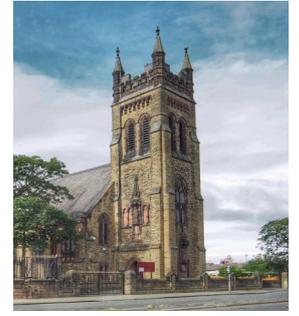




**THE PARISH OF
ST CHARLES & ST THOMAS MORE
PARISH NEWSLETTER**



8th May 2022

4th Sunday of Eastertide

Day	Date	Times	Feast	Mass Intention
Saturday	7/5/22	5.00 pm	Vigil 4th Sunday of Easter	Keith Houghton
		6.00 pm	Neo-Catechumenate Community	People of the Parish
Sunday	8/5/22	9.30 am	4th Sunday of Easter	Marion Colvin
		11.00 am	4th Sunday of Easter	Kit Barden
Monday	9/5/22	11.30 am	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
		12 noon	4th Week of Easter	George & Peter Plummer
Tuesday	10/5/22	10.00am	4th Week of Easter	William F. McCormick
Wednesday	11/5/22	7.00pm	4th Week of Easter	William Kelly
Thursday	12/5/22	7.00 pm	4th Week of Easter	Theresa Jolly
Friday	13/5/22	12 noon	Dedication of the Cathedral	Linda Jackson
Saturday	14/5/22	4.15 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
		5.00 pm	Vigil 5th Sunday of Easter	Prayers Answered (CH)
		6 pm	Neo-Catechumenate Community	People of the Parish
Sunday	15/5/22	9.30 am	5th Sunday of Easter	Tony Heron
		11.00 am	5th Sunday of Easter	Maria Susil

Good Shepherd Sunday

During the Chrism Mass the Archbishop reflected on the impact of the pandemic on parish life and Church attendance but also on the new opportunity we have to share the Good News within the Archdiocese. Our recent Synod clearly identifies this reality, proclaiming we are becoming a Church that values vocation of all the baptised, but on this Vocations Sunday we are asked to recognise in a special way the importance of specific vocations to the priesthood and religious life that have shaped our Catholic Community and Catholic life throughout the generations.

Today we pray for all those in our seminaries and houses of formation for religious life, for all those discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life and all those priests and religious we have known who have worked within our parishes and diocese to share the Good News of Jesus Christ to the best of their ability.

Archbishop Malcolm reminds us that “those of us who have been ordained to the sacred priesthood have a particular part in the mission of the church to bring the good news to the poor... being the steward of these mysteries is such a heavy responsibility. It demands of us that we serve the people of God, this nation of priests, which is the church, and we serve them through supporting them with the food of life and through reconciliation. As ordained priests of the diocese we should remember always that our duty is to serve.”

Mary,
Mother of God and Mother
of the Church,

*Your Son gave you as a Mother
to all who believe in Him,
we ask that you place each one
of us, our families and our
parish community under your
protection and care.*

*Intercede for us we pray,
that our parish community
may be renewed and our
personal faith deepened.*

*May our ears be open to hear
God’s word anew,
to recognize his voice and his
call in our lives.*

*Awaken in us a desire to serve
Him in one another
and in the poor so that we may
live each day in the power of
His merciful love.*

*In times of trial and difficulty,
help us to entrust ourselves
fully to Him, recognising that
in these moments our faith is
called to mature and grow.*

*Remind us that because of your
Son, the Word made Flesh,
we are never alone on our life’s
pilgrimage and help us to see
all things through the eyes of
Him who has been revealed to
us as the Way, the Truth
and the Life.*

*We ask this through
Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Upcoming events...

Sunday 8th May

*Children's
Liturgy of the Word
during 9.30 am Mass*

*Music Group
at 9.30 am Mass*

*Organ Music
at 11 am Mass*

*Pizza and Prayers
from 6:30-8pm.*

Monday 9th May

*Butties & a Brew
meets after Mass*

*Pensioners' Club
meets at 2 pm*

*Mothers Prayers
Meet at 7pm*

Wednesday 11th May

*Parent and Toddler Group
meets at 9.30 am*

Thursday 12th May

*Afternoon Tea Group
meets at 2pm*

*With You Always
Session 5 at 6 pm*

Friday 13th May

Bingo meets at 8 pm

Saturday 14th May

*With You Always
Session 5 at 1 pm*

Sunday 15th May

*Children's
Liturgy of the Word
during 9.30 am Mass*

*Organ Music
at 9.30 am Mass*

*Music Group
at 11 am Mass*

A message of Hope... A time of rebirth

I was very struck by the hopeful tone of the homily Archbishop Malcolm shared at the Chrism Mass. He reflected on the difficulties of the pandemic but offered a word of encouragement that as we emerge there is an opportunity to see more clearly what it means to be God's people. Sharing the vision of the importance of the vocation of all the baptised and the role all must play in building the Kingdom of God, Archbishop Malcolm said that we are priests of a new world, of the Kingdom of God, and that means for every one of us a new way of living our Christian lives.

