: Rev. David Gamble Parish Deacon: Rev. Daniel Piwowar

Newsletter



St Albert The Great RC Parish
Stockbridge Village

saintalberts128



3rd Sunday of Advent (B)

17th December 2023

Mass Times & Intentions

Sunday 17th December (3rd Sunday of Advent)
10.00am Ronnie & Mary Laine & Parishioners

Monday 18th December
10.00am **No Service**

Tuesday 19th December **Mass with both Schools**
10.00am Mary Rice

Wednesday 20th December
12.00pm **REQUIEM MASS**
Pheobe Alice Shaw

Thursday 21st December
10.00pm Fr. Anthony Petty

Friday 22nd December
10.00am Linda Barton

Saturday 23rd December
10.00am **No Service**

Sunday 24th December (4th Sunday of Advent)
10.00am Fr. Gerard Greaves & Parishioners



There stands among you,
the one coming after me



Please remember in your prayers:

The Sick in our parish:

Pat Fleming, Sylvia Fleming, Tobin Lee, Katie Westwell, Rose Mary Marston, Ethel Waite, Betty Carroll, Anne Viz, Archbishop Patrick Kelly, Patricia Louise Jones, Mr & Mrs McDonagh, Christopher McRae, Sister Savio, Dee Kelly, Denise Ball, Br. John Smith MHM, Fr. Tony Slingo, Matt Ingham, Sr. Eva M^cHale, Vera Henry

Those who have died recently

*Eternal Rest, grant unto them O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.
Amen*

Christmas Appeal 2023

I cannot thank you enough for your generosity with our 2023 Christmas Appeal. Over all, we received more than 250 selection boxes and chocolates, which is astounding. These will be distributed to the children's homes in Saint Helens and Freshfield, that we supported at Easter, as well as around the village. When it comes to the warm items, we have been able to make up 50 parcels for men and women of hats, scarves, gloves, hot water bottles etc and these will be shared out around the village. A friend of mine has bought gifts bags for us so we do not give them away in plastic bags, and the Archdiocese has donated some reusable cloth bags, which I am grateful for.

The Travelling Community also donated to us, a large quantity of toys and they have been given out through our two schools. Thank you to you for your generosity.

I put something up on my Facebook page about your kindness and he donated £200 to our cause. With that we have bought 10, £20 Tesco vouchers, which have been given to some families in need in our village.

I never cease to be amazed at your kindness and support of any appeals I have made since I have been here. May God bless you all.



Christmas Raffle

We are holding our annual Christmas Raffle, and tickets are now on sale after Mass, priced just £1 a strip. We are still looking for prizes to be donated, if you have any prizes you would like to donate, can you please bring them to church with you, marked, Christmas Raffle and we will include them in the draw. Time is running out so, get your tickets today.



Mary's Meals - Double the Love

From 22 November 2023 to 22 January 2024, donations made to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1million. Today, we face some of our greatest challenges yet in a world devastated by conflict, food insecurity and the cost of living crisis, which we know is affecting people here in the UK as well as in the countries where we work, such as Syria, Haiti and South Sudan. With Double the Love, your donation will be matched and your kindness will go even further – meaning we can reach even more desperately hungry children with a life-changing school meal. There are many ways to get involved, find out more at <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>



Church Windows

Last week, I put more of the acetates at the back of the church, and all of them went, which I am delighted about. If you have brought them with you today, can you please leave them with me and I will get them up as soon as possible. I have printed some more and they are at the back of the church, if you want to do some for own home windows.



Families of Parishes

I want to thank Mrs. Rachael Tyler for all the work she is doing on the Knowsley Synodal Council and for speaking to us last weekend about the Family of Parishes idea. I have published in the newsletter, this week, the letter that is being given to every parishioner in the Knowsley Deanery. Please do take it home with you, read and if you have any comments, please do let me or Mrs. Tyler know, so as we can report back our parish's views and thoughts.



Christian Aid Middle East Crisis Appeal

The International development charity Christian Aid is appealing for more help in boosting funds to continue to support its local partners. Everyone is being urged to consider making a donation - every amount will make a difference; £6 will pay for a basic hygiene kit while a donation of £37 will pay for a food parcel for a family of five in Gaza. Further details on what is being done with the money is in the press release attached. To make a donation, please visit the Middle East Crisis Appeal page on the Christian Aid website.



