



### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Liturgy & Spiritual Life			Community Life & Service	
Saturday	5:00pm Mass: Gerry Lovelady (ILM)	SH	Hospitality after Mass SJS	
Sunday	10:30am Mass: Bram Scott (ILM)	SJS		
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup>	09.45am Daily: Morning Prayer	SJS	1:30pm Bridge club	SJS Hall
	10:00am: Mass: Pope Francis.	SH	7:45pm Ravens Fencing club	SJS Hall
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	7:30am Ecumenical prayer group	St James Church	12:00pm Committal service	SH Cemetery
	09.45am Daily: Morning Prayer	SJS	6:45pm-9:45pm Bingo	SH
	10:00am Mass: Penelope Walsh (S)	SJS	7:00pm Ukelele buddies	SJS Hall
	11:00am Funeral service of Kathleen Smith	SH	7:30pm SVP Meeting	Red room
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup>	09.45am Daily: Morning Prayer	SJS	11:00am Place2Be Community Market	SJS Hall
	11:00am Holy Hour with Exposition	SJS	4:30pm IMPACT	Methodist Hall
	12:00pm Mass: John & Jane Curley (A)	SJS		
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup>	09.45am Daily: Morning Prayer	SJS	10:30am Gardening group	SJS
	10:00am Mass: Marjorie Morley	SJS	1:00-3:00pm Ainsdale Foodbank	Methodist
	10:30am GIFT	Red Room	5:30pm Revolution Dance Group	SJS Hall
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10:00am Mass: Maud & Gabriel Lloyd (A)	SH	10:30am Cleaners	SJS
			7:30pm Quiz Night	SJS Social

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Saturday	5:00pm Mass: People of the Parish	SH	Hospitality after Mass	SH
Sunday	10:30am Mass: Margaret Shearer (LD)	SJS	Hospitality after Mass	SJS
	Followed by VE day Celebrations	SJS Hall		
<div>Parish Priest: Fr Paul Seddon</div> <div>Office hours: 08:30 – 12:30pm &amp; 13:30 – 16:30pm Monday to Friday</div> <div>email: <a href="mailto:heartstone@rcaol.org.uk">heartstone@rcaol.org.uk</a>   Website: <a href="http://heartstonerc.co.uk">heartstonerc.co.uk</a>   Facebook: HeartStoneAinsdale</div> <div>Administrator: Gary Foulds</div> <div>Parish Office: 01704 577722</div>				
Sacred Heart Church 483 Liverpool Road, Ainsdale, Southport, PR8 3BP			St John Stone Church & Parish Office 7 Sandbrook Way, Woodvale, Southport, PR8 3RN	
Parish Vision Team: Fr Paul, Steve Bousfield, Andrew Curtis, Valerie Stroud, Chris Hawkhead, Anne Pickup.				
SH Hall Bookings: <a href="mailto:cathbarry89@gmail.com">cathbarry89@gmail.com</a> 01704 573207			SJS room Bookings: <a href="mailto:heartstone@rcaol.org.uk">heartstone@rcaol.org.uk</a> 01704 577722	
<u>Safeguarding Contacts:</u> <a href="mailto:safeguarding092@rcaolp.org.uk">safeguarding092@rcaolp.org.uk</a>				
Catholic Hospital Chaplain: Maria: 0746 737 4830.or ask staff to contact the Catholic Chaplain.			Ainsdale Foodbank: 07768 772935	

### Readings for the weekend - Reflecting on the Word of God



#### First Reading – Acts 5:12-16.

*The apostles are held in high regard by all the people. We hear of the words they shared and the cures they worked among the sick.*

#### Second Reading – Revelations 1:9-13,17-19.

*John is called to write a special message – one which has meaning for the Church until the end of time.*

#### Gospel Reading – John 20:19-31.

*By seeing and touching the wounds of the Risen Jesus, Thomas is cured of his disbelief.*

#### Scripture Reflection.

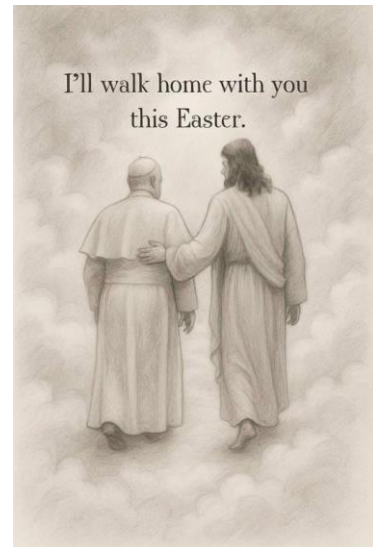
*The Gospel today contains Thomas' wonderful profession of faith, "My Lord and my God". It is the supreme Christological statement of John's entire Gospel. Originally John's Gospel ended where today's passage ends. It reminds us that, when we have doubts or are troubled in faith, God does not give up on us. Yet Jesus says those wonderful words, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet still believe."*

