

## PERSONAL FAITH AND FOLLOWING OF CHRIST

### The LIVING CHRIST RETREAT

**Thank God** for Fr Chris, Sr Moira and the Irenaeus Spirituality Project! So many people have shared how marvellous the retreat was for them and how marvellous that we want to develop a team to do it again.

**Sustaining Our Relationship with Christ** was the plan to follow on, so to support you in your personal decisions, all are invited to join in on the .....

**GIFT prayer group, meeting next on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in SJS Little Church** (via the parish house). That meeting will offer a time of reflection and personal prayer, as well as considering Fr Chris's 5 ways of Sustaining Life in Faith: **Pray Every Day – A Concern for Social Justice – Being Grateful - Being part of a Faith Community – Reality relating to each other.** We will offer the opportunity to be part of a faith-sharing group for those who choose, and welcome offers from volunteers to explore joining our own retreat team.

**COME AND SEE:** as the groups continue in St Marie's and SJS, the Pastoral Area team want to sustain the work of extending the invitation for people to join in throughout the year and develop confidence to share their faith in our existing mass-going congregations. **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.

### MAKING MORE OF LENT 2017

In this first year of our united Southport "RCIA: Come and See", an invitation to all Catholics to learn more about the spirituality of Lent and, together with those who will become Catholics this Easter, more fully appreciate this wonderful season of preparation. Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall. Teaching led by Veronica Murphy, from our Liverpool Archdiocesan Centre for Evangelisation

### SPECIAL FAMILIES MASS:

Thanks to the ministry of our Children's Liturgy Catechists, next Sunday's masses will include more involvement of the children, the presentation of the children preparing for Holy Communion, and welcoming of babies for Baptism.

### THE JOY OF LOVE AND A CHURCH OF MERCY

John Sullivan will talk at SJS on Saturday 11th Feb, 2-3.30pm 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 held in 2014 and 2015 to discuss love and family life. John will provide 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 Professor Emeritus in Christian Education at Liverpool Hope University. All are welcome.

**Annual Celebration of Marriage & Family Life:** Mass in our Cathedral on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb at 11am with Archbishop Malcolm for renewal of married love. (see Cathedral link: <http://www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk/events/event/celebration-of-marriage-family-life/>)

## SOUTHPORT WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup>–Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June** this year, £200 all in, or £240 en-suite (only a few) and deadline for booking is this Monday alas!! Sorry so late! Booking forms in porch, in parish office, or ring Ann on 01704 579543 or ann.davies40@btinternet.com

## SHARING IN CHRIST'S MISSION THROUGH THE CHURCH

### SPREADING THE LIGHT: The Prophet Jonah

Continuing the Pastoral Area commitment to Missionary Outreach, all are invited to this new and innovative way of looking at **the Bible's Book of Jonah** on Wednesdays 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm at St John Stone Parish House. Called to help others share the faith of God's people, Jonah can help us find the courage and good humour to value our faith afresh and share it with others. **Pam Ashcroft** has vast experience at making the Scripture's come alive, and sure to make these happy and fruitful sessions

### MINISTRIES:

**Participating in Leadership and Feedback:** with much concern expressed by many about the Archbishop's abolition of general absolution in the Archdiocese, there is a parish opportunity to learn, dialogue and feedback to him at an **extraordinary parish open forum** this Tuesday at 7.30pm in St John Stone parish house.

**The Welcoming Priority:** thank you to those who carried through the review meeting on Thursday and we will follow through on your suggestions at the next Parish Vision Team meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb and the Church Team meetings: SH on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> and **SJS changed to Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm:** agenda includes Social Life, Octave Concert, Maintenance needs.

**Welcoming the Stranger:** we continue links with Asylum Link Merseyside (ALM) Merseyside women and babies support (MRANG) and Migrant Workers Sefton Community (MWSC). **Knit and Natter** casts on again this Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 2pm in SJS to knit for their babies, with a new look at various knits, stitches and other delights. Wool and needles available!

**Ministers of the Eucharist:** there is a retreat day for our Eucharistic ministers on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 10am til 4pm with lunch, at St Joseph's Freshfield. No charge to those in ministry, but donations welcome. Please sign up with Monica in the office.

**Volunteers** for training to lead Eucharistic services welcome now please.

**Living With Dementia:** Our invitation to Dementia Information Sessions continues this Tuesday at 7pm, and a follow up session starts on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2-3.30pm in SH for people to share so as to enable **Living Well With Dementia**

**Improve Woodvale:** farewell the Sandbrook Resource Centre! Cllr Thompson has arranged the plant beds: watch this space. Next gather: Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb at 7.30pm in SJS

### OUR CARING COMMUNITY:

**Coffee and Chat** meets this Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Jan at 2pm in SH for all who live alone.

**French With Friends** on Fridays 1.30-3pm at A.L.L. (Ainsdale Lunch & Leisure)

**Sociable Sunday in SJS** begins on 26<sup>th</sup> February: 3.30-5pm for company, cake and connecting with family. Please help with our research/questionnaire and share your ideas for how to improve the partnership between HeartStone and A.L.L.