

LAMENTATION and MOURNING IN OUR TIMES

WAR: This Remembrance Sunday our churches lead the gathering at the memorial as we lament the horrors of past wars, honour those who sacrificed for us, conscious of the 100th anniversary of WW1 so quickly followed by WW2. As the **War in Syria and Iraq** continues, may Christ's call to ways of non-violence increase more and more among his followers, and International Relations across Europe and the World.

OUR DEAD: The **November List** masses continue on Thursdays and Fridays. **Annual Memorial Mass:** our Bereavement Care Team welcome all to this gathering on **Tuesday 22nd Nov at 7pm** at Sacred Heart. As well as those personally invited, all are welcome and anyone can include a name in the **Candle Ceremony**.

FACING DEATH: "**The Art of Dying Well**" is a new website from our Bishops' Conference, offering 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 about dealing with the journey through death to eternal life. Visit www.artofdyingwell.org and a prayer card from the church porches.

PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS :

We will join in with many at the call from **Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)** urging all Christians to make 23rd November **RED WEDNESDAY:** to remember and offer prayer and fasting in solidarity with all persecuted and martyred Christians of our times. Make a stand for faith and freedom! Wear red that day. Westminster Cathedral and Abbey are! Visit www.acnuk.org.

REFUGEES and ASYLUM SEEKERS:

Helping refugees to carry their hateful cross is part of our calling today. **The Lampedusa Cross**, made from the wood of destroyed refugee boats from the Mediterranean, will lead us in a special prayer time on **Thursday 24th November** at 2pm and again at 7pm in Sacred Heart.

GOOD GOVERNMENT is desperately needed, with so many corrupt regimes, and with the UK Referendum and the USA Election exposing millions to much uncertainty and dread. The Vocation to Good Politics is vital!

CHRIST THE KING is our hope,

and sharing in his continuing mission the hope of the world. Next Sunday we renew our faith in Christ as True King and also celebrate the completion of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, when we announce our decisions from the Open Forum for continued merciful living during the coming year 2017: Parish Chosen Charities, spiritual commitments, Welcoming developments, Pastoral Area initiatives.

ADVENT.....and PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

SJS Christmas Fair starts us off next Saturday from 1pm, (Santa arrives 1.30pm) **Aid To The Church in Need (ACN)** have a brochure with beautiful cards and Christmas gifts, available in the church porches or visit them on www.acnuk.org **Reflection: Booklets** from Redemptorist Press and Walk With Me for the scriptures and thoughts for each day. Advent Calendars for adults and children: prayer & actions **Prayer:** use the normal times of **Adoration** each week; let us pray **the Angelus** at noon each day of Advent; **The Prayer of the Church** is prayed together each day at 9.15am and during Advent also Evening Prayer: time yet to be decided. Your **personal prayer** at home, or in church: SJS church is open each day for prayer. **Masses:** come to daily mass – come to the mass at the “other” church also.

House Mass is offered during Advent: especially for sick at home, but also able-bodied. If you would like a mass in your home with others to join you, please contact Fr Tony to arrange a date NOW.

Scripture: the Pastoral Area is hosting sessions on the Sunday Readings of Advent, led by the Irenaeus team: at St Patrick's Hall on Thursdays at 7.30pm starting 8th Dec **MUTUAL VISITATION:** as part of our Priority to grow as a welcoming parish, we follow Mary's example in Advent living: when she welcomed the Spirit to give flesh to Christ, she then went to meet with Elizabeth her partner in God's Christmas mission **Sacred Heart will start** with hosting the parish to gather for the **one mass** that morning, on Sunday 11th December at 10.00am.

St John Stone will host the second visitation on Sunday 15th January.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

This year our Parish offers a “Night Mass” and not Midnight Mass, hoping that this will encourage more people to come and join in with a Christmas Night Mass.

Friday 16th Dec: 7pm SJS Church & Hall, Christmas Carols and Party

Sunday 18th Dec: 6.30 SH Hall Carol Concert

Monday 19th Dec: 7pm Carols around the Houses, Woodvale starting from SJS

Saturday 24th Dec: 6pm Christmas Eve Mass - St John Stone Church
8.30 Carols and Christmas Night Mass - Sacred Heart Church

Sunday 25th Dec: 9am Christmas Day Mass – Sacred Heart Church
10.30 Christmas Day Mass – St John Stone Church

Midnight mass in Southport is available at St Marie's, St Patricks and Holy Family

The Book of JONAH: Wednesday afternoon: 2.30pm for an hour in SJS House The last of Pam Ashcroft's wonderful series. **Shall we continue afternoon Scripture? Training and Formation:** the next training day for **Funeral Ministers** is on **29th/30th November** at LACE, and for **Ministers of Communion** on **Saturday 3rd December** at Irenaeus: book your place through Monica in the parish office.

The Parish Open Forum:

The Church Teams meet Nov 14th/15th. **The Parish Vision Team** meets 17th Nov.

IMPROVE WOODVALE is our outreach in the neighbourhood with Cllr Thompson and Sefton Council links to develop Home Security, Develop the Sandbrook Way Site, share ideas for a brighter future locally: **Tuesday 29th November** at 7.30pm in SJS Centre is the next gathering. Progress is being made, come and help please.