

Christ has come--Christ is coming--Christ will come again

PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS:

Prayer & Scripture and Masses: would you host a mass at your home, especially for sick at home? Come to daily mass – at the “other” church also. “**GOD CANNOT BE TAMED**”: the Irenaeus team lead all parishes from the Pastoral Area looking at the Advent Readings: at St Patrick’s Hall on Thursdays at 7.30pm, next one this Thursday 15th December.

Sharing Scripture Afternoon Sessions: in the parish house at SJS on Thursdays, 3pm for an hour, looking at the Sunday Readings.

Sacrament of Reconciliation in the Service on Tuesday 20th Dec at 7.30pm in SJS, and on Monday 19th December at 7.00pm in St Joseph’s.

SHARING THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS: Christmas Cards....

...from Churches Together in Ainsdale: some still to take to a street from St John Stone’s church porch. Can you help please?

...for Parishes in the Holy Land: write a greeting to a parish in Palestine or Israel from the list in the porch, return to church and we will post to the Archbishop of Jerusalem.

... for Prisoners of Conscience: write a greeting and post your card to people from the sheets available from Action by Christians against Torture.

OTHERS RETURNING TO CHURCH? Now is a good time to ask people to come with you to mass, carols, prayers.

CHARITY FOR THOSE IN NEED AT CHRISTMAS:

The Foodbank urgently needs your donations this time of year: bring to the churches and we will pass on for distribution at with Ainsdale Lunch and Leisure.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers: donations of warm clothes, treats and women’s and children’s good items are still very welcome, which we pass on to MRANG and ALM: NB deadline 16th Dec for ladies and children’s clothes and toiletries for MRANG

INCLUDING PEOPLE LIVING WITH DEMENTIA:

The Dementia Choir at the Cathedral is this Wednesday 14th Dec at 2pm. Irenaeus’ singing group is part of it and so are we! Transport available from 1pm, contact Monica in the office.

Dementia Information Sessions available for all who live in Ainsdale, an hour in Sacred Heart Hall, January: Thursday 26th 2pm, Friday 27th 10am, Tuesday 31st 7pm. Existing Dementia Friends please support us.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

From this Friday the Church begins the celebration of the **Christmas Good News with the Pre-Octave** leading to the Christmas Day’s Celebration of Christ’s Birth.

Poinsettias: donations welcome for the Christmas sanctuary from now on.

Carol Singing is open to all:

- this Friday at: St John Stone 7.30pm,
- next Sunday at Sacred Heart at 6.30pm,
- Monday 19th from 7pm around the streets of Woodvale from SJS.

The Christmas Masses are

- Saturday, Christmas Eve: 6pm at St John Stone; 8.30pm Carols for 9.00pm Mass at Sacred Heart
- Sunday, Christmas Day usual 9.00am and 10.30am

N.B. volunteers to help with special liturgy at each mass please tell Fr Tony.

BOTH CHURCH TEAMS: meet this Monday at 7.30pm in separate venues: **Sacred Heart:** with the new notice board arrived

St John Stone: with a review of the Christmas Fair and looking ahead; the preparation for the Visitation #2 on January 15th; the social calendar with new charities.....anybody welcome to come and contribute.

Next Year the teams meet *together* on Tuesday 10th January, 7.30pm at SJS.

LIVING CHRIST RETREAT: this wonderful, simple retreat day is led by Fr Chris from Irenaeus here in SJS on Friday-evening/Saturday-day 20th/21st Jan 2017. Do sign up now for a New Year blessing. The prayer continues and comes together at the next GIFT prayer group on Tuesday 3rd January at 7.30pm

IMPROVE WOODVALE: so sorry, admin pressure meant we failed to get our question on the Southport Area Committee meeting, but the work continues and our next gathering is a **New Year Party Meet-up** on Wednesday 11th January in St John Stone parish centre, games room, from 7.30pm with plans for Homewatch, plans for Sandbrook Way.

CHILDREN: Thank you for the inspiration from the children in parish life and all who serve them: the Brownies meet up next on 19th January, The Children’s Liturgy bring their CAFOD Smarties tubes back next Sunday, **well done** the children making their First Confession this Sunday through the With You Always preparation, and the special parts children are playing in the Visitation Mass this Sunday. **Special places are reserved at the Christmas Eve 6pm mass for children to meet the angels of light.....**