Archbishop Malcolm reminded us that we should be confident in understanding who we are despite the deep effect the pandemic has had on our identity. "Lockdowns had a damaging impact on our activities, our ability to express our faith and above all on our relationships with each other but we are God's people who are called to live in relationship with God," he reminded us all. Archbishop Malcolm continued "We are like the people who have come out of exile. We are people who've returned to the land and things are not the same as they were before. Churches are not as full as they were, a lot of the parish activity has been much reduced due because we have been distanced from each other but now the way forward is by being together on the road."

As a parish, in these changed times, we need to be walking on the road together, accompanying each other, companions on the way. We need to be reflecting on the new challenges we face and the new opportunities we are presented with as we seek to fulfill our mission to bring the light of the Gospel into the lives of the people of Aigburth.

To assist in this task there is an opportunity to come together and reflect on where we have come from and where we are going as a parish community. To assess what we do well and what needs to be improved. To set our priorities for the future and to suggest workable goals that help us move forward. For as Archbishop Malcolm also said, "The church is always on the move..."

Open Parish Meeting

Speaking with our Parish Deacons we discerned that this Easter Season would be good to come together to review the difficulties of the past few years of pandemic and look to the future with hope because in this Easter Season the readings remind us of the story of the Early Church and inspire us to live that same spirit filled response to the Good News today.

If you would like to be involved in this discussion please come to our open parish meeting on the 17th May after the 7 pm Mass. This will be an opportunity to listen to one another and share our hopes and dreams for our parish community as we emerge from the pandemic.

***Because the Lord is my Shepherd
I have everything I need...***

Walking the Synodal Path

When the Pastoral Plan, which came from Synod 2020, was launched one of its 4 signposts was: “Embed synodality is every aspect of archdiocesan life.” We aim to make synodality the normal way we do things within the archdiocese so we can maintain the momentum of change and development that the Synod asked for.

Synodality stresses the unity of the Church and the dignity of all the baptized. Synodality recognises that the Holy Spirit is speaking prophetically in and through all members of the Church. Therefore, if our Archbishop is to carry out his role as 'authentic guardian, interpreter and witness of the faith, 'he needs to discern what the Spirit is saying to the Church, 'not by himself, but by listening to the People of God, who share in Christ's prophetic office. New Deanery Synodal Councils are to be created to provide an opportunity for all of us to live out our baptismal vocation as priest, prophet and servant-king. and to make real the call for synodality to be the way of the Church in the third millennium.

Roles and responsibilities within the Deanery Synodal Council

Deans - hold the responsibility for the Deanery Synodal Council with a care to ensure the collaboration and co-responsibility of all.

Lay Chairs - will initially be appointed for 12 months to work with the Dean. Thereafter to be elected by the Deanery Synodal Council for a term of four years. The chair must be ratified by the Archbishop.

Secretary - the Council should appoint a person to assist with the work of arranging and recording meetings etc.

Representatives - There should be one lay member from each parish, and a schools' representative (with other representatives at the discretion of the Dean and Chair.) Three clergy from the deanery will be members at least two of whom are priests.

Representatives must be sharers of the vision to work collectively across the Deanery. It would be good to have a range of skills and experience, for example creative thinking, communication skills, expertise in different ministries, as well as being representative of the deanery. The initial term will be three years during which time a formula for renewing representation will be consulted on.

Selecting a parish representative

Each parish in the Deanery will choose a parishioner to be the Parish Representative on the Deanery Synodal Council. It is important that this person can truly represent the members of their parish in consultation with the Dean and the chair to ensure a cross section of people, with the skills and gifts needed and ensuring representation of the whole nature of the Deanery.

What does a good Deanery Synodal Council look like?

It is focused on the mission of the Church.

It is agile and open, visionary but approachable.

It is constructive and realistic, looking for and celebrating small wins.

It is made of up people who are respectful and caring, and who share a common vision.

All parishes feel they have something to contribute.

Clear sense of roles and responsibilities:
what the Deanery Synodal Council should be doing.

Connected with this:
a clear vision with local buy in.

Clarity around membership:
who belongs and on what basis.

All members have received appropriate formation for their roles.

Can draw on diocesan departments and agencies to support them in being ambitious for their deanery.

Deanery Synodal Council Parish Representative

Each Parish will need a parish representative on this new body drawn from the laity.

Perhaps it could be you or you might like to nominate someone else (but please get their agreement first).

