

**Page references for Mass  
18th December 2016**

**Readings:** Page 119

**Psalm:** Let the Lord enter!  
He is the king of glory

**Gospel Acc:** The virgin will conceive  
and give birth to a son  
and they will call him  
Emmanuel, a name  
which means  
'God-is-with-us'.

**Gospel:** Matthew 11: 2-11

**Preface:** Pages 34-35

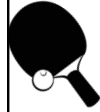
**We Can Make A Difference**

Sr Egno and Fr Toon have requested  
that we try and take **solar lamps** to  
Suriname when we next  
travel in January as they are  
unable to buy them locally.  
We will be travelling on 9th  
January, 2017 and would  
appreciate any donations  
towards the cost.



**Many thanks**

**Table Tennis**



Tuesdays 6.30pm at St. Aidan's  
All are welcome



**TABLE TOP SALE**

**Saturday, 28 January 2017**

This will be held on the last Saturday  
of every month from 8am - 12pm  
in Sr. Elizabeth Kelly's meeting room,  
St. Agnes Church,  
Huyton Hey Road/St. Mary's Road

**LYNDALE CANCER SUPPORT**

**40, Huyton lane , Huyton**

A voluntary group and charity  
providing emotional and practical  
support, complementary therapies,  
one -to-one and group support  
sessions in a welcoming  
environment.

*Please remember all volunteers and  
all those affected by cancer in your  
prayers. Thank you*

**Refugee Appeal Update (SHARe Knowsley) Asda Receipts**

Although we can no longer build up the vouchers obtained from the Asda  
receipts to purchase raffle prizes for our parish projects in Romania and  
Suriname we can still make good use of them in a different way to help  
purchase food and toiletries for the foodbank at the SHARe Knowsley  
drop-in and at Asylum Link.



Receipts need to be current as there is a time limit from the date on the receipt when  
vouchers can be claimed. As usual there will be a box at the back of church.

**Thank you so much for all your generosity and support.**

# The Parish of St Agnes and St Aidan

## NEWSLETTER



**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**18th December 2016**

**Year A**

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**

Vera Cummins, Philip Bromwell, James Soundie, Mary Organ, Thomas Clegg, Daphne Flynn, Tony Clintworth, Aidan Morris, Maria Edge, Kay McNeill, Wendy Paveley, Elsie Blundell, Kitty Barnes, Maureen McGurk, Amy Adair, Phil Ridler, Eddie Doran, Sandra Rowley, Winnie Witter, Joseph Hill, Vera Jones, Rose Sankey, George Gibbons, Averyll Fairfield Logan, Carol Atkinson, Sr. Ann, Christine Lees, Susan McDougale, Pat Madden, Marion, James Taylor, Philip Gallagher, Carl Atkinson, Ursula Erfani, Clare Pendleton, Victoria Hill-Edmundson, Wyn Graham, Josie Riley, Jennifer McLaughlin, Caelan McKeown, Mary Davis, Jimmy Jones, Margaret Flynn, Aaron Carmichael, Triona Bromwell, Patrick McKeown, Maisie Pritchard Janet & Ray Cragg, Maisie Linda O'Keefe, Margaret Sergison, Nancy Evans, Collette Garlick, Anthony Winrow, Nick Gregory, Kathleen Hughes, Philip Malone, Anthony Wilson, Nathan Davies, Mrs Lynch, Ann Gavin, Roisin & Pdraig McRory, Jerome Mitchell, Lawrence McClintock, Pauline Irvine, Peter Kelly, John Kennedy, , Laura Mitchell, Tony Gavin, Jim & Josephine Phillips, Sophie Bond, Colette Martin, Jackie Anders, Jennifer McKeown, Christina Hill, Julie Bohanna, Philip Anders, Baby Sonny, Angela Smith, Alan McMahon, Eva Roberts, Graham Dawson, Kathleen Keenan, Kate Williams, Angela & Gerry Reid, Fiona Wilson, Michael Head, John Humphry, Rose Rawlinson, Marie Hunter, Michael Bruder, Tommy Swift, James Abraham, Denis Cannon, Nicholas Cragg, Tony McCarthy, Sarah Doherty, Sheila Kinsella, Fr Ron McGivern, John McCormack.

