

PERSONAL FAITH AND FOLLOWING OF CHRIST

The LIVING CHRIST RETREAT is happening for the first time this weekend, thanks to the inspired ministry of Fr Chris and the Irenaeus project for spiritual formation in the Archdiocese. Participants are invited to follow-on support at:

- the GIFT monthly prayer group, meeting next on February 7th at 7.30pm
- the Guild of Our Lady of Good Counsel, meeting for mass each 3rd Friday monthly at 7.30pm
- the teaching and spiritual learning through Irenaeus and the usual parish weekly opportunities and special events
- and the invitation to discern a calling to join our parish team to provide this retreat again for others

PASSING ON THE FAITH:

CHILDREN: our Children's Liturgy Catechists invite all children from 3 years old to the special Liturgy of the Word during Sunday masses. **With You Always** is our support for parents preparing their year 4 children for Reconciliation and Communion, and they are invited to a special presentation and prayer during the masses on **Sunday 5th February (sorry wrong date given last week!)** when we celebrate the next, termly, **Special Families Masses** in both churches.

ADULTS: here and in St Marie's the groups meet, welcoming enquirers in our "Come and See" process. Enquiries welcome from new people to find out about faith with us. **Confirmation:** any Catholics who have missed out on the sacrament of confirmation for whatever reason are very welcome to ask for the sacrament now and we will arrange it.

MARRIED LIFE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

2017 Weddings: applications welcome now, and all couples will be welcomed at mass on Sunday 12th February with a meeting after mass.

Marriage Care give wonderful support and counselling for couples. The Southport branch celebrates on Friday 17th February.

The Joy of Love and a Church of Mercy;

John Sullivan is giving a talk at SJS on Saturday 11th February from 2.00 - 3.30pm on Pope Francis' teaching on love and the family in "Amoris Laetitia" (Latin for The Joy of Love). This is the Pope's follow-up to the two synods of bishops he had called in 2014 and 2015 to discuss many aspects of love and family life. John will provide some background and context, offer an overview of what it covers, explain why it is so controversial and share his reflections on its relevance for the Church in 2017. John Sullivan is a professor emeritus in Christian Education at Hope University. Sure to be stimulating and down to earth. All are welcome.

Annual Celebration of Marriage and Family Life

Mass in our Cathedral on Sunday 12th February at 11.00am with Archbishop Malcolm, with gratitude and renewal of marriage love, family bibles passed on.

SHARING IN CHRIST'S MISSION THROUGH THE CHURCH

THE PARISH VISION : WELCOMING PRIORITY

Thursday 26th January at 7.30/45pm, at Sacred heart is the next gathering of all who want to contribute further to the Learning Community, review the Visitations, reflect on any future use of the joint mass and look at the other ideas from the past meetings. Everybody welcome

SHARING IN LEADERSHIP & MINISTRY:

Because of concern from the **Parish Vision Team** and joint **Church Teams**, there is to be an **extraordinary parish open forum** to discuss the abolition of general absolution in the Archdiocese: Tuesday 31st Jan from 7.30pm in SJS parish house.

"SPREADING THE LIGHT"

This Tuesday 24th January at 7.15pm in St John Stone Parish House, all are invited to learn new ways and encourage each other in **letting the light of Christ shine out** in Southport:

- extending the work of "Come and See" by inviting and celebrating in Lent
- learning confidence from the Prophet Jonah to share the faith with others
- making 2017 a year of passing on faith in Ecumenical ways
- working to have Christ lit up in next year's Christmas.

This evening is part of the Pastoral Area Missionary Outreach work.

IMPROVE WOODVALE:

Work from volunteers progresses with Cllr Thompson to come together, develop the corner site, bring more beauty to our area and find ways to appreciate each other in the area: next gathering Wed 15th Feb at 7.30pm in SJS; free **community breakfast** at Sandbrook Resource Centre next Saturday 28th January from 9.30am

WELCOMING THE STRANGER:

we continue links to welcome those seeking healing and new life in Britain: with Asylum Link Merseyside(ALM) Merseyside Women and babies support (MRANG) and Migrant Workers Sefton Community. **Thank you** for your donations of clothing, toiletries and money to help, in the church porches.

LIVING WELL WITH DEMENTIA:

We continue stage one of this help, thanks to Declan Barry, who leads our next **Dementia Information Sessions:** one hour in Sacred Heart Hall this Friday January 27th at 10am or again at 2pm; or on Tuesday 31st January at 7pm. All Ainsdale is invited, and ecumenical invitation and for all Southport Catholics.

OUR CARING COMMUNITY:

SVP host Scouse lunch at SJS on Thurs 23rd Feb. **A.L.L.** invite all to great value lunch each day, and **French With Friends** on Fridays 1.30-3pm. **Sociable Sunday in SJS** begins on 26th February: 3.30-5pm for company, cake and connecting with family. **Coffee and Chat** meets next on Monday 30th Jan at 2pm in SH.