

Sunday 14th December



First Reading Isaiah 35: 1-6a 10

God himself will come and save you

Responsorial Psalm

Come, Lord and save us

Second Reading James 5: 7-10

Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand

Gospel Acclamation

The Spirit of the LORD is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor

Gospel Reading Matthew 11: 2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?

The Order of Mass on page 4 of the Hymn Book.

OFFICE/CHURCH

Parish Office:
82 Huyton Hey Road L36 5SQ
Tel: 0151 489 3085

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 10.00 am - 1.00 pm

Email Address:
agnesaidan@rcaol.org.uk

Mass cards available from church/office.

(Please note the parish office is located beside the church, entrance via the church car park - green door)

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 559 7841
Sr. Mary Rose 07770 830 290

Daughters of St. Paul 0151 487 8550
St. Mary of Namur 0151 489 1302

Deacon:

Mike Whelan

PRIMARY SCHOOLS:

St. Aidan 0151 477 8370
St. Joseph 0151 477 8990
St. Anne's 0151 477 8260

Parish Priest

Fr. Anton Fernandopulle 0151 489 3085
(Resident in parish)
Fr. Richard Sloan 0151 449 0214

Pastoral Assistant:

Christine Ball - christinewball@gmail.com

Safeguarding Representatives

Cath Golding - safeguarding062b@rcaol.org.uk
Honor Ambrose - safeguarding062@rcaol.org.uk

PARISH CLUB

St. Aidan: 07932 404 521

'Parish of St. Agnes and St. Aidan'

facebook

Images taken during services and events in our Church may be shown on social media or other publications. If you would prefer your image not to be included please let us know.

The Parish of St. Agnes and St. Aidan

**First Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Leo XIV -
On love for the poor (DILEXI TE)**

Group Reading – All Welcome!

Join us at 6:30 pm in Sr. Elizabeth Kelly's room on these Saturdays:

- 13 December 2025
- 10, 17 & 24 January 2026

All are welcome



NEWSLETTER



Sunday 14th December 2025

Third Week of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Year A

Liverpool Roman Catholic Archdiocesan Trustees Inc.
Reg. Charity No. 1199714

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.

Parish of Sts. Agnes & Aidan Live stream Masses

Holy Mass is live streamed every Sunday at 10.30 am on youtube:

Search Youtube Stagnesstaidan

You can watch and pray the Mass any time after 12.30pm on Sundays.

Livestreamed Masses are with a congregation so if you attend anonymity cannot be guaranteed.

Saturday 13th December - St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

Mass 5.30 pm - Bob Latham, Felix Doyle



Sunday 14th December - Third Sunday in Advent

Mass 10.30 am - Maureen Hamilton, Albert John Haynes

Monday 15th December

9.30 am - Celebration of the Word and Communion

Tuesday 16th December

Funeral Service 11 am - Mary Kilburn

Wednesday 17th December

Reconciliation Service 7.00 pm

Thursday 18th December

Requiem Mass 10.00 am - John Stanley Bradshaw

Friday 19th December

Requiem Mass 1pm - Ann Shields

Saturday 20th December

Mass 5.30 pm - David Collins, Joseph Davies

Sunday 21st December - Fourth Sunday in Advent

Mass 10.30 am - Francis Brannon (Frankie), Albert John Haynes

Confessions: Saturday 5.00 pm - 5.20 pm (or by appointment)



First Communion Preparation

Letters have been sent via schools this week regarding the First Communion Dates for 2026.

Due to a number of different commitments in the church diary, the dates for next year's First Communion are as follows:

St. Aidan's **Saturday 13th June 2026 10:00 am**
St. Joseph's **Saturday 13th June 2026 12:30 pm**
St. Anne's **Saturday 20th June 2026 10 am and 12:30 pm.**

(Times will be allocated by a draw once we have confirmed numbers)

All other schools **Saturday 20th June 2026 3:00 pm**

The programme will be run as it did last year with a greater focus on coming to Mass. Please ensure that if you would like your child to make their First Communion you are coming to Mass as regularly as possible.

There will be a meeting on **Wednesday 14th January 2026** for all parents at **6pm**.

Reminders about this will be sent out in the new year.

Christmas Mass Times St. Agnes & St. Aidan 2025

Wednesday 17th December

Reconciliation Service

7:00 pm

Saturday 20th December

5:30 pm

Sunday 21st December

10:30 am

Wednesday 24th December

Christmas Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

5:30 pm (Children's Nativity)

8:30 pm

Thursday 25th December

Christmas Day Family Mass

10:30 am

Saturday 27th December

5:30 pm

Sunday 28th December

10:30 am

Wednesday 31st December

***New Year's Eve Mass of
Thanksgiving***

7:00 pm

Thursday 1st January 2026

***Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
Service***

12 noon

Expectations, prisons and jailbreaks

We are a people of expectations. We have expectations for what is appropriate behaviour for ourselves and others. They offer some predictability and order to our world and lives. There are other expectations which affect us more profoundly than the day to day expectations. Sometimes they are expectations of hope and other times they are expectations of dread. Either way they have the power to imprison us. Expectations of hope create a framework for how we think the world and life should be. They are often the ideals and dreams that carry us forward. There are also expectations of dread, the things of life that we fear and want to avoid. The thing about expectations is that they pull us out of the present moment into a future we do not yet have, except as it exists in our head. Pretty soon we begin to act and speak as if our expectations, either of hope or dread, are the reality of our lives. We allow those expectations to shape our attitudes, our beliefs and the way we relate to others. Those expectations even shape our image of who God is, where God can show up and how God should act. We trust our expectations of what God should *be doing* more than we trust what God *is actually doing*.