**There are a number of young adults in our parishes who are terminally ill at the moment. Please remember them and their families specially in your prayers.**

### **Lately Dead**

Dorothy Keiller, Victor Green,

### **Anniversaries**

Elizabeth Ann Roberts, George Wright. Norman Garlick, Bob Lathom, Tony Smith

### **Sanctuary Lamps week beginning – 18th December**

**St Agnes** - Parishioners of St. Agnes and St. Aidan

**St Aidan** - Paul Pilnick

*Please ensure that details of your dedication are written on the front of the envelope and placed in the black post box in the Sacristy.*

**Please enter your Gift Aid Number if you have one. Thank you.**

## **Fourth Dimension Charity Shop**

Do you have a couple of hours free during the week? If so, the Fourth Dimension Shop in the village is in need of new volunteers and would love to hear from you. The shop is an ecumenical charity founded to raise money through the sale of goods and refreshments to assist in developing countries and to meet the needs of our own area.

If you are interested in helping, please contact:

**The Fourth Dimension Shop  
in Huyton Village  
Tel: 07582 867463**

## **Pastoral Meeting**

Many thanks for all who gave up their time to attend the meeting on

Sunday. The input was very welcome and it is always good to have different opinions and ideas .

*Thank  
You!*

## **Rosary at St. Aidan's**

The Rosary will be prayed on the 1st Sunday of the month at 4pm in St. Aidan's.



## **St. Aidan's Parish Centre**

Memberships available

### **MONDAY**

#### **Slimming World**

3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm

### **TUESDAY**

#### **Slimming World 9.30am, 11.30am**

(Michelle: 07940181515)

#### **Country Night 7.30pm**

### **WEDNESDAY**

#### **Bingo at 1.00pm, Quiz Night**

### **THURSDAY**

#### **Bingo 7.30pm**

### **SUNDAY**

#### **Cabaret Night**

Function room for hire Friday, Saturday and noon Sunday. Provide your own catering or ask for a quote.

All enquiries contact:

**Jacqui on: 0151 489 9024**

## **- St. Agnes -**

If anyone is interested in helping to clean the church could you please let the office know. We have a small team but it is always helpful, especially at holiday time, to be able to change dates and times to ensure all the jobs are done. **Many thanks**

## **Parish Newsletter on the Website**

Please note the parish Newsletter can be accessed on the parish website from 5pm on Friday. ([www.stagnes-staidan.org.uk](http://www.stagnes-staidan.org.uk))



## **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.

## **Dates for your Diary 2017**



Friday 27th January	Winter Night, St Aidan's Club
Friday 7th April	WCMAD Fundraiser, St Aidan's Club
Sunday 16th July	Joint Parish BBQ, St Agnes
Friday 13th October	WCMAD Fundraiser, St Aidan's Club

## **MAKING A DIFFERENCE HAS NEVER BEEN SO EASY**

The Old Schoolhouse (St Johns Road) continues to make an impact locally by working with, and supporting, many small community groups - from Jujitsu training to self help groups for people coping with a stroke, mental illness or simply trying to keep fit. While it raises income for running costs from the hire of rooms and long term tenants, there is never quite enough.

We are asking your support in a very easy fund raising initiative. It's called 'Give As You Live' - the funny thing is—you don't have to give any money. Neither do you have to give up any of your time. You do need to make a slight adjustment to your online shopping, though.

You can go to [www.giveasyoulive.com](http://www.giveasyoulive.com) for more information. If you're already sold on the idea then take a trip to [www.give.as/charity/theoldschoolhouse](http://www.give.as/charity/theoldschoolhouse).

