



HeartStone: the paired Parish of
Sacred Heart & St John Stone
Seeking fresh Vision and new Energy



Sunday 29th November – First Sunday of ADVENT

Week #14 of THE NEXT CHAPTER of the History of Christianity on Planet Earth

Physical Church Life & Community		Virtual Church	
Sun	10.30 – 12.30 Private Prayer in Church with personal communion SJS	10.30am: Mass Zoomed	Zoom
Mon		8.15pm Men's Spirituality Group	Zoom
Tue	12.00 Mass: Brendan Walsh (T) 1.30 Funeral: Peter Williams SJS SJS	7pm GIFT prayer meeting	Zoom
Wed 2nd December End		of lock down	
Wed	9.30am: Morning Prayer 11-12 Place2Be Community Market with Christmas Cards on sale SJS Hall 11am-12pm Personal Prayer in Church 12.00 Mass: Ian McLeod (LD) SJS SJS	4.00pm Spiritual Counsel 4.30pm Youth Impact Xtra 7pm Catholic Union / Government Enquiry 7.30pm Sharing Scripture (Anne Pickup)	Zoom Zoom Zoom Zoom
Thur	9.30am: Morning Prayer 12.00 Mass: Ron Coughlin (A) 1 -3 Ainsdale Foodbank at Methodists SJS SJS ext	3.30pm Home School Parish Team	Zoom
Fri	9.30am: Morning Prayer 7pm Mass: Our Covid Dead 57,000+ with Reconciliation and Mourning the Dead SJS SJS	1pm Priest's Safeguarding Training 6pm Dialogue & Unity Commission	Zoom Zoom
Sat	9.30am: Morning Prayer 11am – 3pm Soulcare Meditation SJS SH	11am Debbie's Diploma Graduation	Zoom
Sunday 6th December – 2nd Sunday of ADVENT			
Sat Eve	5.30pm Mass : People of the Parish 6.30pm Communion outside at SH SJS SH	10.30am Mass also Zoomed	
Sun	10.30am Mass: Catherine Bayman (S) 11.30am Communion at SH SJS SH		

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr Tony Slingo - Parish Office: 01704 577722 Office email: heartstone@rcaol.org.uk

SH Church Leader: Mike Thornber

SJS Church Team

Leader: Gina Steed

Safeguarding SJS: safeguarding229@rcaolp.co.uk

SH safeguarding092@rcaolp.co.uk

Website: heartstonerc.co.uk Facebook: facebook.com/HeartstoneAinsdale/

Pastoral Associate, Eleanor Lalley: 07384 643237 e.lalley@rcaol.org.uk

Parish Zoom Minister, Valerie Stroud: 07885 455885 valeriejstroud@gmail.com

Southport Hospital Catholic Chaplaincy: 07467 374870: Maria Parker

Money Matters: THANK YOU for whatever you can manage.

WE JOIN IN PRAYER TOGETHER:

We give thanks for God's blessings, the gift of faith, the season of Advent in our church's New Year.

We pray for all who are struggling with life: teachers and nurses, exhausted and off work, those made redundant or threatened with redundancy

For all who are sick: Finbarr Gurhy, Andy Lloyd, Angela Hitchens, Fr Victor Bridges, Michael Callaghan, Cath Dunbavin, John Benson, George Evans, Josie Cassidy, Harry Binks, Val Stroud, Peter Plinston, Peter Vaughan, please inform us in the Parish Office if there is any change in these people's conditions.

For those who have died recently: Chris Innocent, Josephine Cruickshank, Peter Williams
Fr Des Power; John McNulty, Karl Pinkman, Patricia Bamford, Tony Smith, Kath Smith, Ellen Murphy, Joe O'Callaghan, Eleanor Kane, and all who have died of Covid-19: 57,000+ in the UK

Funerals: Kath Smith: Tuesday 8th Dec 10.30am

Chris Innocent: Thursday 10th Dec 1.45 pm

Josephine Cruickshank: Friday 11th Dec 11am

Facing Death: our Catholic tradition is ably served on the Bishop's Conference website, encouraging us all to cultivate "The Art of Dying Well" <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/professor-eamon-duffy-on-the-art-of-dying-well/>

Southport Hospital Ministry: patients can ask the ward to contact the Catholic Chaplaincy team. Alternatively, they or their family – with their consent – can alert Maria Parker, our Catholic lay chaplain, on 07467 374870

LIVING THE WORD AND THE LITURGY

Christ has come - Christ is coming - Christ will come in Glory

Again Advent comes around, and leads us off to repeat the yearly cycle of Scriptures from the Lectionary and the Sundays of the Liturgy. This is the New Year Starting in Church time, so Happy New Year – sort of.

