



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



Sunday 28th February – 2nd Lent: Transfiguration

	Actual Church	Home Church	Virtual Church
	9.30am & 6.30pm: Prayer of Church 12.00 weekday Mass Sunday Mass: 10.30am with zoom	Prayer with the family if possible... Parish Zoom Eucharist	Parish and Val and Eleanor's zooms parish Facebook page and website hyperlinks in newsletter
Sun	10.30 Mass: People of the Parish	<i>Children's Liturgy from websites?</i>	House Covid Eucharist by Zoom 7pm Men Behaving Vulnerably zoom
Mon	<i>St David's Day</i> No Mass	<i>Fairtrade Fortnight</i>	7pm John Bell Talk zoom
Tue	12.00 Mass: Our Covid Dead		2.30 CTiA Lent Safari #2 zoom 4.30pm CtK Governors zoom 7pm GIFT Prayer Group zoom
Wed	12.00 Mass: Fr Peter Fox (LD)	<i>Lent Actions Together?</i>	4.30 Impact Extra zoom 7.30pm Sharing Scripture
Thu	12.00 Mass: Dorothy Coughlin (S) 1-3pm Ainsdale Foodbank		4pm Home/School/Parish Group zoom 7.30 Fratelli Tutti #8 zoom
Fri	<i>Women's World Day of Prayer</i> 12.00 Mass: HeartStone Women 7pm Mourning our Dead	<i>Solidarity with suffering</i>	Women's World Day of Prayer zoom
Sat	11am Soulcare Meditation Mass: Fr Thomas Keating (ILM)	<i>Trustful waiting on God</i>	

Sunday 7th March – 3rd Sunday of Lent

Sun	10.30 Mass: People of the Parish	<i>Resurrection: appreciating the positives in our lives</i>	House Covid Eucharist by Zoom 7pm Faith Sharing Group zoom
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PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION	
Sacred Heart Church (SH): 483 Liverpool Road, Ainsdale Southport PR8 3BP	St John Stone Church (SJS) & Parish Office: 7 Sandbrook Way, Woodvale, Southport PR8 3RN
Parish Priest: Fr Tony Slingo	Parish office: 01704 577722
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Parish Facebook: www.facebook.com/HeartstoneAinsdale/	
SVP number for people in emergency need: 07988 371168	Southport Hospital/Hospice Chaplain: 07467 374830

Support organisations: if anybody is struggling at this time, details of support organisations are available on our website: heartstonerc.co.uk and click on "Wellbeing and Support"

MONEY: thank you to so many who have continued to donate to parish income by standing order, cheques or even envelopes through the door. Do think about transferring to give in these ways if you are continuing to contribute financially.

CAFOD's Big Walk for Water campaign: Mike Thornber and Sinead Maguire are signed up for 10,000 steps daily during Lent with sponsorship on **Mike's** Just Giving page [here](#), **Sinead's** [here](#). Fr Tony is doing a baby version: give what you wish to Mike's page. Tell us if you are also doing this?
See CAFOD's Walk for Water website [here](#) for further details.

OUR PARISH STILL SERVES IN FAITH AS WE ALL STILL STAY AT HOME

Week #27 of the Next Chapter of the History of Christianity on Planet Earth

“Becoming the Church God is calling us to be”

LIVING THE WORD AND THE LITURGY #1

Back to school! That’s the lesson this week in Scripture and Covid life. Not only children but all Christians need the communal support for learning and wellbeing, to help us “get it”, sink in, realize. With faces unmasked on the mountain, their Teacher, Rabbi, unmask his deepest identity, face to face learning who he really is under the appearances. Delighted they are in the discovery – though dread and awesome overwhelmed as well – for they had to cope with cloud and voice as well as the radiant beauty: **This isn’t just glory – this is Divine Glory!**

Who do you say I am? was the lesson plan. Mixed ability teaching admittedly, it takes different stages for different disciples. Just before today’s transfiguration Jesus had asked them that in St Mark’s telling, at the end of 8 chapters, from the start of his mission to today’s text. Actually the lesson had begun at the Baptism, weeks ago. The reader of the gospel had been told by the Father from Heaven who he was:

“You are my Beloved Son, with you I am well pleased”. Did we get it?