*Thank you for your help.*

## **Mass Intentions**

### **Saturday 17th December**

St. Agnes Mass 5.30pm - Bob Latham, Denis McGann

### **Sunday 18th December – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

St. Aidan Mass 9.30am - Bernard and Shaun Mudge, Nick Redmond

St. Agnes Mass 11.00am - Catherine Turner, Catherine McCarthy

### **Monday 19th December**

St. Agnes 9.30am - Celebration of the Word and Communion

St. Agnes 1.30pm - *St. Anne's Primary school Mass ( All are welcome)*

### **Tuesday 20th December**

**St. Aidan Funeral Service 12 noon - Dorothy Keiller**

### **Wednesday 21st December**

St. Agnes 7.30pm Mass - Grandma Joan, Joe Hart

### **Thursday 22nd December**

No Mass

### **Friday 23rd December**

St. Aidan 12 noon Mass - William and Catherine Burns

### **Saturday 24th December - Vigil of the Nativity**

St. Aidan Mass 5.30pm - Alfred Rae, Billy Doyle

St Agnes Mass 8.30pm - Mike Jobe, Patrick and Mary McLindon

### **Sunday 25th December – Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**

St. Aidan Mass 9.30am - Parishioner or St. Agnes and St. Aidan

St. Agnes Mass 11.00am - Parishioner or St. Agnes and St. Aidan

**Confessions: Saturday at St. Agnes 5 - 5.20pm & Friday after 12 noon  
Mass at St Aidan's (Until there is nobody waiting)**

*Please contact the Parish office if you would like an anniversary added to the Prayer List in the Newsletter. Thank you.*



## Mystery is something that is endlessly understandable

At this time of year we reflect on the mystery of God's love for us as revealed in the Incarnation.

We usually use the word 'mystery' as meaning something that we will never understand. "But that is not the traditional or true meaning of the word. Mystery is not something that we cannot understand, but something that is *endlessly understandable!*"  
(Richard Rohr)

Today's gospel reading immerses us in mystery, reminds us once again that 'God's ways are not our ways.' (Isaiah 55:8) There is no rational explanation for Jesus' conception and birth. That's where most of us get stuck with this reading. That's where Joseph got stuck as well. So he "planned to dismiss her quietly."

Joseph has decided to dismiss Mary. He'll send her away. They can just go their separate ways and get on with their lives. We shouldn't be too surprised. Isn't that what we tend to do when we don't understand? We dismiss what makes no sense. We turn away from possibilities that don't fit with our ideas, beliefs, and experiences. Joseph knows what he believes and believes what he knows. And that's the problem. It's too small. It's too narrow. It's too limiting. I suspect there are times when we're probably a lot like Joseph. We've all had those times when we dismissed and walked away only to later wish we had waited a bit longer, made a different decision, or spent more time asking, seeking, and knocking. We dismiss people, relationships, ideas, opportunities, vocations, dreams all the time because we don't understand. Because they do not fit our usual experience or expectations. Because they don't make sense. Because the explanations are unbelievable. In dismissing what makes no sense, that which we don't understand or can't explain, we are refusing to open ourselves to something new. Sometimes that means we refuse to open ourselves to God.

Isn't that what Joseph is doing when he decides to quietly dismiss Mary? Joseph is dismissing the mystery of Emmanuel, God with us. He is dismissing not just Mary but the Mother of God, the very one who will give God human flesh, a body, the one who makes Emmanuel possible. That's what often happens when we are dismissive. We foreclose the life and opportunities God wants to birth in us and through us.

I am not suggesting that we ought to be naive, that we should be gullible, or that we should fall for anything and everything. I wonder, though, what we lose when we demand answers and refuse to live with questions. I wonder how often we miss our own life because we limit it to what we know, what's familiar, what makes sense, and close ourselves to the not-knowing, to something new, different, or unexpected. I wonder if we dismiss God with us by our searching for explanations and understanding rather than trusting and entering into the mystery.

## Suriname and Romania Projects

Thank You! to all the supporters who have made our parish WCMAD - projects a great success this year, as we continue to help people in need especially in Suriname (South America) and Romania. The children in Romania have now received their 'selection boxes' and the children in a number of villages along the Amazon will be provided a Christmas meal. We will continue to support Fr Toon O.M.I. and Sr Egno in Suriname as they continue their great missions among the people along the Amazonian rain forest.

