

# Goodbye 2023 and hello 2024

Dina Carroll sang “Ring out the old, bring in the new, A midnight wish to share with you,” in her 1993 song, The Perfect Year. For some, 2023 may have been a perfect year; one we may never want to end. For others it is a year of sadness and one we will be glad to see the back of. For me? It’s been a great year, getting to know you all, and I have many happy memories. Some of the highlights for me were the Coronation Party and how a few people put together a fantastic day in a very short time. The re-opening of the Youth Club and the joy in your faces, when you saw how it had been renovated (not to mention the archbishop too!). But my fondest memories of 2023 are all about you and your generosity to others in need, bringing over 130 Easter Eggs in our Lenten appeal. And you must have bought Parry’s and Tesco out of Selection Boxes, hats, gloves and scarves etc, such was your response to our Advent appeal. But sadly, it’s not been the perfect year and as we come to the end of 2023, Ukraine is still at war with Russia, Israel and Hamas are still fighting with more and more innocents caught in the middle. Loved ones have left us, and our ignorance of climate change means the world gets warmer and resources dry up. There is so much to thank God for; for all the blessings and guidance he has shown us. And so much to ask him to heal and restore in our broken world. I think the new year gives us an opportunity to reflect on what has happened in the past, and to resolve to make new and amend our mistakes. May we be open to the opportunities God gives us, and use them for our good and the good of others.

I heard on the radio today;

*“An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in.*

*A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.”*

As the midnight hour approaches, as we come to the end of the old year and bring in the new, whether we are optimists or pessimists, I hope and pray that 2024 will bring you joy, happiness and blessings, and may it be for all of us as near as possible—the perfect year!

## A prayer for the New Year

Lord, I pray for joy and happiness in the coming year of 2024.

Fill my heart with the joy that comes

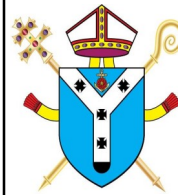
from knowing you and walking in your ways.

Help me to find happiness not only in external circumstances,  
but in the depth of me.

May I experience the joy and happiness that come  
from walking in your presence each day.

Amen.

May God bless you all.



# The Parish of Saint Albert the Great

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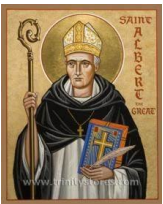
Parish Priest: Rev. David Gamble Parish Deacon: Rev. Daniel Piwowar

## Newsletter



St Albert The Great RC Parish  
Stockbridge Village

saintalberts128



*Solemnity of the Holy Family*

*31<sup>st</sup> December 2023*

## Mass Times and Intentions

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December  
10.00am

*(Feast of the Holy Family)*

Parishioners

# 2024



Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January  
10.00am

*(Solemnity of Mary Mother of God)*

Parishioners

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January  
10.00am

*(Ss. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen)*

Sandra O’Boyle (birthday)

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January  
10.00pm

*(Most Holy Name of Jesus)\**

Pop & Pat Muldoon

My eyes have seen  
your salvation

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January  
**12.00pm**

**REQUIEM MASS**

**Bernadette Norris**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January  
9.30am

Mass with St. Albert’s School

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January  
10.00am

No Mass

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January  
10.00am

*(Feast of the Epiphany)*

Sister Savio & Parishioners



## 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<sup>c</sup>Hale, Vera Henry

*Those who have died recently* Miles Fenlon, Fr. Terry Murray OMI, Bernadette Norris

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

## First Reconciliation and Communions 2024

We are supposed to be having our first meeting of 2024 with the parents and children who make their First Holy Communion this year, next Sunday. Due to various reasons we will have to put it back to **Sunday 14th January**. It is important that ALL parents and children attend the session and I ask you all to keep the candidates and their families in your thoughts and prayers over the next few months of preparation.



## Time Out On Tuesdays

Wanting time for yourself? Time to stop and reflect? Time to step aside for a while from the daily round of life? Then why not join The Sisters of Our Lady and the Cenacle on a Tuesday from Tuesday 9th January, to get away for a few hours to stop and ponder the important things of life? No need to book, just come along and maybe bring a friend. Suggested offering for the day is £10, bring your own lunch, tea/coffee provided. For further information contact Sr Winnie 0151,722,2271. Sisters of Our Lady of the Cenacle, Liverpool, Tithebarn Grove, Lance Lane, Wavertree L15 6TW



## Pause for thought

God so greatly desires to embrace our lives that, infinite though he is, he becomes finite for our sake. In his greatness, he chooses to become small. This is the wonder of Christmas: the unprecedented tenderness of a God who saves the world by becoming incarnate.



- Pope Francis

## Apologies and thank you.

As you probably know by now, last weekend I tested positive for Covid. I sought advice from the diocese, as to what I should do, and that advice was to isolate for 5 days. It came too late to get anyone to cover the 10.00am Mass and I had to celebrate it, with all the precautions we took. The rest of Christmas Eve was taken up with try to get cover for the Christmas Masses. Late Sunday afternoon, I learnt that Bishop Tom Williams was willing to cover the 7.00pm Mass and Fr. Frank Graham MHM, from Mill Hill in Freshfield would celebrate the 10.00am on Christmas Day. As much as I tried, I could not get any cover for the Midnight Mass and had to cancel it.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Bishop Tom and Fr. Frank for stepping at such short notice and covering for me on Christmas Day. I also want to thank Deacon Michael Whelan from St. Agnes', Huyton for taking the funeral of Myles Fenlon with 2 days notice, and to all the parishioners who rallied round, and did so much behind the scenes, to make sure everything could run as smooth as it did and also ran the shops to get medicine and paracetamol for me.

Can I also sincerely apologise to anyone who turned up for midnight Mass, only to find the gates locked. I am very sorry for the inconvenience caused. I never like cancelling Mass especially one such as Midnight Mass, but it was impossible to get cover at that time.

My isolation came to an end on Thursday, and although not feeling 100%, I am back at the desk and will resume Mass from today onwards.

Thanks again for all your kindness and understanding, I really do appreciate all the support you have shown me over the last week.

May God bless you all.

*Father David*

## Thank you

On behalf of Deacon Daniel and his family, my dad and myself, can I thank you all for the kindness you have shown us all, over the Christmas period. We all appreciate the cards, thoughts, prayers and presents we have all received and thank you all so much for your generosity.



## Peace Sunday Mass and Lecture

Join Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP, and Pax Christi Liverpool for solemn mass at 11.00am to mark Peace Sunday on Sunday 14th January. This will be followed by the Liverpool Archdiocese Justice and Peace Commission's annual memorial lecture at 1:30 PM in the Gibberd room at the Cathedral. Andrew Jackson CEO of Pax Christi England and Wales will speak on 'The challenges of non-violence in 2024: being non-violent in a violent world.' For more details contact [p.guidi@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:p.guidi@rcaol.org.uk) All are welcome to attend.