The Lectionary for this Year on Sundays is Year B, and during the weekdays is Year 1.

The predominant Gospel in Ordinary time this year is the Gospel of Mark.

Again Advent is the season which completes, this Sunday, the looking ahead of Christians with faith, to the coming in Glory of Christ Risen and Ascended at the completion of God's Creative work in the Cosmos, our Universe, Planet Earth and our lives. It may be we meet with God in the completion of our personal lives before the completion of the whole, so Advent is about approaching the meeting with God, face to face, facing death if that comes first.

Also Advent of course is remembering the beginning of the life of Jesus, God's coming to us as human, the start of the Christian Era of history with the first Christmas. Our preparing for the celebration of this coming during Advent time might ponder our sharing in the waiting of the pregnant Mary, the dreams of Joseph to be guided by God in crisis. May it be a time of hoping that the approach of God to us this Christmas will bring us closer to God's love, Christ's peace, the Spirit's joy.

ADVENT HONOURS THE APPROACHING GOD – INFINITELY APPROACHABLE

To help with prayer and reflection "Advent Extra" can be collected from the doors of the churches –

- and also the Advent calendar for children -

"Walk With Me" booklets are given, sanitised, in your places in church – for now.

If you would like them delivered or to come and collect them, please phone Fr Tony in the office

THIS SUNDAY – still in lockdown:

- **Private Prayer Time** is offered in St John Stone's Church which is open this Sunday from 10.30a.m to 12.30pm
You can come for your personal prayer, no need to book, just come with your face mask, observing all the Covid-secure restrictions and the guidance of our stewards.
Personal Holy Communion is available as you leave church, at a time of your choosing, on the one-way system out of church, from the communion table in front of the altar – placed separately, sanitisedly, for you to take carefully, only touching your own host.
- **This Sunday, Mass of the First Sunday of Advent will be Zoomed at 10.30am** for those who wish to join in, as a community for the first time in HeartStone eucharist on-line. The link will be sent to you on Saturday, and if we do not yet have your email, please let us know if you wish to join us.

THIS IS WEEK #14 of THE NEXT CHAPTER of the History of Christianity on Planet Earth.

“Tradition is the living faith of the dead; traditionalism is the dead faith of the living”.

CATHOLIC LIFE NATIONALLY

The government permission for our churches to return to gathering again for public, communal worship is conditional again on our ensuring safety with our strict protections and procedures. So all priests and people must stick to the guidelines of 5th Nov.

Also, the Bishops' Conference have engaged the officials in the government with a call for evidence when they seek to restrict the rights of religious practice in our country, and together the State and the Church have embarked on **the Faith Engagement Review:**

- There was a strong ask from the officials of the government for individual Catholics to respond to this open consultation on the way Government engages with faith communities.
- The link to the online submission is:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/independent-faith-engagement-review-call-for-evidence>

- This call for evidence opened on 13th Nov and will close at 11:45pm on 11th Dec 2020.

This consultation is a very rare and valuable opportunity for Catholic citizens, other Christians and people of other Religions, to express to our elected government what is precious and important to us in the public practice of our religion. It is a polite, but challenging, request for sound reasons for any restrictions of these practices.

- The Catholic Union with Catholic Voices are holding a webinar on “how the government should engage with faith groups” on **Wednesday 2nd December at 7pm**. Colin Bloom, the Faith Engagement Adviser at the Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government, will present and promote the government consultation on the issue.

Link and registration: <https://www.catholicvoices.org.uk/events/independent-faith-review>

CATHOLIC LIFE ARCHDIOCESE

SYNOD 2020 continues towards the assembly on 19th June '21; and on Monday 7th Dec '20, the Members of the Synod will submit their preferred options from the affirmations and proposals that have been debated these past weeks.

The Archdiocesan Offices and Employees – LACE – is in crisis, so our Trustees have decided with regret to close the centre at LACE, and restructure the roles and departments for future service. Many of the 44 LACE employees are facing redundancy or redeployment with revised job specifications. Do spare a prayer for them, and the burdens of decision on the Archbishop's Council for such suffering at this terrible time.

CATHOLIC LIFE SOUTHPORT

Christ the King High School celebrated the feast day virtually, have participated with great recognition and praise in Ofsted's evaluation and research about learning and security in Covid practice. Governors are meeting to sustain the creative and hard work of Erin Wheeler the head and the staff.