CAFOD Fun Run

CAFOD's Christmas Fun Run is back! Join us for some festive fun on Wednesday 27 December to walk, run, roll or stroll a 3km or 5km route, all raising money for CAFOD's work. Get the family together for the Fun Run with a difference, all whilst burning off that Christmas indulgence! This year, the Christmas Fun Run will be raising funds for mums and babies fleeing conflict around the world. The details for the Liverpool Fun Run are Start date 27 December 2023, beginning at 10:00am, Location: Wavertree Sports Park, Wellington Road, Liverpool, L15 4LE For more details please Email events@cafod.org.uk or phone 07779 804242



Knowsley Deanery Synodal Council

Letter on Family of Churches

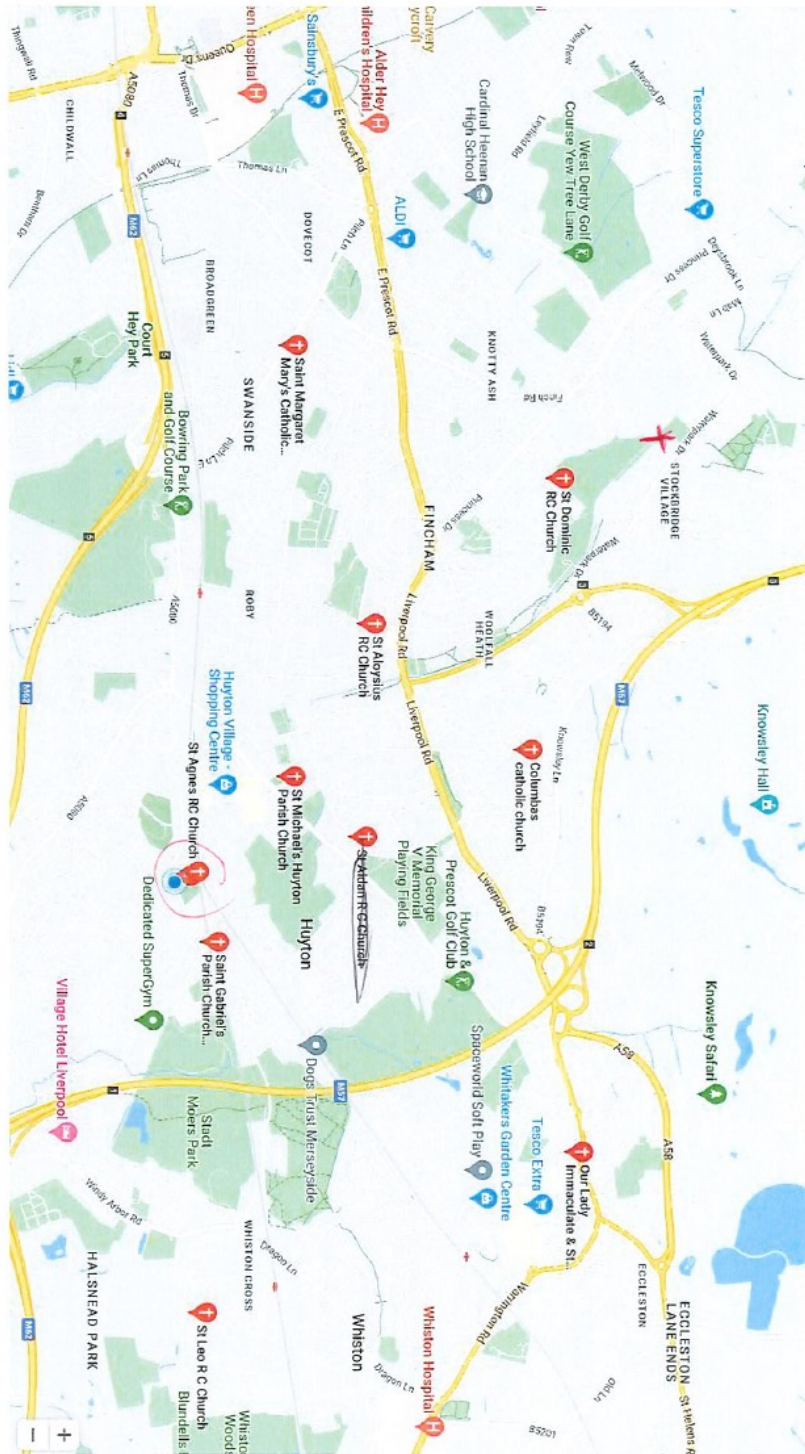
Dear Parishioners,

Some months ago, the Archbishop made a request to all Parish Priests from across the Archdiocese of Liverpool for a lay person from each parish in their area to be a representative who would become a member of their local 'Deanery Synodal Council'. These representatives have been meeting since April 2023 to talk about key issues within our Knowsley Deanery parishes (Kirkby, Huyton, Prescot) and to begin to think about planning for the future.

The Deanery Synodal Council Reps are:

St Peter and St Paul	Ken McCabe	St Albert	Rachael Tyler
St Mary, Mother of God	Joanne Cotter	St Columba's & St John Fisher	Colette Murphy
St Michael and All Angels	Carrie Hyland	St Dominic's	
St Joseph & St Laurence.	Alex Swift	St Aloysius	
		St Agnes & St Aidan's	Sally Ann Burke

Our Ladys, Portico	Moira Devlin
Our Lady & St Josephs, Prescot	Paul Oulton
St Luke's and St Leo's, Whiston	Tony McCaul



The Archbishop has now asked each ‘Deanery Synodal Council’ to try to identify what are being called, “families of parishes.” These would be groups of parishes that could work together and support each other more closely. The idea is to begin to share the different resources of each individual parish more within each wider ‘family’, so that we can all operate more effectively and be more supportive and responsive across each parish’s ‘family’. For example, priests giving their support, with the support of the lay people within their parishes, and sharing other resources such as administrative help, buildings, and facilities etc between the parishes within their ‘family’. By working collaboratively and combining some of our efforts together we would hope that the energy and vitality of the Catholic faith will be preserved and renewed and that parishes will remain a focal point in the community, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