Also keep in your prayers the group who will be travelling to Suriname in January to work alongside Fr Toon's parishioners in Washabo and Apura as they begin a new project to help the villages on the Corantijn River.



### Romania & Suriname Projects



If you are a parishioner who is 16+ and regularly worship at St. Agnes C. St. Aidan's you may like to help on our projects in Romania or Suriname. There is a group that meets every first Thursday of the month at 7.00pm at the  
**Presbytery 92 Adswood Road.**

## Please Note - Re: Fundraisers

This is to clarify the position regarding fundraising for charity in our two parishes:

Whilst we appreciate there are many worthy causes in need of assistance, we **MUST** restrict our own parish collections and fundraising events to the WCMAD (We Can Make A Difference) projects, Mary's Meals, Refugee Appeal and Lyndale Centre only.

If any individual or group wishes to aid any other charity or cause, they should do this privately and not on church premises or via the Tea Clubs.

***Thank you, Fr. Anton***

## Quiet During Services



It is a strength of our parish communities that we are friendly and welcoming. We do need to be aware however that during the Mass, we are in the presence of Christ in a special way. Please help us to create a quiet, respectful and prayerful atmosphere during services in both churches.



## Parish Collections

### **Sunday 11th December 2016**

St Agnes - £771.68

St. Aidan - £315.02

### **November Standing Orders**

St. Agnes - £983.00

St. Aidan - £150.00

St. Agnes' team to count: Team 1

### **Combined Refugee Collection to date**

**£5,355.35 - £1,009.10**

**Balance £4,344.96**

*Thank you for your*

## BAPTISM

### **St. Aidan's Baptism Preparation:**

2nd Monday of the month in

St. Aidan's church at 6:30pm



### **St. Aidan's Baptisms:**

3rd Sunday at 11am (Deacon)

4th Saturday at 12 noon

### **St. Agnes' Baptism Preparation:**

1st Tuesday of the month in

St. Agnes' church at 7:30pm

### **St. Agnes' Baptisms:**

1st Sunday at 12.30pm & 2pm

4th Sunday at 12.30pm (Deacon)

If you wish to have your child baptised, you **must** contact the Parish Office on **489 3085** and you will be booked into a preparation meeting.

## **Diamond Wedding**

Margaret and Wilf Murphy will be celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 21st December and we would all like to congratulate them on this achievement.

Please remember them in your prayers as they continue their married life together.



## **St Agnes & St. Aidan**

### **Little Church**

**Sunday, 18th December**  
Christmas Rehearsal



Ultimately, Joseph took Mary as his wife. However, he first had to move beyond what he understood and what made sense. He had to allow God with us to transcend the limits of his knowledge. He had to let go of trying to put it all in terms of a rational explanation. None of that, however, could happen between him and Mary. It would first have to happen within Joseph himself and it must first happen within us as well. It is a shift that happens within us.

The greatest mystery in this story is not that a virgin is pregnant and gives birth. The wonderful mystery is that God is with us, that God through Mary takes on flesh and blood and comes to us. God is flesh and blood real. The literally awesome mystery is that humanity can become pregnant with God. That means God is with us in people, relationships, ideas, opportunities, vocations, dreams. So why would we dismiss them? God is with you. God is with me. God is with them. God is with us in all the circumstances and situations of our life; in joy and sorry; in celebration and grieving, in success and failure, in hope and despair; in courage and paralysing fear. You name it, God is there with us. That's the point of this story. Sometimes, however, the truth of what is gets lost or ignored in our attempts to explain how it is, to make sense of it, to make it conform to our understanding.

Take a moment and look at the last week of your life, the last month, the last year. Who are the people you've dismissed? What relationships or opportunities have you quietly abandoned? What dreams have you walked away from? What happened? Why do we do that? Somewhere in those people, relationships, opportunities, and dreams there was something that made no sense. An explanation was lacking. Something didn't match our experiences or expectations. We couldn't understand what was happening. We didn't know what to do. We couldn't get straight in our head how it could all work out so we let it go, walked away. Another quiet dismissal. In the end we struggled, whether consciously or unconsciously, to recognize and believe Emmanuel, God with us.