They didn’t. Lots of opinions came up at the Caesarea questioning - Elijah, even John come back – and the closest is Peter: “You are the Christ”. You’d think that was it – it appears he got it. But not yet for Jesus. He doesn’t give a pass for the exam, especially not on Peter’s continuous assessment! The Caesarea classroom was so far so good, but then he takes them to the next lesson: what “the Christ” really **means. What is the meaning of this Messiah?**

The Son of Man must suffer many things, be rejected....be killed, and after 3days rise again. The Christ, the Saviour, God’s servant yes, but this is about HOW the work will be carried out. Hard to handle! Peter can’t: he rebuked Jesus strongly. Jesus rebukes him back: Satan he calls him, get behind me - resisting temptation and taunting like last week! Combat - so close to home - if he is to stay true.

That thinking is only human, not God’s thinking. And so begins the second part of the disciples induction, to learn about the real Christ and the real Christian following:

.....if you would follow me you must deny yourself, take up your cross and follow me....

Obedience they call it, the Biblical kind, not being bossed about. Sacrifice is involved very often: as it was before with the likes of Abraham in the first reading; and Noah, Jonah, Moses and Elijah. Christ is obeying and tries to help us follow: starting with 3 as the first learners in this evolution - perhaps Andrew the 4th wasn’t ready yet. Again it has to be the Father from Heaven who reveals the truth, the voice of the Baptism comes again, for Jesus, the reader and this time also Peter, James and John: “This is my Beloved Son, Listen to him”. You can’t argue with that: that is authoritative teaching, confirmation of what Jesus had begun. Trust what he said: the cross as well as rising! The glory also confirmed it: the dazzling beauty was clearly divine. Elijah and Moses, no distancing now, confirmed it also. This is the one to follow. **Doxa is the Greek for this: Glory of God**, shining all around, clothes and all as well as halos. This isn’t only epiphany, like the Christmas one, shepherds and angels and the Magi in the class then. This is mega epiphany: a Doxophany. A preview of the Resurrection; to give us hope that in Lent and in life, if we follow him all the way it will take us to Passion and Cross, but also lifted to the Risen and Glory. It starts now.

EASTER is our celebration of sharing through Christ in the life of Glory

Sunday April 4th it is and our Lenten following him continues this Sunday #2

Who knows what restrictions there will be by Easter? But we will celebrate somehow: any ideas? Holy Family are building an outside Easter garden this year.

Baptised into Christened Living: We hope to **Baptise** babies and young ones soon. Do give us names from now on

Every Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection – Lent disciplines can be eased this day.

The Eucharist, Holy Mass, is of course the principal communal thanksgiving for Easter Life:

Virtual Church

(NB you will need to **Ctrl & Click** on your device to follow the links here, and a new tab will open)

HEARTSTONE HOME EUCHARIST by ZOOM

During this Stay at Home time Covid Eucharist is offered from the Parish House. Fr Tony leads from the red room.

- ✚ Just come – perhaps you have a place which is your home focus
- ✚ Have your bread and wine in front of you to join in physically at the offertory and communion if you wish
- ✚ Send in your prayer intentions to be used during the mass and placed at Our Lady's shrine

You can join before mass starts, and connect with others in zoom chatting if you like, and then when I sound the **prayer gong** we all go to quiet in music, our tech minister will **mute everyone**, then I will light the **Easter candle...**

Feedback is welcome please and suggestions.... and let us know if you'd like to suggest what music to use.

Do spread the word, we send the invitation to email addresses.

Val Stroud is offering to help anyone get linked up with zoom if you haven't yet.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

OTHER VIRTUAL LITURGY:

- ✚ The Archdiocesan Website: Click for the [Readings](#) and [Reflections](#) for the 2nd Sunday of Lent
Click for links to other [Masses](#) in England & Wales. NB not all Masses are listed.
- ✚ Birkdale Catholics: go to [Birkdale Catholics](#) - scroll down to "recordings" for the latest Mass.
- ✚ Redemptorists bring you [Sunday Holy Mass](#) celebrated by Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.