The initial commitment is expected to be monthly meetings with some additional training and an annual meeting which will bring together all the Deanery Synodal Councils in one big meeting with the Archbishop.

Names should be offered to Fr Ron.

With You Always - Sacramental Preparation

Due to the continued uncertainty of the pandemic, the programme this year has experienced some disruption and even now we need to arrange catch up sessions for those children who failed to attend earlier sessions and the Sacrament of Reconciliation but we are now in a position to share suggested dates for First Holy Communion.

Each date has a limited number of slots that will be allocated on a first come first served basis and are provisional until the Sacrament of Reconciliation has been celebrated and the course completed.

If none of the dates work for you family due to travel restrictions please speak with Fr Ron about what other provision can be made.

The dates include all Sunday Masses (Sat 5pm, Sun 9.30 and 11 am) in June and the first three weekends in July up to the 17th July

Renewal of Energy Contracts

When we published the annual Parish Accounts for 2021 the heating and lighting section showed a big increase on the previous year of nearly £3000. In fact the heating and lighting bill accounted for 10% of the total income received. So I have been awaiting the news of the new terms and conditions of the next contract with some anxiety.

You will know from your own home energy bills and reports in the media that the energy market has experienced great pressure in recent months. The markets were already under pressure as the world emerged from the pandemic and demand quickly increased. This situation has been further compounded by planned and unplanned maintenance taking suppliers offline across Europe and the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Electricity Contract

IFM (Inter-diocesan Fuel Management Scheme) wrote this week to tell us that our current electricity contract comes to an end in June. The new contract is only for a twelve month period in the hope that the energy market will stabilise in 2023. This will give some stability in the coming year but the increase is going to be substantial. The average parish consumes around 7,500kWh of electricity a year which currently cost around £1,210 per year but this will rise by approximately £1,600 to around £2,800. Even if the markets settle in 2023 it is thought that the annual cost will remain around £2,000 per year.

Under the new contract all our electricity will continue to be sourced from UK producers and will be supplied from wholly renewable sources such as wind, wave and solar power, minimising the impact on the Earth and significantly lowering the carbon footprint of the Dioceses of England and Wales.

Gas contract

Later in the year the current Gas contract will expire and work is already under way to negotiate a new deal but IFM are expecting a significant price rise.

Offertory Envelopes 2022-23

There are still nearly half of the current year's Offertory Envelopes to be collected. If you have not collected yours yet please speak to Fr Ron.

Priests Training Fund

The annual collection for the Priests Training Fund traditionally takes place this weekend but donations can be brought this weekend and next weekend.

Thank you for your support.

Mass Attendance...

3rd Sunday of Easter

<i>5 pm</i>	<i>115</i>
<i>9.30 am</i>	<i>106</i>
<i>11 am</i>	<i>112</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>333</i>

Parish Income...

3rd Sunday of Easter

<i>Envelopes</i>	<i>£ 547.00</i>
<i>Loose plate</i>	<i>£ 363.78</i>
<i>Standing Orders</i>	<i>£ 390.32</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>£1301.10</i>

Thank you for all support.

Candle Intentions this Week:

Sanctuary Candle

Fr Tony Reynolds

Marian Candle

Dan, Paul & Rhys

Sacred Heart Candle

Karen Wilson

Entrance Antiphon**Cf. Ps 32: 5-6**

*The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth;
by the word of the Lord the heavens were made,
alleluia.*

***In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.***

Penitential Act

*Lord have mercy Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy Lord have mercy*

*May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us
our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.*

Gloria

***Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

Collect

*Almighty ever-living God,
lead us to a share in the joys of heaven,
so that the humble flock may reach
where the brave Shepherd has gone before.
Who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

First reading**Acts 13:14,43-52****'We must turn to the pagans'**

*Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they
reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to
synagogue on the Sabbath and took their seats.*

*When the meeting broke up many Jews and devout
converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their
talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to
remain faithful to the grace God had given them.*

*The next sabbath almost the whole town
assembled to hear the word of God. When they
saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy,
used blasphemies and contradicted everything
Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out
boldly. 'We had to proclaim the word of God to
you first, but since you have rejected it, since you
do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we
must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord
commanded us to do when he said: I have made
you a light for the nations, so that my salvation
may reach the ends of the earth.'*

*It made the pagans very happy to hear this and
they thanked the Lord for his message; all who
were destined for eternal life became believers.
Thus the word of the Lord spread through the
whole countryside.*

*But the Jews worked upon some of the devout
women of the upper classes and the leading men of
the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul
and Barnabas and expel them from their territory.
So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance
and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were
filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.*

The Word of the Lord. R/. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 99(100):1-3,5

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

*Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy.*

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

*Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock.*

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

