

ST. JAMES' & ST. JOSEPH'S

ST. JAMES' PRESBYTERY, ST. JAMES' ROAD, ORRELL, WIGAN WN5 7AA

PARISH PRIEST—FR GERRY TUIE—Telephone No. 01695 622476

2nd Sunday of Advent (Year C) 6th December 2015

John the Baptist's Message

Saint Luke places the preaching of John the Baptist in a definite historical context, before presenting us with the text of his message. The prophet Baruch's message is one of great joy as God's people return from exile to Jerusalem. It is this theme which John the Baptist echoes, and though his quotation is from Isaiah the message is the same—the Lord is coming to deliver his people—prepare the way for him. John's role is definitely in the tradition of the Old Testament prophets, reminding his hearers of God's promises to send a Saviour—telling them to prepare for his coming among them by turning away from their sins. The word used, *metanoia*, means much more than repentance—it involves a radical change in attitude to life and religion. God's rule is a rule over men's hearts, and to belong to it means a change of heart shown forth in a change in our way of life. Baptism in the early Church was a public witness to the decision to change your way of life by becoming a Christian.

Please remember in your prayers all the sick and all the patients in Wrightington Hospital. Send them help, O Lord, and comfort from your Holy Place.

We pray for all those who have died recently, May God the Father welcome them into eternal life promised by Christ His Son, the Lord of life. We pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time and all our deceased relatives, friends and benefactors. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

MASSES

Saturday	5th December	6:00pm	Holy Souls
Sunday	6th December	9:30am	John Bold
Monday	7th December	9:30am	Private Intention
Thursday	10th December	9:30am	Eucharistic Service
Saturday	12th December	6:00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	13th December	9:30pm	James & Catherine O'Connell

Neighbourhood Prayer

This week you are asked to pray for all those living in Finch Lane.

Mission Intention for December is:

That families, and especially those families who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.

Holy Communion to the sick and housebound

Appley Bridge. Starting next Friday at 10:00am

CAFOD LOTTERY BONUS BALL

Winning No. 12 Cafod

Weekend Masses at Saint James' Orrell

Sunday: 11:00am & 6:00pm

Confessions @ St. James' Saturday 10:00am-11:00am

Confessions @ St. Joseph's Saturday 5:15pm-5:45pm

Rota for cleaning church

Please can Group 1 clean the church this week
i.e. Phil Waterhouse & Valerie Heyes

Quote: The aim of mankind should be to make man kinder.

The Brick

Thank you to all who continue to support 'The Brick' by leaving your items of food and toiletries in the bin at the back of church. We need cereals, soups, toiletries e.g. soap, toothpaste etc. plus tinned meats and fish. Please could you include small toys, books etc in

your gifts as Christmas approaches. Please remember your plastic bags. Thank you.

Visits to the sick and housebound

If you know of any sick or housebound parishioner who would like to receive Holy Communion, please will you let Fr. Gerry know and one of our Eucharistic Ministers will visit them.

Saint John Rigby Pastoral Area

After a discussion with the Dean, Fr. Michael Thompson it seems there is going to be a re-organisation of Pastoral areas in the New Year as there is a feeling amongst the hierarchy that there are too many, so they are looking at possible amalgamation of Pastoral areas. A consultation will begin shortly. As a result I shall be suspending the Parish Council until early in the New Year. I would like to thank all those who gave their time and service to the parish in this time of transition during 'Leaving Safe Harbours' Probably in the New Year there will be a new Pastoral Council made up of parishioners from Saint James' and Saint Joseph's. However this is by no means certain as I do not know how the changes will effect the two parishes. I do know there are changes afoot in the New Year, but as yet I do not know what they are. I shall keep you informed when I learn more.

Fr. Gerry

Parish Council News

At the last meeting, 18th November, Joe Lee handed in his resignation as Chairperson of the committee although reluctantly accepted it was understood that, with new arrangements taking place in the New Year and the pressure of his work, we agreed that it was right to accept and to thank him for his leadership. He was presented with a gift in acknowledgement of his work. A proposal was taken to continue to meet as a group under the title of 'Friends of St. Joseph's' This new group will meet for the first time on Wednesday 13th January and everyone will be welcome.

Christmas Mass Times

Saint Joseph's

Christmas Eve: Thursday 4pm & Midnight Mass (Fr. K.)

Christmas Day: Friday 9:30am (Fr. Gerry)

Saint James'

Christmas Eve: Thursday Carols @ 7:30pm Mass @ 8:00pm

Christmas Day: Friday 11:00am

Order of Deacons

Archbishop Mc Mahon will be hosting an evening at St. Joseph's Parish Rooms, Meeting Lane, Penketh, WA52BB on Thursday 10th December for men who may be wondering if they are called to serve as deacons and what the formation involves. Refreshments will be available from 7:00pm. If you would like to learn more please just turn up on the evening, you will be very welcome.