

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER (G.I.F.T.)

The GIFT Prayer Group meets monthly on the first Tuesday at 7.30pm. The next meeting is 7th March: prayer and input and mutual support.

Living Christ Retreat: volunteers to learn more about our own team are welcome on Tuesday 21st February at 7.30pm at SJS, with Sr Moira from Irenaeus.

The 5 Ways of Sustaining Our Relationship with Christ to follow on are:

**Pray Every Day – A Concern for Social Justice – Being Grateful –
Being part of a Faith Community – Reality relating to each other.**

Help is offered in starting a faith-sharing group – ways of praying – learning more about Church teaching on Scripture.

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:

LOVE AND MARRIAGE:

Pope Francis encourages all priests to reach out to Catholic couples in difficult marriages, and Christian accompaniment is offered. Sometimes communion is now possible, and counselling is offered through Marriage Care. **Young Love must also be supported for Joy to all** in the vocation to full Catholic Married life.

Our families meet for the next **Family Catechesis** for WYA this Wednesday at 6pm “**GRIEF TO GRACE**” on recovering from abuse. Talk given by Fr Dominic Allain at St Helen’s Parish Centre, Crosby on Thursday 16th Feb at 7.30pm. Sponsored by the Newman Association. Fr Dominic works for healing with victims of church abuse.

CATHOLIC DISCIPLES IN A CHANGING CHURCH:

What are the basic building blocks for a faithful disciple of Christ? What are the changes and continuities in the Church’s call and different emphases in our role as Catholics? John Sullivan will address these questions on Sat 18th March, 2-3.30pm.

MAKING MORE OF LENT 2017

1.Preparing This Week: 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, 14th February,** 7.15 for 7.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall. Teaching led by Veronica Murphy, from LACE

2. Shrove Tuesday Pancakes: on Tuesday 28th after the 7pm Mass all are invited to join Fr Tony and friends from previous lives for talk, eat and start Lent.

3. ASH WEDNESDAY is on 1st March with 9.30am mass at SJS and 7.30pm at SH.

4. Lenten Date for your Diary Now:

- Friday 3rd March 2pm at SH the Women’s World Day of Prayer
- Friday 31st march at 7.30pm in SJS the **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!

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: this year is Fri 21-28th July. Info from: 07484 911623
Liverpool pilgrims have visited Lourdes since the 1920’s, with countless sick pilgrims able to pray at the grotto with support from volunteers. Archbishop Malcolm calls on us to become a member of the pilgrimage team – is this a call you can answer?

SHARING SCRIPTURE: LISTENING TO GOD

This Wednesday at 7.30pm we enjoy the second of Pam Ashcroft’s enlightening look at **the Bible’s Book of Jonah**

Next Wednesday at 8pm we hold the monthly **Lection Divina:** NB change of week.

MATTHEW’S GOSPEL: Fr Chris Thomas will lead us through Matthew’s help to followers of Christ today: Saturday 1st April, 10am-4pm with light lunch, at SJS.

PASTORAL AREA INVITATION:

A Deanery Get-Together for parish musicians and singers at Our Lady of Lourdes Tuesday 21 February 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....

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS RETREAT DAY.

- Thursday 16th March, 10am-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.

FINDING OUT ABOUT OUR CHOSEN CHARITIES

During February we invite you and others to come on Saturdays for friendly ways to learn about what are 3 Parish Chosen Charities do, and the ways we can support them:

- **Southport Spinal Unit Action Group** we welcomed on Saturday
- **Aid to Church in Need (ACN)** Saturday 18th February from 12noon in Sacred Heart Hall, Chris Robson will give a slide and talk presentation, with a soup lunch from 1pm as we continue. Different ways and levels of supporting ACN.
- **Nugent Roadshow:** on Saturday 25th February in the Sacred Heart Hall, the Archdiocesan team will present displays and talks on the renewed vision and plans of our official Archdiocesan Charity for people in need. Come for what you can: 11am: Nugent active locally.12noon light lunch at 12.45. What we can join in with, and next steps. Open to all for unity in the Pastoral Area.

CHARITY AND JUSTICE: Showing God’s Love in your own service is a massive way of spreading the light. Many help out at the Hospice, Hospice Africa, Marian Care, Ainsdale Lunch & Leisure, Foodbank, ALM, etc. Do tell us in the office what you do in voluntary service?

Welcoming the Stranger: Knit and Natter is back! knit for the refugees, and stitching for the Christmas fairs. Fortnightly: this Wednesday 2- 4pm in SJS.

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

Improve Woodvale: this Wednesday at 7.30pm in SJS Centre Games Room

Sociable Sunday in SJS begins on 26th February: 3.30-5pm for company, cake and connecting with family, in SJS Club. **Please help with our research/questionnaire (*questionnaire available from the porch, or the office*) and share your ideas for how to improve the partnership between HeartStone and A.L.L.**