This is not about closing Churches. But, as an example, not every parish has its own meeting rooms, or enough sacramental preparation groups, or catechists, or SVP members or prayer groups helpers, but some of these things could be organised for groups of parishes and meetings and groups might for example happen at one of the Parish meeting rooms rather than try to arrange in each separate parish.

Looking to have new buildings constructed or developed in one parish would need to be considered in the light of the needs of the wider area of the family of parishes and deanery parishes and the wider needs and annual financial demands across all the parishes of the archdiocese. Decisions about the repair of Churches and all other parish buildings, Presbyteries, Halls etc are ultimately taken by the Archbishop and the archdiocesan authorities . From time to time the costs of these repairs may lead the archdiocese to limit the level of repairs or if the needs of wider ‘family’ change, they then may decide some of the buildings at some of the parishes are too expensive to fully maintain, particularly if there are suitable alternatives in the wider ‘family of parishes’.

We understand that this might seem uncomfortable and even unwelcome for some people. However, the reality is that as fewer people attend Mass and it becomes harder to get volunteers to support the work of the Church, we have to be more realistic, and parishes will have to adapt in order to be able to continue to serve their communities well.

Our Knowsley Deanery Synodal Council has recently identified that, as a starting point, a sensible approach could be groupings of parishes which make some sort of geographical sense for our own, “families of parishes,” . This will need to be approved by the Archbishop, but provisionally the Knowsley Synodal Council have proposed the following three groups of ‘families of parishes’ at a recent meeting of the Archdiocese Synodal Council held on 25th November 2023:

KIRKBY FAMILY	St. Peter & St Paul, St Mary, Mother of God, St Michael and All Angels, St Joseph & St Laurence.
HUYTON FAMILY	St Albert the Great, St Columba’s & St John Fisher, St Dominic's, St Aloysius, St Agnes & St Aidan’s
PRESCOT FAMILY	Our Ladys, Portico, Our Lady & St Josephs, Prescot, St Luke’s and St Leos, Whiston.

More information will be shared in the coming months and there will be more discussions before these proposals lead to any changes in your area.

Knowsley Synodal Council Representatives & Priests
2nd Sunday of Advent 2023