

The Parish of St. Agnes and St. Aidan

Sunday 20th December 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Christmas



Year B

NEWSLETTER

Liverpool Roman Catholic Archdiocesan Trustees Inc.
Reg. Charity No. 232709

Mission Statement of the Archdiocese of Liverpool

***Taking to heart the last words of the Lord Jesus, we will go into the world
and proclaim the Good News to the whole of creation.***

Prayer Requests



For those who are sick or in special need of our Prayers

Lana Achilles, Amy Adair, Tricia Andrews, Joan Arnold, Carol Atkinson, Baby Grace, Baby Sonny, Joanne Baduna, Batey family, Nick Berentzen, Elsie Blundell, Philip Bromwell, Triona Bromwell, Sophie Bond, Paul Bullen, Henry Carpenter, Aaron Carmichael, Steve Chamberlain, Margaret Chandler, Rita Connelly, Thomas Clegg, Nicholas Cragg, Janet & Ray Cragg, John Cunningham, Marie D'Arcy, Mary Davis, Nathan Davies, Pauline Dermott, Annette Devine, Graham Dawson, Sarah Doherty, Eddie Doran, Maria Edge, Margaret Edmondson, Nancy Evans, Cath Fadden, Paula Fitzpatrick, Margaret Flynn, Collette Garlick, Euan Gee, George Gibbons, Wyn Graham, Nick Gregory, Fr. Bernard Higham, Amanda Hill, Tom Jones, Joseph Hill, Christina Hill, Victoria Hill-Edmundson, Stephen Hinckley, Ann Holden, Barbara & Mike Holman, Kathleen Hughes, Marie Hunter, Joe, Jimmy Jones, John Jones, Kathleen Keenan, Marie Keight, Patrick Kelly, John Kennedy, Molly Kennedy, Kathy Latham, Kathleen Lawrence, Margaret Leadbetter, Sr. Ann, Christine Lees, Averyll Fairfield Logan, Peter Lovelady, Mary Lydiat, Mrs Lynch, Brenda McArdle, Rita McCartney, Lawrence McClintock, Bernard McCormick, Susan McDougalle, Maureen McGurk, Caelan McKeown, Patrick McKeown, Jennifer McKeown, Susan & Alan McKeown, Jennifer McLaughin, Alan McMahan, Kay McNeill, Roisin & Pdraig McRory, Pat Madden, Marion, Colette Martin, Kayleigh Martin, Terry Martin, Jerome Mitchell, Laura Mitchell, Mave Mooney, Joan Moran, Steve Moore, Aidan Morris, Norma Mudge, John Mulcahey, Jane Murney, Margaret Murphy, Hazel Naylor, Pam Nugent, Terry Naylor, Madeline O'Hare, Maisie Linda O'Keefe, Paul, Jacqueline Patel, Wendy Paveley, Clare Pendleton, Catherine (Kit) Pheonix, Wyn Pickup, Maisie Pritchard, Alison Randles, Alan Ratcliffe, Josie Riley, Sandra Rowley, Rose Sankey, Bel Smith, Steve Smith, James Soundie, Maggie Steward, Edward Tarouilly, Joe Townson, Breige Treanor, Mary Waldron, Frances Walsh, Jim Wilkes, Fr Nicholas Wild, Kate Williams, Anthony Wilson, Anthony Winrow, Bill York.

Lately Deceased

Maureen Hamilton, Joseph Alan Maloney, Ann Redmond, Sheila Rose Hill, Sandra Watson

Anniversaries

Doris Moore, Michael Kane, Jack Cardwell, Catherine English, Rita McKenna, Elizabeth Johns

Sanctuary Lamps week beginning 20th December 2020

St Aidan Expectant Mothers, Refugees and Asylum Seekers

St Agnes People persecuted by their own government and forced to flee their country

***Please contact the Parish office if you would like a Mass Intention, an Anniversary or anyone adding to the Prayer List.
Thank you for your support during this difficult time.***



SUNDAY 20th December 2020

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8b-12,14a,16

The Lord promises David that he will raise from his descendants a kingdom that will endure forever.



Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 88:2-5,27,29

I will sing forever of your love, O Lord.

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

Paul praises God for making his revelation known.

Acclamation Lk 1:38

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me.

Alleluia

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.