ADDITIONAL DEVOTIONS:

- ✚ Click for [CAFOD](#) prayer resources - or [register](#) with them to join CAFOD's Children's Liturgy
- ✚ Fr Denis also offers a one-hour video, [The Stations of the Cross Then and Now](#) and an [Armchair Retreat](#)
- ✚ **Irenaeus** offer many helps: Contact jenny@irenaeus.co.uk for a link. Their [newsletter](#) always has items of interest.
- ✚ **The Jesuits in Glasgow** do good work: www.staloyusglasgow.org takes you to many Lenten helps, including a click-on for Pray the Stations of the Cross each week in Lent, a video by Fr Nick King, and even online Retreat
- ✚ **Emmaus Prayer Community** invite you to participate in several zoom prayer opportunities:
 - **Lent Wednesday's** 2:30pm
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82397148858?pwd=OGNIQTIOVWxEai95eWZjV0krbmFiQT09>
Meeting ID: 823 9714 8858 Passcode: 906871
 - **Sunday Emmaeus Eucharist** 10:30am
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83709360927?pwd=RE5tUjNROS9KR1I5RzlwTIZhS1N4Zz09>
Meeting ID: 837 0936 0927 Passcode: 107611
 - **Emmaus Sunday Ecumenical Gathering** "Listening Together", 6:45pm each Sunday until Apr 11
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82786149530?pwd=Q0hjaE8rZDh0UDlOaGpWcVhZV3lOQT09>
Meeting ID: 827 8614 9530 Passcode: 254256

- ✚ **THIS FRIDAY is the World Day of Prayer for Women –**

Women of Vanuatu (in South Pacific ocean) have prepared this years service, is celebrated in 170+ countries

"Build on a Strong Foundation" is an invitation for all to join this Day of Prayer Service on Friday 5th March.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions WDP services are available online: www.nestonparishchurch.org.uk

Zoom service led by Mossley Hill Branch [email: worlddayofprayermside@gmail.com](mailto:worlddayofprayermside@gmail.com)

A Prayer for Vanuatu 2021

Holy God, Creator of the heavens and the earth and all that is in them: –

We join with the Christian women of Vanuatu in praise to you

– for fertile land and fresh air

– for the sweet melody of the birds, for land animals and the mysterious creatures of the deep

– and for the sounds of children playing.

We thank you for the example of the Christian women of Vanuatu

– for their trust in you and

– for their fortitude as they struggle to provide food for their families and education for their children

– things that we in this country so often take for granted.

We ask your forgiveness for our thoughtlessness, our carelessness and our lack of foresight which has led to the pollution of the environment and the current climate emergency, and is causing irrevocable damage to Vanuatu and to other low-lying Pacific islands.

We pray that you will help us

– to listen more carefully to you and to your Word

– to build our homes and communities on its strong foundations

– and to work together towards a world where resources are used more sustainably; where justice and peace reign; and where all your creatures can live in safety and harmony.

We pray in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

(Elizabeth Burroughs)

LIVING THE WORD AND THE LITURGY #2

Jesus Christ is the Son of God: that's Mark's lesson. Lifelong learning lets it/him sink in, bit by glorious bit.

Do you get it? Can you take it? How far can you go? Will anyone go all the way? When somebody loves you it's no good unless he loves you – all the way. We have only come so far – let's keep going.....

Even with the Glory and the Cloud and the Voice, even with the Law and the Prophets backing Jesus up, Peter still didn't get it all the way! Not the whole picture – just the bits he favoured. His “three tents” speech – “not knowing what to say” didn't stop ole Peter did it! – was the way he'd been taught up til then to welcome the end, the completion of God's work with Israel, the end of time, and as Jesus had just said earlier:

when the Son of Man comes in the Glory of his Father with the holy angels

But it wasn't over yet... It's not over til the glorious one sings!

