

A CHURCH IN CONTINUOUS REFORMATION.....

“Ecclesia semper reformanda” in Latin....God is always guiding us into reformed ways. Since the start of the famous Reformation by Martin Luther - 500 years ago this year - our Church has done massive reforming, and **the Catholic Reformation** has found fulfilment in the beautiful fruit of the Second Vatican Council, some 50 years ago now. With Pope Francis this continuing reformation leads us these days to:

GOD'S CALL TO UNITY with the PLANET and all CREATION:

On Wednesdays during Lent we will share the teaching of Pope Francis from “Laudato Si”, his universally acclaimed masterpiece on faith and Christian care for the poor and the planet. Wednesdays at 7.30pm in SJS: starting Ash Wednesday.

GOD'S CALL TO UNITY with all OTHER CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

This is the 25th anniversary of the Ecumenical Covenant in Ainsdale, and makes special the annual **Lenten Safari to each other's Churches**, for reflection and sharing on the theme of: Receiving Christ in 5 Different Ways. Weekly at a different church and on various days, 2pm and again at 7.30pm. See the poster and the website **Women's World Day of Prayer** is on Friday 3rd March 2pm in Sacred Heart. This year from women of the Philippines with prayer and song, followed by refreshments in the hall. It would be lovely to have a full church for this, ALL welcome....that includes MEN!

GOD'S CALL TO UNITY IN OUR PASTORAL AREA PARISHES

Our Catholic Mission is led by the Priests, who meet this Tuesday, and the parish representatives who join them on the **Southport Catholic Co-ordinating Group**: formed to put into practice the Pastoral Area Plan after many years of discussion and discernment. We share in the relationships, prayer and work for future flourishing and HeartStone needs new representatives to join in this work:

will you offer to find out more...from Sacred Heart?...from St John Stone?

Next Meeting Thursday April 27th at 7pm in St Patrick's

Pastoral Area Music: A Get-Together for parish musicians and singers at Our Lady of Lourdes this Tuesday at 7.30pm. The hope is to enhance our worship and build community across all the churches. . All are welcome! This will be an informal meeting to see where we are, what we feel might be missing, what we dream to do....

Southport RCIA: COME AND SEE

Celebrating this first year of our united Pastoral Area invitation to new enquirers to join the faith we are pleased to say almost a dozen new people are included in this year's Easter Vigil receptions. On the **First Sunday of Lent, 5th March**, in the Cathedral at 3pm, they are welcomed by the Archbishop and supporters as the newest members-to-be of our Catholic family. The ceremony is called “**The Rite of Election**” and is very impressive and inspiring – to see so many people wanting to share what we value so much. Do come and support our new friends from Southport – make your own way, or if you want help with transport please contact Monica at St John Stone on 01704 577722. Find St Marie's group in the Cathedral to gather together as a body.

UNITED IN LIVING LENT LOVINGLY

The Legacy of the Year of Mercy is to share God's Mercy (Loving Kindness) in all we do. With the Prophet Jonah's call: **how will you decide to live Lent this year?**

“Lent” means the lengthening of the light in Olde English: we begin from **Ash Wednesday on March 1st** with a reminder of our Baptism, the Holy Spirit's gift and the Forgiveness of our sins: masses 9.30am and 12noon at SJS and 7.30pm at SH. **Shrove Tuesday**: all are invited to join Fr Tony and friends from previous lives at silent meditation from 6pm, mass at 7pm, and Pancakes from 8pm in the Club for talk, eat and start Lent together in good spirits

Lenten Dates for your Diary Now:

- Friday 31st March at 7.30pm in SJS the ecumenical **OCTAVE choir** offer a very special evening of spiritual music: From Tears to Joy. Tickets soon
- Saturday 8th April in SJS, 9.30am-3pm, the Guild of Our Lady Lenten Retreat Day, open to all and all genders!

FINDING YOUR FEET IN FLUID TIMES

Amid waves of change and uncertainty, politically and in the Church - many of which might be good for us -we offer helpful learning for staying afloat in your discernment: **ALL IS GRACE**: an opportunity to deepen our understanding of God in all things, in all moments of our lives **with Fr Daniel O'Leary**. Sunday March 5th 1.30pm til 4pm in Fisher More Hall, Bishop Eton parish, Woolton Rd L16 8NQ. Hosted by ACTA: for more details and local map visit acalltoaction.org No charge, donations welcome **Being Disciples in a Changing Church**: Saturday 18th March, from 2.00 – 3.30pm at SH, John Sullivan will address the questions about changes in the church which call for different emphases (as well as continuity) in our role as disciples. All are welcome. **MATTHEW'S GOSPEL: Seek the Pearl of Great Price** Fr Chris Thomas will lead us learn afresh about the purpose of the writer, the original audience and the relevant themes for us Christian disciples today. Saturday 1st April, 10am-4pm with light lunch, at SJS. No charge, donation welcome.

MINISTRIES: First Aid Training: place available on a course this Thursday, 9til 3 in Ainsdale Lunch and Leisure. Contact Rebecca on 574828.

Looking Out for the Elderly: Tuesday 14th March at 7.30pm in SJS for how to spot those who need help with staying warm, fed and mental health. Great for those who visit people in their homes or caring for elderly people.

Eucharistic Ministers Retreat Day: Thursday 16th March, 10am til 4pm with lunch, at St Joseph's Freshfield. Please sign up with Monica in the office.

Sociable Sunday in SJS begins on 26th February: 3.30-5pm for company, cake and connecting with family, in SJS Club. Transport available through the parish office. A joint action with A.L.L. in the name of “Let's Live Well Together”.

Living Well With Dementia: a follow up session from our information ones: for people trying to cope and learn from each other: Tuesday, 28th Feb 2-3.30pm in SH Declan invites all who welcome the chance for support and learning how others cope.