OFFICE/PRESBYTERY

Main Parish Office: St. Aidan

92 Adswood Road, L36 7XR

Tel: 0151 489 3085

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9.00am - 12.30pm

Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm

Email Address:

agnesaidan@rcaolp.co.uk

St Agnes Church

82 Huyton Hey Road, L36 5SQ

Tel: 449 2209

Mass cards available from either church

Email Address:

agnesaidan@rcaolp.co.uk

For your information:

Parish Newsletters are posted on Parish Website every week at:
www.stagnes-staidan.org.uk
Newsletter items by Thursday morning to parish office

PARISH CONTACTS



SISTERS:

Helpers of the Holy Souls

Sr. Elizabeth 0151 480 7904

Sr. Mary Rose 0151 482 6895

Sisters of St. Mary of Namur

Srs. Louise and Moira
0151 489 1302

Deacons:

Mike Whelan, Joe Morgan

PRIMARY SCHOOLS:

St. Aidan 0151 477 8370

St. Joseph 0151 477 8990

St. Anne's 0151 477 8260

Parish Priest

Rev. Fr. Anton Fernandopulle
0151 489 3085

(Resident in parish)

Rev. Fr. Richard Sloan
0151 449 0214

Pastoral Assistant:

Christine Ball - christinewball@gmail.com

PARISH CLUB

St. Aidan: 0151 489 9024

'Parish of St. Agnes and St. Aidan'

facebook

Mass Intentions

Saturday 19th December—

St Agnes Mass 5.30 p.m.— Terminally Ill Parishioners of St Agnes & St. Aidan

Sunday 20th December — Fourth Sunday of Advent

St Aidan Mass 9.30 a.m.— Rose Mountain, Bobby Kelly
St Agnes Mass 11 a.m.— Sharon Owens, Tony Crowney



Tuesday 22nd December -

St Agnes Requiem Mass 10.30 a.m.—Catherine Francis Jordan

Wednesday 23rd December

St Agnes Mass—7.30 p.m. – The most oppressed minorities around the world

Thursday 24th December—Christmas Vigil Of The Nativity Of The Lord

St Agnes Mass 4 p.m.— Mike Jobe, James Taylor

St Aidan Mass 6 p.m.— Marie Gordon, Mary Hercules

St Agnes Mass 8 p.m.—Mary & Patrick McLindon

Friday 25th December—Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

St Aidan Mass 9.30 a.m.— Parishioners of St Agnes & St Aidan

St Agnes Mass 11.00 a.m.—Parishioners of St Agnes & St Aidan

Saturday 26th December—Feast of St Stephen First Martyr

St Agnes Mass 5.30 p.m. — Cec Roscoe, The Godamune Family

Sunday 27th December — Feast of the Holy Family

St Aidan Mass 9.30 a.m.— Dolly Kelly, Jennifer Hewitt

St Agnes Mass 11 a.m.— Those Mentally & Physically Challenged.



LIVE STREAMING

Sunday 11am Mass will be live streamed and will be available via you tube:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6YzfvR_fKiF9Xut6EjqtQ .

Christmas Masses 2020

Subject to any further changes to Government regulations, we have been advised by the Diocese to put in place a ticket system for Masses over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In the interest of fairness, we would like to put this to regular parishioners first and then will open up the booking system more widely. Each person attending, needs a ticket, this includes children and babies. **PLEASE ARRIVE AT LEAST 10 MINUTES BEFORE THE MASS BEGINS.**

Mass times: (see in brackets for the number of seats available as at **18th December**)

Christmas Eve

4pm St. Agnes (green ticket) (6 left)
6pm St. Aidan (yellow ticket) (fully booked)
8pm St. Agnes (blue ticket) (70 left)

Christmas Day

11am St. Agnes (white ticket) (91 left)

Please call the office (0151 489 3085) during office hours, to reserve your tickets. These can then be collected from **the office Mon– Wed 9am - 12pm.**

We are saddened to not be able to have our usual children's nativities and Christmas celebrations this year. Please keep a look out for the various virtual ways we will continue to meet over the Christmas season.



THE PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed from 12.30 p.m. on Wednesday 23rd December until Monday 4th January.



IMPORTANT BAPTISM INFORMATION

Would you like your child to be Baptised?
Are they aged 8 or younger?

Because of current restrictions, we have had to make several changes to our Baptism preparation programme.

- 1) Please call the parish office (**0151 489 3085**). They will ask for an email address and you will be sent a link to a preparation video. You will need to answer 4 questions and email your responses to the parish office: agnesaidan@rcaolp.co.uk

Your child's opportunity to be Baptised is not determined by what you answer, but it is more an opportunity for you to reflect on what you are asking for.

- 2) In addition to this, you (parents or a parent and a Godparent or grandparent) will have to attend a very short meeting at St. Agnes church with the parish Baptism preparation team.

The next meeting will be on **MONDAY 4th January at 7.30 p.m.** If you would like to attend this, please contact the office by **FRIDAY 30th December**, midday, so that you will have time to access the video before the meeting.