This is our work in this season of Advent, in our preparation for Christmas: instead of analysing and explaining how the story could happen we simply bask in its beauty and open ourselves to its truth; to see people, relationships, ideas, opportunities, vocations, dreams, situation and circumstances, the entirety of our life, though the lens of God with us. Instead of looking for answers let's ponder what might be born in us, what needs to be born in us, what is waiting to be born in us. That's how we open ourselves to the life and possibilities God offers us. That's how we experience Emmanuel, God with us. That's what Joseph did. He took Mary as his wife and opened himself to something new, something different, something unexpected, something unexplainable. He opened himself to the life and possibilities God offered and he named it all Jesus.

Michael Marsh (Adapted)

## **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 make contact with **Christine Ball** or **Fr. Anton**.

Typically those interested begin to meet on a regular basis in September and are received into full Communion with the Catholic Church at Easter.

## **Collection for the homeless**

We would be grateful for any donations of socks, hats, scarves and gloves for the homeless in Liverpool helped by the Sisters in Seel Street.

## Christmas Services 2016

### Saturday 24th December

Christmas Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

*St. Aidan* 5.30pm

*St. Agnes* 8.30pm

### Sunday 25th December

Christmas Family Mass

*St. Aidan* 9.30am

*St. Agnes* 11.00am

### Monday 26th December - St. Stephen Feast

Mass

*St. Aidan* 12 noon

### Wednesday 28th December - Feast of the Holy Innocents

Mass

*St. Agnes* 7.30pm

### Friday 30th December - Feast of the Holy Family

Mass

*St. Aidan* 12 noon

### Saturday 31st December - Mass of Thanksgiving

Mass

*St. Agnes* 5.30pm

### Sunday 1st January - New Year Mass

Mass

*St. Aidan* 9.30am

*St. Agnes* 11.00am

### Saturday 7th January - The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass

*St. Agnes* 5.30pm

### Sunday 8th January - The Epiphany of the Lord

Mass

*St. Aidan* 9.30am

*St. Agnes* 11.00am

## PARISH OFFICE/PRESBYTERY

### Main Parish Office:

**St Aidan's**

**92 Adswood Road, L36 7XR**

### Office Hours:

Monday 9.00am - 12.30pm

Tuesday 9.00am - 12.30pm

Wednesday 9.00am - 12.30pm

Thursday 9.00am - 12.30pm

Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm

### All Enquiries to:

**Tel/Fax : 0151 489 3085**

### St Agnes Church

**82 Huyton Hey Road, L36 5SQ**

*For Mass Cards etc.*

**Tel: 0151 449 2209**

Also available from  
St Aidan's Church 0151 489 3085

### New Email Address:

[agnesaidan@rcaolp.co.uk](mailto:agnesaidan@rcaolp.co.uk)

### For your information:

**Parish Newsletters are posted on  
Parish Website every week.**

### New Parish Web Site:

[www.stagnes-staidan.org.uk](http://www.stagnes-staidan.org.uk)

**Newsletter items by Thursday  
morning to Main Parish Office**

## PARISH CONTACTS



### SISTERS:

**Helpers of the Holy Souls**

*Sr. Elizabeth* 0151 480 7904

*Sr. MaryRose* 0151 482 6895

**Sisters of St. Mary of Namur**

*Sr. Barbara* 0151 481 0968

*Sr. Gabriel* 0151 489 1302

*Sr. Louise* 0151 489 1302

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS:

*St. Aidan* 0151 477 8370

*St. Joseph* 0151 489 4072

*St. Anne's* 0151 477 8260

### PARISH CLERGY:

**Parish Priest**

*Rev. Fr. Anton Fernandopulle*

0151 489 3085

### Deacons:

*Mike Whelan, Joe Morgan*

### PARISH CLUBS:

**St Aidan:** 0151 489 9024

**St Agnes:** 0151 489 3990

### PASTORAL ASSISTANT:

*Mrs. Christine Ball*

Mobile: 07846 737 043

E-mail: [christinewball@gmail.com](mailto:christinewball@gmail.com)

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'Parish of St Agnes and St Aidan'