Southport Hospital and Hospice are of course working so hard under severe strains, and Fr Kevin McLoughlin the new Catholic chaplain from Holy Family is well into the stride, liaising with the whole chaplaincy team. No visiting is still in place, but those in need of chaplaincy service may be visited by the priest on call for that week. Contact Maria Parker, our co-ordinator lay chaplain on 07467 374870 or aske the ward staff to contact the chaplaincy service.

HEARTSTONE: “ Becoming the Church God is calling us to be”

THE PARISH OPEN FORUM IS POSTPONED (again!) UNTIL JANUARY

Fr Tony has not been able to fit everything in to do a proper job, but Monica is recovering enough to return to work tentatively now, and other priorities can now take over. Our necessary decisions can be made later while we carry on with what matters most and, only being able to do what we can, concentrate on preparing for a Covid Christmas.

Thank you to those who put in items for the agenda: we will revisit the invitations in January.

HEARTSTONE PHYSICAL CHURCH

❖ **GRIEVING AND MOURNING.....**

Mourning might be described as what we do to help with our **grieving** - what helps, what can we try to help us cope, on our own or with another, or a family, or a community.

Rituals and symbols, poems and music come along and seem to help as part of mourning, and we might repeat them....

Hilda is still available to listen for anyone who would like to talk

Christmas Red Candles will be displayed from now on in the approach to church, leading up to the Christmas masses. As a sacred sign of the spiritual presence of our dead, they are made part of the love of Christmas gatherings. You can dedicate one to a named person who has died if you wish: contact us in the office. If you can make a donation, like £3, it would be welcome, but no worry.

❖ NEIGHBOURING

The Place2Be Community Market continues each Wednesday in St John Stone's hall, 11am – 12noon. A warm welcome assured in Covid secure practices. **This Wednesday Mary Murphy will be selling Christmas Cards, etc**

WACA continue good contacts and support for many as the local community association, and among there helps is alerting us to a good website for things to stay healthy and happy: [Action for Happiness](#)

COMPASSION ACTS is the ecumenical association of churches for charity in Southport area of which we are a part. They supply the stock to the Foodbanks and happily we can now help out with storage. As they move offices to the Victoria Methodist Church we are storing a lot of their stock for some months in the green container and the Little Church.

❖ LITURGY IN CHURCH

From this Wednesday we return to our past new routine:

- **Morning Prayer at 9.30am** with each one a steward sanitising your own space
 - **Private Prayer time on Wednesdays 11am to 12noon** and this includes exposition
 - **12noon weekday Mass on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays**
 - **Sunday Masses on Saturdays at 5.30pm and Sundays at 10.30am**
 - **Communion outside at Sacred Heart on Saturdays at 6.30pm and Sundays at 11.30am**
- ❖ **Care Calling:** if you know someone who would welcome a call please let us know in the office, and can *YOU* join the team to keep in touch with other parishioners?

HEARSTONE VIRTUAL CHURCH

- ❖ **COVID ZOOM MASS** begins now at 10.30am on Sundays. Next Sunday will be the first time with a congregation present while we also Zoom the mass to those at home who cannot, or are not ready yet, to come to the actual mass. This is possible through the skills and service of Debbie and Val and we really need others to step forward now to make it sustainable. And I am sure we will learn new and better ways as we go along....
- ❖ **SHARING SCRIPTURE: each Wednesday at 7.30pm by Zoom:** we look at the Sunday scriptures and share thoughts and feelings about how they help us live the faith. All welcome...send your email address to valeriejstroud@gmail.com
- ❖ **HEARTSTONE VIRTUAL MINISTRY** enables us to share our gifts with others wider afield and also to share in others gifts via online:

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL: There are spiritual resources for Sundays on the Archdiocesan website:

<https://www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/sunday-reflections> and a directory of live streamed Masses is available at <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/mass-live-stream.html>

- [ARMCHAIR RETREATS](#) with Fr Denis Blackledge SJ

The Irenaeus Project: Fr Chris and Sr Moira are developing new ways with new developments of the Spirituality project. See their website <https://irenaeus.co.uk>

- [Church Services TV - Connecting Communities](#) Timetable of all live services current on or upcoming within the next 2 hours on ChurchServices.tv.
- [The Irenaeus Project - Come & See...](#) Fr Chris Thomas and the team help people recognise the presence of God in their lives, with retreats and events, prayer and reflection. Come & See how YOU can live... This takes you to their newsletters and events. Just click on the relevant month...