Peter will get the full picture later, much later with many unrestricted lessons – so that he remembers this event and testifies to it (2 Peter 1:16) and through his own obedience and sacrifice can strengthen others, like us:

you should be glad to share in the sufferings of Christ because, on the day his Glory is revealed you will also fully rejoice... You are fortunate if you are insulted because of the name of Christ for the Spirit of Glory rests on you... do not consider it a disgrace rather let this name bring glory to God (1Peter 4:13-16)

Paul had his own take on the transfiguring work of Christ.

A great light from the heavens shone all about me... the brightness of that light blinded me (Acts 22:11)

In fact, Paul tells us we have our own participation in God's transfiguring, if we dare to do our own obedience and sacrifice:

We all with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another, by the action of the Lord who is the Spirit (2Cor 3:18f)

The promise of the Gospel of Paul is that God will see to this all the way;

he will transfigure our lowly body making it like his own body, radiant in Glory, through the power which is his to submit everything to himself (Phil 3:21)

It is no wonder then that in Mark's Gospel and in our Lenten liturgy the transfiguring work of God goes from the Baptism, through the struggles and sufferings in obedience, even to the death and crucifixion. The cross itself, the vicious, cruel torture of the enemies of the Father, is **transfigured into a place of Glory** – but only the Divine Glory: complete, freely chosen and obedient self-sacrificing love - imposed by evil, endured by faithfulness, and overcome by the eternal Spirit who raises, even from the dead. Such is the promise of glorification revealed by the Son of God.

Amazingly, the other time the words of the Father at the Baptism and Transfiguration are approvingly said in Mark's gospel is at the crucifixion: **"Truly this man was the Son of God"**.

And it was a centurion, a Roman, an enemy, a non-Jew, who was so transfigured as to get the lesson!

I wonder what he did with that seeing? I wonder what we will do with what WE see this Easter?

The second reading tells us "God will not refuse anything he can give...since He did not spare his own Son"

And obedience in Abraham is described as this, not refusing anything i.e. even to his own son...

Each of us is called to obedience, as far as each of our own "all the way"and the "us" is what Paul urges on us to keep us going and serve the world:

God on **our** side... God gave him up to benefit **us all**.... **we** may be certain.... he not only died for **us** he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and intercedes for **us**

OUR COMMUNAL LENT

As Fr Atli was teaching wonderfully last week:

Lent is more about what we are given than what we may give up.

The starting point is the relationship God wants with us, his covenant, his promises, the Good News. Repentance is our response, a pledge of our willingness to be faithful.

❖ **Living Christ Retreat:** Mutual encouragement is the fruit of this ministry, and throughout Lent we urge you to try the 5 ways of Sustaining Living in Christ:

1. Pray every day
- 2 Participate in the faith community
3. Cultivate a grateful heart
- 4 Have a care for Social Justice
5. Live in Reality

GIFT monthly to keep in touch and in prayer, **next GIFT is this Tuesday 2nd March at 7pm virtual**
The next Living Christ breakfast is Saturday 13th March at 10am, virtually

#2 PARTICIPATE IN YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Where has our community gone nowadays? Perhaps you are in bits – of community: zoom Mass in HeartStone, or anywhere in the planet come to that. Zoomed up with friends for chat or support, on phones for love and asking how's life. There are other groupings emerging now, through the Living Christ, Scripture, Cursillo maybe or other interests. So, **a community of various communities:** where are you being fed these days, and then where are you feeding others, spiritually? How can you participate, contribute or serve? As we look to opening up again how will you offer service, joining in somehow. Becoming the Church God is calling us to be is also the outlook of all Churches together in Ainsdale. We each share the facets of church life: worship, learning and social action.

A PARISH ZOOM FOR ALL is available on **Tuesday 9th March from 7.30pm** when it will be good to hear from each other about approaching new actions now that **the Covid Roadmap** has been outlined. What do you feel about opening up?.....when shall we?.....what shall we open up to first....what next....what will change?

Light in the Darkness - a reflection by John L. Bell of the Iona Community via Zoom on Monday 1st March, 7-8pm.
Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82235289988> Meeting ID: 822 3528 9988

❖ LISTENING/TALKING TO HELP HEAL

How about a HeartStone Listening Project? **Learning to Talk** about difficult subjects might become a blessing from Covid times: vulnerability amidst kindness can bring chances to find the courage to put words to feelings for honest growth. How can we be served into maturity through courageous conversations? Can we cross some thresholds to talk about the deep and meaningful, the horrendous but actually happening?