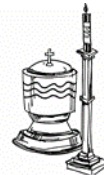
Becoming a Catholic

If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or if you were baptised a Catholic but never made your Confirmation or Holy Communion -

Please start attending Mass at St. Aidan or St. Agnes. You will have the opportunity to come to know the parish community.

Please make yourself known to Fr. Anton (contact details in this newsletter).

Those who attend Mass regularly and become part of this community will be baptised or received into full Communion with the Catholic Church at Easter



Men's Rites of Passage

A 5-day life-changing program for men devised by Richard Rohr OFM which has been undertaken by over 5000 men across the world.

This is not about religion, but about spirituality. About age-old traditions that guide men into manhood. About coming to trust that there is something much greater at work in your life than you could ever imagine. Taking you sometimes OUT of your comfort zones, but more deeply back into your own life. You may find yourself mentally, intellectually, emotionally or spiritually challenged. This is part of the experience for some men: it may feel risky or uncomfortable; you may not always feel in control. Throughout the 5 days you will be held by an experienced team of male elders who have all previously undertaken the Rites themselves. As the Elders take you through the process of the Rites you will experience drumming, ritual, fire, silence, small groups, wilderness, solo-time, teaching . . . and more. The Men's Rites of Passage are suitable for men of all colour, age, sexuality, ethnicity and faith tradition (or no faith); men with more severe physical disabilities are asked to provide more details of their restrictions during the application process and we will provide further advice.

The Men's Rites in 2021 will be held on 21-25 July in 'The Bield' at Blackruthven, Nr. Perth, Scotland

<http://www.malejourney.org.uk/rites> or speak to Fr. Richard Sloane or Fr. Anton

SHARe Knowsley

On behalf of all the asylum seekers, refugees and myself, I would like to thank Fr. Anton, Karl and the staff at the Old School House and all the parishioners for their continued support during these difficult times.

At a time when many of our volunteers have had to shield, parishioners have stepped in and shown such commitment, dedication and hard work in helping SHARe Knowsley to continue its work. Since the beginning of lockdown we have been delivering over 100 food parcels each week, along with toiletries and hygiene packs once a month. These past few weeks I have just been astounded by the response to our Christmas Appeal. Thanks to your overwhelming generosity we have almost 200 gifts to distribute.

On behalf of everyone involved with SHARe Knowsley, I would like to wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Margaret Roche

STAY CONNECTED

0151 489 3085

As we approach winter and further restrictions on our contact with others, we want you to know we are here to chat. We are not trained professionals, but we are a friendly voice on the other end of the phone. If you would like someone to talk to, please call the office number: 0151 489 3085, leave a message and someone will call you at home for a chat. If you would like to volunteer to chat to someone, please let the office know.

Let's STAY CONNECTED!

(Every Thursday between 18.30 and 21.00 a listening volunteer, Von Corner, will be available to take your call so you can talk in confidence.
Telephone Number 0151 489 2498)



Parish of Sts. Agnes & Aidan Live stream Masses

Holy Mass will be live streamed every Sunday at 11am from St. Agnes Church.

You can find us on YouTube, the link is

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6YzfvR_fFKiF9Xut6EjqtQ



You can watch and pray, the Mass any time after 12.30pm on Sundays, If later in the day suits you.

Parish Funding During the Coronavirus Lockdown

It is always difficult to approach financial matters, but as you know, the Coronavirus has had far reaching implications, one of which is the significant decrease in monetary contributions to the parish because of Lockdown. If you are not yet able to return to Mass and would still like to make a contribution, please consider the following:

We would like to invite those parishioners who normally give to the weekly collection at Sunday Mass, either in envelopes or cash, and feel able to continue to do so, to consider setting up a monthly standing order for an equivalent amount.

Please contact us by e-mail (agnesaidan@rcaolp.co.uk) or phone (0151 489 3085) and we will provide you with the relevant account details.

Text giving is also available for each parish and the details below are ready to use for accepting both one-off and regular donations. Please note all texts cost the amount you donate plus one standard rate message.

For St. Aidan

Text [AIDAN](#) to 70085 to donate £2..
Text [AIDAN](#) to 70450 to donate £3.
Text [AIDAN](#) to 70460 to donate £5..
Text [AIDAN](#) to 70470 to donate £10.

For St. Agnes

Text [AGNES](#) to 70085 to donate £2
Text [AGNES](#) to 70450 to donate £3
Text [AGNES](#) to 70460 to donate £5
Text [AGNES](#) to 70470 to donate £10

Advent Wreaths

If your family has an advent wreath at home, we would really appreciate you getting them out early and sending us pictures of you or your family lighting each of the candles separately so that we can use them in Advent reflections.

i.e: a picture lighting the first candle, a picture lighting candle one and two... etc... So 4 pictures in total.

