



PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS: Receiving the Advent Promises

THANK YOU to all who made last week's Visitation Mass #1 so lovely and important. Clare leads the **Learning Community** this Monday evening at 7.15pm in SJS in preparation for the next Visitation Joint Mass which takes place at St John Stone on **15th January at 10am**. Everybody welcome to contribute.

SCRIPTURE: "**GOD CANNOT BE TAMED**": the Irenaeus team lead all parishes from the Pastoral Area as they look at the Advent Readings: at St Patrick's Hall on Thursday at 7.30pm.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS: Receiving the Good News this week

The Liturgy: these pre-Octave days, like the last labour pains of Advent living, teach us who Jesus is: God's Wisdom, Leader, Royal child, Key, Sun, King, god with us, the Bridegroom.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Monday 19th December at 7.00pm in St Joseph's, and here in St John Stone on Tuesday 20th Dec at 7.30pm. Also on Friday 23rd Dec at 10am in Sacred Heart, and 8pm in St John Stone.

Carol Singing is open to all: **this Sunday** at Sacred Heart at 6.30pm, and also **this Monday** 19th around the streets of Woodvale, starting from the car park in St John Stone from 7pm. Refreshments in the Parish Centre after.

Christmas Eve, Saturday, at 10am outside the Co-op with CTiA.

Christmas Cards: some from CTiA still to take to a street from SJS.

Poinsettias: donations welcome for the Christmas sanctuary.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS: welcoming the Birth of Christ

The Liturgy: **The Christmas Masses** begin on Christmas Eve, Saturday

- 6.00pm at St John Stone;
- 9.00pm Mass at Sacred Heart, carols 8.30pm

then Sunday, Christmas Day usual times of 9.00am and 10.30am

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

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS: Realizing the Gift of Christ

The Liturgy: The Octave days following Christmas day celebrate great Saints as children of God, encouraging us in our following Christ with:

- Feast of the Holy Family: Friday 30th December
- Feast of Mary, Mother of God on Sunday January 1st
- The Feast of the Epiphany on Sunday January 8th
- The Baptism of Christ on Monday 9th January
- Peace Sunday on Sunday 15th January: Visitation Joynt Mass #2
- Christian Unity Sunday on 22nd January.

CHARITY FROM THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT:

The Foodbank welcomes your donations: 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 are welcome, which we pass on to ALM

Dementia Information Sessions available for all who live in Ainsdale, an hour in Sacred Heart Hall during January: Thursday 26th, Friday 27th, Tuesday 31st times to be confirmed: watch this space.

IMPROVE WOODVALE: 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.

JUST MEN: an invitation for men to gather on Friday 6th January for mass at 7.30pm in St John Stone followed by company, chat and the first drink on Fr Tony in the bar at the Parish Centre. All ages of males welcome!

BOTH CHURCH TEAMS: meet *together* on Tuesday 10th January, 7.30pm at SJS for one of the two times agreed for a joint meeting.

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