- Apparently, **fewer couples** are thinking of breaking up since Covid, compared to the year before. I am so pleased and not a little surprised.
- Do talk to each other about choices in the new Organ Donation law: we are presumed to want to donate on death now unless you opt out. "Leave Them Certain" is the name of the Gov.uk campaign
- **Safe Spaces** is a free and independent support service providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been abused through their relationship with either the Church of England or the Catholic church in England and Wales. Telephone and live chat service: 0300 303 1056: Mon - Sat 10am to 6pm, except Thursday 12-8pm (ansafone at other times)

E mail: safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk

Live chat/website: safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk

- **Facing Death:** Our Catholic tradition encourages us to cultivate "[the Art of Dying Well](#)" (click on the link)

❖ **Churches Together in Ainsdale: Lenten Safari Weekly:**

- This years Lent Safari will take place via Zoom, 2.30-3.30pm on Tuesday's, starting this week for five weeks. Each session is stand alone so there is no problem if you miss a week.
- We are following the 2021 York Lent Course titled **Caring for Creation** which acknowledges that the human race faces its greatest challenge: the threat to the environment and climate change. The course considers how faith in our Creator God should enable us to see what is actually happening:
 - SESSION 2 - Tue 2nd Mar: Global Warming and Climate Change
 - SESSION 3 - Tue 9th Mar: The Age of Humans – The Anthropocene Era
 - SESSION 4 - Tue 16th Mar: Coming out of Denial and Facing Crisis
 - SESSION 5 - Tue 23rd Mar: Faith, Hope and Love

You can join via the internet at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3010281513> or by phone on one of the following numbers: 0203 481 5237, 0203 481 5240, 0203 901 7895, 0203 051 2874. If phoning in, key in the Meeting ID - "**3010281513#**", it will then ask for your participant number - just press "#" again and wait a few moments to be admitted into the meeting.

Although not essential for joining the course, a course booklet can be ordered online as a download or a hard copy at <https://www.yorkcourses.co.uk/product/caring-for-creation-course-booklet/> .

- ❖ **AINSDALE LUNCH AND LEISURE** may be closed to gatherings, but do cook and deliver lunches to homes; see the attached poster for phoning 574838 for 2 courses for £6

WE JOIN IN PRAYER TOGETHER

This Friday at 7.00pm Fr Tony will pray the monthly Liturgy of Lamentation and Calling on God which includes this month the litany of all those who have died with our love, grieving for them and other losses.

We give thanks for the community of faith in Lent together, and that 19m in the UK have received a Covid vaccination so far. And especially that 70% of Ainsdale Medical Centre's patient list in the first 9 priority groups have been vaccinated at Sandbrook Clinic (no figures available from Station Road vaccination station).

For the delivery drivers – For all our SVP donators – your money is being well used still.

For all struggling with life and lockdown: GS; Andrea; Jane; those short on money

WACA have some food parcels to give those in need: do let us know if you know someone

All who are sick: Fr Albert Shaw, Eleanor Lalley (at home now doing well), Sheila Ball & Deacon Bill Ball, Dorothy Coughlin, Joan Atli, Peter Plinston, Monica Gannon, Kay Slater, Peter Maher, Bernadette Harvey, Alex. **Please inform us in the Parish Office if there are others who need our prayers**

For those who have died recently: Fr Peter Fox, Jonathan, Pat Gerrard, Fr Brian Russell, Brian Robinson, Mary Kenny, Anne, Belle's baby, Kevin Bell, Sue Paton, Gill Power, Sean Richards, Pat Fitzgerald, 122,000+ UK dead from Covid.

As clouds, though they obscure the clear brightness of the sun,
do not yet wholly deprive us of its light; so God, in adversities,
sends forth through the darkness the rays of his favour,
lest temptations should overwhelm us with despair

Calvin.