Please send your pictures to:
agnesaidancommunity@gmail.com

Many thanks



Donations of good quality clothes can be left at the back of either church after Mass or handed in to the office.

They are also collecting any type of currency (coins or notes) including old English and Euros. The money is then sorted, bagged and sent to a coin exchange.

www.wearenugent.org

Missing Parishioners

As parishioners we need to be aware that if we don't see anyone for a few weeks we should find out what has happened. Sometimes it is due to the fact that a bus route has changed and it's time and no longer ties in with the mass times. Please contact the office as soon as possible if you become aware of anyone who has not been seen for a while and we will make arrangements for someone to keep in touch with them if they so wish.



MARY'S MEALS

Every year we collect school backpacks for the Mary's Meal's Project. Items can be donated over the summer holidays at church. This will be the eighth year our parish will be participating and so far we have sent over 1,000 completed backpacks abroad (Malawi). Good quality second-hand items are ideal and many schools see this as a great recycling opportunity, while new items can be found in most supermarket value ranges. Complete backpacks and individual items are gratefully received! You also have the opportunity to feed a child for an entire school year by donation just £15.90.

If you would like to have more information about the Backpack Project please check the parish website or google <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk>

NB . Thanks to the Staff and Students of St. Aidan Primary school for the School Backpacks received this week.



Thanks in advance for your support

WCMAD (SURINAME AND ROMANIA)

On behalf of the parish family as we come to the end of this year, we are grateful to all those who have supported us in many different ways and continue to support our parish missions in Suriname and Romania. As you are aware, we continue to financially support Fr Toon's work in the Amazon rainforest (Suriname) especially in training the lay leaders in the 32 church communities. They are grateful to all the work our parishioners have done during their visits in building and renovating their church/community centres and helping with the sanitary facilities in Apoera and Washabo villages. Our contributions have made a huge difference in spreading the good news mainly among the Maroon (formerly known as "bush" negroes) and Arawak (native Indians) people. Please continue to remember Fr Toon and Sr Egno in your prayers.

Romania (Petrosani)

We are grateful to all the parishioners who returned from a successful mission from Petrosani, Romania in July last year. They were involved in various types of voluntary work helping a number of families/ individuals who were in need of help. Their work was greatly appreciated by the members (employees) of Caritas, who were very impressed with the commitment and generosity of our parishioners. We are looking forward to yet another mission to Petrosani in 2021. Thanks to all those who have helped us through out 2020. We will remember you and your families at Mass here in our parish.

Selection Boxes

Many Thanks to all those who made it possible for us to send Selection-Boxes to the children in Petrosani, Romania this year. We have received a note of appreciation from the Caritas -Romania and also some photos which you can see on our parish Facebook page.

Maria Stein and the whole Caritas Team in Petrosani, Romania wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2021

Thanks again to all the parishioners of Sts Agnes & Aidan Honor Ambrose (on behalf of WCMAD- Suriname & Romania).

Yes”

'If Jesus is the representative of the total givenness of God to creation, then perhaps Mary is the representative of humanity, showing us how the gift is received.' [1] 'When Mary says 'Yes' she makes her commitment without knowing much about what it will entail or where it will lead. When the mystery of God's love breaks through into my consciousness, do I run from it? Or do I respond from my deepest, truest self, and say a "yes" that will change me forever?'[2]

'Our truest self is who we always are in God. It is a gift, waiting to be unwrapped, waiting to be consciously received. The Presence needs to be recognized, honoured, and drawn upon to become a Living Presence. Once we surrender to this Christ mystery, this divine incarnation in our oh-so-ordinary self and body, we begin to see it in every other ordinary place, too.' [1]



'How do we say yes to a life we did not choose? This yes is not something we can always summon on our own. It is not a response we can manufacture by our own strength of will.' [3] We need only remember that we are saying our 'Yes' to God who is 'a presence that spares us from nothing but unexplainably sustains us in all things.' [4]

"Be not afraid," the angel tells Mary. 'What fear do you need to let go of in order to offer your yes? How might it be to ask for the courage you need, and to open yourself to the ways this courage wants to meet you? You will know it by the strength that rises from within you to meet it, by the release of the knot in the centre of your chest that suddenly lets go. You will recognize it by how still your fear becomes as it loosens its grip, perhaps never quite leaving you, but calmly turning into joy.' [3]

Our yes response will then be "What aspect of God, what aspect of Love, am I being called to incarnate in the world today? [1]

Adapted [1] Richard Rohr [2] Kathleen Norris [3] Jan Richardson [4] J.Finley