Birkdale Catholics stream their Sunday mass, available from Saturday afternoon: see

[Catholic Church Birkdale - YouTube](#)

- **Children's liturgy links, and catechesis for Holy Communion** are available here:
birkdalecatholics@rcaol.org.uk
<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>

St Marie's and St Patrick's have discovered mass via the phone for those without internet from Middlesborough Cathedral every Sunday, but you can listen at any time. Phone : 01642-130120 for the Mass for that week.

Holy Family Parish has streamed mass: [Holy Family Catholic Church - YouTube](#) and a fine list of spiritual links for organisations that provide help for various forms of distress

❖ MENTAL WELLBEING

- [Every Mind Matters](#) is a valuable part of the NHS.uk website with practical help for people in diverse situations and ages. From distress to permanent disability, this discussion of the challenge to all of our mental wellbeing won't go away any more.
- [Access Sefton - Insight Healthcare](#) is a free, confidential talking therapy service for anyone going through problems affecting your day to day life. Commissioned by the NHS, available to anyone over 16 registered with a Sefton GP.

APPROACHING CHRISTMAS IN THE COVID ERA

St John Stone's church is ready to celebrate Advent!

Many thanks to our renewed church cleaning team with the support of Dympna and Pat, to Pat and Chris Kelly for the Advent decorations started in church, for the flowers via Jean Friery and the children's prayer tree via Irene Walker.

❖ **CHRISTMAS CARDS:**

- **Mary Murphy** has beavered away again this year. You can buy from the piety stall during the community market in SJS parish centre on Wednesdays 11am-12noon, provided you keep safe, stay distanced and pay in cash only.
- **SVP** has extra special cards and gifts. Every purchase supports their work: www.svp.org.uk/shop or 020 7703 3030

❖ **GIVING:**

- **CAFOD's World Gifts** give the true spirit of Christmas. www.cafod.org.uk/worldgifts or 0808 14 000 14
- **ACN Christmas gifts of faith:** www.acnuk.org/giftsoffait
- **Bags of Hope: donations of money or food** can be dropped at Mike & Jennifer's place, 731 Liverpool Rd. They will go to Joan and her team from the Village Church, for our part in the Christmas hampers and toys for the children for the families we are supporting in the crisis

❖ **VOLUNTEERING:** Thank you to all who joined the Zoom meeting with Christmas Calendar plans – and lovely atmosphere it was too, with great new ideas. So:

❖ **THE SACRED HEART WINDOW**

- Eleanor and Mike Thornber are heading up the team for creating the Witness to the World from Sacred Heart's window with the Crib, the Tree the lights, and the invitations to visit. Watch that space.

❖ **ST JOHN STONE'S CHURCH**

- **"Twelve Days of Christmas"**. From Wed 16th Dec, we welcome visitors for the "Twelve Days of Christmas". In the evening, a "Christmas Celebration" for families to book a bench and come safely for a short treat. Also Wednesday 16th, Thurs 17th, and Fri 18th at 3.30pm – after school.
- **Carols for a Covid Christmas:** Fri 18th Dec 7pm in church, our (non-singing) Carols, readings and special images.
- **St John Stone's Hall:** Let's set up a window of witness facing onto Sandbrook Way with the Crib and lights and What else might we include? *Offers of help welcome.*

❖ **CTiA:** Churches Together in Ainsdale have joined again this year to share Christmas faith with Woodvale and Ainsdale. "Comfort and Joy" is our theme this year.

- **Blue Christmas** is the service for those who must make space for sorrow as well as gladness at Christmas time. Saturday 19th December, 4pm in St John's C o E, and on-line.
- **The CTiA Ministers** meet on Tuesday 8th Dec at 4pm, and all are invited to the next Covenant Committee Meeting on Zoom on Tuesday 15th December in the evening.
- **SCHOOLS "virtual advent service":** We are sending a "virtual advent service" by Zoom during this week to classes in the schools of Kingsmeadow, Shoreside, Merefield and St Johns.
- **A Christmas Service video** will be given to those schools in the week starting 14th December.
- **Schools are invited** to our Christmas celebration visits in the last days of term.

❖ **The CHRISTMAS 5 DAYS.....** following the Government's respect for Christmas life, albeit with the risk, we will plan our Christmas Masses to include all these days – watch this space. Suggestions welcome.