

**Ponder Over.....** Christmas is a favourite time of year for many people around the world. Some people look forward to the lights and the parties and the presents. Many others celebrate it for what it really represents- the birth of the Saviour of the world. However, there are many people who, although they know and love Jesus, they do not especially enjoy Christmas time. This world is in a constant negative and UNJOYFUL state. This world needs a view of God that is joyful! Today there are many people that live defeated lives and are in great despair because they search for joy and happiness in the wrong places and wrong things. Many are living with major disappointment. Some are in the middle of relationship problems. Some are processing devastating health news. A handful of people can't stand their job but feel trapped. Some just feel really sad and a few of you can't sleep at night. Others are overwhelmed by life. For many, Christmas is not a time they feel like celebrating. Perhaps Mary had some struggles over her situation. What did Mary, who was or soon would be pregnant out of wedlock, have to praise the Lord for or to rejoice over? How would she get past the knowing looks and local gossips she would face once people knew she was pregnant? What would Joseph think about her becoming pregnant without ever being with a man? I believe Mary was an honest person who only spoke what was in her heart. She had reason to rejoice because she knew how awesome and loving God was and is and that He had directed His favour to her!

We cannot rejoice in our health, because we know that our health can fail, or it can be taken away from you by disease or accident. We cannot rejoice in our wealth, because we may not have wealth or if we do there may be a time when we can lose it. We cannot rejoice because of our friends because friends can come and go, people are fickle and cannot be relied upon. But we can and should rejoice in the Lord. As Mary said: my soul rejoices in God my saviour. We cannot place our faith in this world, we cannot rejoice in anything this world has to offer because ultimately it will let us down! We must place our faith and rejoice in the Lord. HE is a God of integrity who is characterized by righteousness and dependability. He never makes a mistake and is never caught by surprise. He will never conduct Himself in a way as to disappoint us because He is a God of Holiness and Love. We should rejoice that He is the kind of God that He is! All of God's purposes toward us are purposes of love, and He deals with us according to HIS perfect wisdom. He knows our past, our present and our future. No evil is in Him and no selfishness is in his purposes toward us. The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his name. It is time for us to return to God. He provides good things for us. In His strength we can resist the evil of this world and the evil of the enemy. Through His strength we can become what He wants us to be and we can achieve what He desires us to achieve.



## ST CATHERNE'S CHURCH

BIRKENHEAD RD, HOYLAKE, CH47 5AF



Fr Thomas Thoppaparambil OFM CAP  
0151 632 4388  
Deacons: Rev Tony Crisp  
0151 632 6617  
Rev John Fegan  
07549936098  
Parish website:  
[www.stcatherineshoylake.org.uk](http://www.stcatherineshoylake.org.uk)  
Newsletter amendments:  
[st.catherines.hoylake@talktalk.net](mailto:st.catherines.hoylake@talktalk.net)

**WEEK COMMENCING SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

**(Readings- Sundays: Cycle C, Weekdays: Cycle 1, Psalter Week 3)**

**This Sunday – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Mass 8.30am (Daniel & Agnes Collins)**

**Mass 10.30am (People of the Parish)**

**Monday - Mass 9.30am (Mary & Susan Helsby)**

**Tuesday - Mass 9.30am (John Prest)**

**Wednesday- Mass 7.30pm (Meg Tucker)**

**Thursday – Mass 9.30am (All Children Suffering)**

**Friday – Mass 9.30am (Thomas Jones: Health Intentions)**

**Saturday - Mass 12.00 noon (Martin Holt)**

**Next Sunday – FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Day of Special Prayer for Expectant Mothers)**

**Mass 8.30am (People of the Parish)**

**Mass 10.30am (Anthony Gibbons)**

**MORNING PRAYER: Monday, Tuesday Thursday and Friday – 9.15am**

**NO EVENING PRAYER THIS SUNDAY**

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT - Tuesday 10.00 – 11.00am, Thursday 6.00 – 8pm**

**NO CONFESSIONS THIS SATURDAY**

Diocese of Shrewsbury, a registered charity (NO 234025)

## *ST CATHERINE'S NEWS*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** all who have died recently especially John Morris, Moira Bradshaw, Brian Dunning. Also please pray for those who are ill or housebound including, Jo Power, Ann Brown, Betty Roberts, Norah Stuart, Kathleen Bennett, Joseph Conway, Amy Duke, Sue Green, Geoffrey Roberts, Geoff Milton, Timothy Wild, Francis Hayes, Ann Marie Heald, Katie Hogan, Eilis Longley-Brown, Joan Nulty, Neil Monaghan, Justin Williams, and Jo Clark.

**(Please advise Fr. Thomas of any changes to this list in order that it may be kept up to date).**

**FR THOMAS HOME VISITS, ENQUIRIES FOR BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, DEATH, etc.** – please contact at the presbytery on 632 4388.

**COFFEE** will be served today by Friends of the Holy Land, next Sunday by OLOP Mums.

**CHURCH HALL KEY HOLDERS** - Please note that the top Yale lock on the entrance door to the church hall had to be replaced this week. A new key for hall key holders is available from Kim 07873 300244 or Simon O'Connell 07711 163922 or 632 3837.

**CHILDREN'S CAROL SERVICE** at 4pm next Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at St Catherine's. Please come and enjoy

**THE CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ST CATHERINE'S:** Christmas Eve – Vigil Mass at 5.00pm for Children and the parents. Midnight Mass followed by Carol Singing at 11.45pm. Christmas Day Mass 9.00 and 10.30am.

**CHILDREN'S VIGIL MASS** at 5.00pm on Christmas Eve. Please feel free to dress your child in a nativity costume. There are some costumes available in Pre-School if you cannot find anything. The Parish Centre will be open from 4.15pm so the children can get ready. The children will then process from the back of the Church as Mass starts to present the baby Jesus at the Nativity scene.

**RECENT DEATHS.** If anyone has a friend or relative who has died in the last year please give names to Fr Tom.

**SICK:** A reminder to let you know it is really important that if anyone you know is ill, and particularly those who might be going into one of our hospitals, to please inform Father Thomas as soon as possible.

**SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION** will take place this coming Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 7pm. Please try to attend this service and prepare ourselves to celebrate the nativity of the Lord.

**FOOD BANK** – Please leave the food items in the box at the back of Church

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** now available at the back of Church. Please put an offering in the CAFOD box.

**SUNDAY OFFERING 9<sup>th</sup> December:** £566.36

## *DIOCESAN NEWS*

**VACANCY FOR POSITION OF HEADTEACHER** at St Hugh's Catholic Primary School, Timperley. See poster for details.