*For the next few Sundays, the Second Reading is taken from the Book of Revelation. The book is the revelation of Jesus Christ, made known through an angel, to an unidentified prophet, John. It describes the battle between good and evil and assures believers that God will triumph. It was addressed to the whole Church and was meant to be read at all the different assemblies to encourage believers to hold fast to their faith in Jesus in the face of persecution.*

**Pope Francis RIP:** On Monday we heard the very sad news that our beloved Pope Francis passed away. He will be greatly missed. Pope Francis has been such a wonderful leader of the Church in very difficult times. There is so much to say about his legacy, much of it has been mentioned on the News and on our TV screens this week. Pope Francis has succeeded in reaching out to people of all faiths and none. Many people, who do not even believe in God, have expressed their sadness at the loss of such a great man, one who was an example of humility and compassion in a world that seems so divided now in so many ways. Fr. Paul saw him at a Priests Conference in Rome just over a year ago, and he shared three very important points with the priests who were there, suggestions that should help all of us to live out our faith to the full: -

- Allow the Spirit of God to evangelise us every day – in other words, open up your heart to God each day.
- Preach the Gospel with great joy, for it IS the GOOD NEWS.
- Welcome EVERYONE.

Let us pray for Pope Francis this week and always. During the Eucharistic Prayer, we will not pray for the Pope until Francis' successor is announced. But we will pray for Pope Francis during the prayer for the dead. Pope Francis was able to say farewell to his people in Rome on Easter Sunday. He enjoyed another Easter on earth. May he be blessed with many more Easters in Heaven. Thank you, Francis. We love you



**Prayers for the new Pope:** We received the following reflection this week.

"There is no better time to die than at the very beginning of the Easter season. Just when one has prepared oneself to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection, one is called home by God, to begin the journey which will end in living that same joy. Praying for the recently dead at this time has a special resonance for us as Christians, because the person and the season coincide so well. So, when the Conclave meets soon to elect a new Pope, let us not treat it as a political election, eagerly reading the commentators who proffer now one front-runner, now another, and who rate the "candidates" according to different policies. Firstly, because that is not what all this is about; secondly, because if we say anything other than, repeatedly and passionately, "Thy will be done", we risk saying to God, "Thy will be done as long as...." This Conclave, like all of life, is about obeying the will of God, NOT about God obeying ours."

**Parish Development Strategy:** As a follow-up to the Synod, we are being asked to get involved in the Pastoral Plan for the whole Archdiocese. To help us in the implementation of the Pastoral Plan each Deanery is being asked to work together to provide a strategy for the future. Very soon you will be given a leaflet explaining more about the details of this plan. The first part of this strategy is to gather detailed information about all the parishes in each Deanery. Every parish will need to be involved in this. The Parish Development Strategy is being rolled out throughout the whole of the Archdiocese over the next two years – but we are one of the three pilot deaneries – along with the other two Sefton deaneries. Each parish will have a member of a Deanery Steering Group which will hopefully take this process further. This work is being done in collaboration with the Deanery Synodal Councils. Please take one of the leaflets home with you.

**Confirmation 2025:** Many thanks to all the young people who have signed up for Confirmation this year. We are hoping to get a date for the Confirmation Celebration, and therefore, the Confirmation preparation dates, very soon. As agreed with the other priests in the Deanery, the preparation and the Confirmation Celebration itself will take place here at St. John Stone.

**Defending Our Faith In Today's World:** An early notice that a talk from our own John Sullivan, entitled "Defending Our Faith In Today's World", will take in the hall at St. John Stone on **Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>** at 2pm. The talk and the discussions will look at the nature and role of "apologetics". What is it? What is it for? What qualities make it effective? No need to book, please come along and join us. All welcome.



**VE Day 80th Anniversary celebration:** after Mass **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May**, hope you can join us. There will be an indoor "street" party in the hall. Bring your own party food. Tea and coffee will be served as usual but if you would like to bring something stronger feel free. There will be music of the era. If any of our musicians would like to do a turn that would be good. If anyone still has clothes from the era they would look lovely. There will be a shared cake table if anyone would like to contribute. There is a list in the porch for names of adults and children so we can set up enough tables/chairs.

**Quiz Night:** Get yourself some seats and invite your friends to a fun evening out. This **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May** 7:30pm