

## **CHRIST THE KING is the hope of our World: Thy Kingdom Come!**

As we complete the Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us renew our grateful, continued involvement as Christ's followers in his continuing mission in our society.

**Called to be Members of his Sovereign Body in the Church** let us receive afresh his blessing and love in a prayerful living of Advent

**Encouraged in our growth as Servants of his Kingdom** let us commit to ways of involvement in God's continuing work among us through the Parish Vision:

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

## **THE PARISH VISION DECISIONS:**

**The Record of the Parish Open Forum** is available on the blue A5 sheet from the parish porches and on the website. Thank you again for such important participation in sharing the responsibility, and thank you to.....

**The Parish Vision Team** with whom Fr Tony continued the discernment and came to the decisions announced in the Record, and which can be acted on now in.....

**The Church Teams** which meet: for Sacred Heart on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December and for St John Stone **moved this month** also to Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December

**The Parish Year Plan**, published next week for Advent 2016 to Advent 2017 lists the commitments we have made to implement the Parish Vision in actions.

## **PARISH OPPORTUNITIES OF SERVING WITH CHRIST:**

**The Living Christ Retreat:** Irenaeus will lead the first of this wonderful, simple retreat here in HeartStone on Friday evening/Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Jan 2017. Do sign up from now for a New Year blessing of knowing Christ more and receiving his blessings. Contact Fr Tony, Anne O'Callaghan or Monica in the office to say yes.

**The Parish Charities Presentation Night:** Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December in St John Stone Parish Centre from 7.30pm we award the £2,000 to each of the charities: Ishiara, HCPT, Queenscourt and Jospice. Both churches have done marvelously well, come and celebrate together as a great start to next year's new chosen charities.

**MUTUAL VISITATION:** our first spiritual action as part of the Welcoming Priority, each church will host a welcoming of the other with **one parish mass:**

**Sacred Heart will start** on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December with one mass at 10.00am.

**St John Stone** will host the second visitation on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

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. **Transport is provided** for those who need it, with the change of time to

**one mass on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec at 10.00am in Sacred Heart**

**Volunteers to help** please give your names in to the office or Clare McConnell, and there is a **preparation/planning meeting** for those who can come to it, this Tuesday from 7.30pm in St John Stone parish office entrance. SJS Church Team will continue preparation/planning at the moved time of Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm.

**MEMORIAL MASS:** our Bereavement Care Team welcome all to this beautiful gathering **this Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov at 7pm** at Sacred Heart. Everyone is welcome, and we are including the names you have given us in the **Candle Ceremony**. Hospitality afterwards in the hall.

## **SPIRITUAL SOLIDARITY:**

**RED WEDNESDAY** We join in with many at the call from **Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)** to make this Wednesday a time 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. Visit [www.acnuk.org](http://www.acnuk.org).

**REFUGEES:** surely a call from God to help carry the hateful cross of fleeing from your home! **The Lampedusa Cross**, made from the wood of destroyed refugee boats from the Mediterranean, will lead us in special **prayer hours** on **Thursday** : 2pm and again at 7pm in Sacred Heart with a cup of tea after. Led by Ged from CAFOD.

**FOSTERING FAMILIES:** Nugent Care are a great link for children in need, and Sefton Council are inviting families to get interested in adoption with their scheme "Forever Families": email them on [Fostering.Adoption@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:Fostering.Adoption@sefton.gov.uk)

## **LIVING PRAYERFULLY in ADVENT**

**Reflection:** **Advent Extra** or **Walk With Me** booklets are offered to help you with thoughts and prayers for each day.

**The Children:** **Smarties Tubes** for CAFOD World Gifts start next Sunday.

Advent Calendars with prayer & actions are available for all. **Children's Liturgy** at Mass has special actions each week. WYA children make reconciliation on Advent 3.

**The Prayer of the Church** is prayed together each day at 9.15am and Evening Prayer begins for Advent: let me know what is the best time?

**Learning sessions** about the psalms and using the books on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> 6.30pm, Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> after the mass at 10am.

**Masses:** come to daily mass – come to the mass at the "other" church also.

**House Masses:** during Advent would you host a mass at your home? Especially for the sick at home, but also able-bodied. Contact Fr Tony to arrange NOW

**Listening for the Word of God:** The **Wednesday Word** each Sunday looks ahead to the next week's Readings. The **Pastoral Area** is hosting sessions on the Advent Scriptures, led by the Irenaeus team: at St Patrick's Hall on Thursdays at 7.30pm starting 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. **Afternoon Sessions** in SJS begin on Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 3pm for an hour

**Return to Church:** let us pray and invite others to come with us to mass leading up to Christmas. To help each other help others, on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec at 7.30pm in SJS you are invited to a session for Catholics Returning, and also "Come and See" for Catholics already, and volunteers to sponsor those becoming Catholic in the Come and See sessions. Those who helped in "Landings" in the past especially needed.

**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 29<sup>th</sup> November** at 7.30pm in SJS Centre is the next gathering. Progress is being made, come and help please.