John the Baptist was a man of expectations. In today's gospel we find him questioning his own expectations of Jesus because of the peaceful way that Jesus behaved, not at all like the violent revolutionary John had foretold. So what happened? How did John go from being a prophet with all the answers to a prisoner with questions? Herod may have put John in jail, but he is confined by his own unmet expectations. His vision of the kingdom is too small, his expectation of the Messiah too narrow.

That is the danger of holding our expectations too tightly. We imprison ourselves with a small and too narrow a view of God, the kingdom, the world and our own lives. We try to confine God's work and life to our expectations. But that is not who God is or how God acts. We think God will make our lives easy and instead he calls us to live more deeply. We want God to eliminate our suffering and instead we discover God standing with us in the midst of our pain. We expect God to make us number one but he calls us to identify with the least, the last, the lost. We want him to make us strong but he calls us to discover his strength in our weakness. We hope God will destroy our enemies but he commands us to love them. We want to be the leaders but God tells us to be servants.

The Season of Advent is the season of jailbreaks. It is the season of escaping our expectations of God. We will escape when we trust *God* more than *our ideas about God*. It is the time in which the falling apart of our worlds is shown not to be the end of the world but a realisation that a new world awaits us.

Michael Marsh

Prayer Requests

Your charitable prayers are asked for those who are sick or in special need of our Prayers.

Please let the office know if you wish to add a name to the list.

Tricia Andrews, Lynn Ashton, Doris Benette, Catherine Bennion, Shona Blackey, Marie Bowden, John Bradshaw, Trina Bromwell, Diane Bruder, Margaret & Gordon Caruthers, Violet Chadwick, Grace Cheeseman-Woolerton, Ann Clague, John Clintworth, Victoria Coffey, James Corbett, Janet, Ray and Nicholas Cragg, Marie D'arcy, Collette Davies, Janet Davies, Despina, Patricia Fisher, Brian Funnell, Alison Hardman, Joseph Hill, Claire Hindley, Sue Hodgson, Barbara Holman, Marie Hunter, Claire Illingworth, Barry James, Joelle, Peggy Kane, Dennis Ling, Ray Lloyd, Mary Lynch, Sheila McGrattan, Maureen, Dee McCloy, Michael & Lawrence McClintock, Christine Malone, Dr Deograttius Mwanje, Joe March, Patricia Markey, Tim Merritt, Peter Muldoon, Ann-Marie Naylor, Kathleen O'Gorman, Louise Owens, Ged Privilege, Julie Quarless, Mia Robinson, Nilma Cristina Rodrigo, Walter Runge, Marie Sanbter, Sara, Betty Savage, Christabelle Silva, Donna Sothern, Alan Spain, Billy Turner, Sr Josephine Vassallo, Molly Wallis, Frank Walsh, Joan Walsh, Dylan Watson, Pamela Watson, Ian Webster, Vera Whitfield, Emma Williamson, Kerry Wilson, Sr Clare Wilson, Jimmy Wolfe, Mary & John Wrigley.

Recently Deceased

Derek Dearden, Angela Batey, Agnes Quinn

Anniversary

Agnes Muraski, Veronica Keane

Sanctuary Lamp Week 14th December - Malcolm McMillan

Please contact the Parish office if you would like a Mass Intention, an Anniversary or anyone adding to the Prayer List. If you wish this to be said on a specific date can you please give the office as much advanced warning as possible. Please note: As in previous years Easter & Christmas masses will be for all the parishioners and not for individual intentions. Thank you.

WELCOME TO OUR OPEN CHURCH

As a parish family we have invested a considerable amount of money on security to make it possible to keep the church open during the weekdays from 10am to 1pm (except on bank holidays). Please feel free to avail yourself of this opportunity to spend some valuable time in the presence of the blessed sacrament in private prayer or just to light a candle.



BEREAVEMENT CARE TEAM - DROP- IN SESSIONS

1st Wednesday of the month 2pm – 4pm, in Sr. Elizabeth Kelly Room, at St. Agnes & St. Aidan Church on Huyton Hey Road.L36 5SQ . (*Entrance on St. Mary's Road via the arched metal gate*). We are not counsellors, just a small group of parishioners who have received training for this special ministry. We have also experienced the grief of having lost a loved one. You may prefer to have a one to one meeting with one of our care team. Our monthly Drop – In, is an open invitation for anyone to come along for a cup of tea and company. Time shared with a warm welcome with an opportunity for quiet prayer should you wish.

Baptism

Baptism Preparation meeting:
First Monday of each month at 7:30pm. The next meeting will be on Monday 5th January

If you wish to have your child baptised, you must contact the Parish Office on 0151 489 3085 and you will be booked into a preparation meeting. These meetings are for parents whose children are under 8 years of age

BAPTISMS ARE HELD ON:

1st Saturday at 12.00pm and 1.00 pm
1st Sunday at 1.30pm & 2.30pm (Fr. Anton)
4th Sunday at 1.30pm & 2.30 pm (Deacon Mike)

BAPTISM CERTIFICATES

Please email or phone the office with your request. Once ordered, copies can be collected on Monday or Wednesday from 10 am to 1 pm.

PARISH PENSIONERS' CLUB

Next meeting will be on 14th January 2026

1 pm until 3 pm in the parish meeting room (Sr Elizabeth Kelly room)

GOLD BOOK

If you would like the name of your deceased loved ones written in **The Gold Book** please contact the parish office with their name and the month they died so that their names can be added. (0151 489 3085)

LGBTQ+ SOCIAL GROUP

Will meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 6 pm in Sr. Elizabeth Kelly room in the church of SS. Agnes and Aidan, Huyton, L36 5SQ
The next meeting, which will be open, is on Sunday 14th of December

Instagram: St.Agnes_St.Aidan_LGBTQ & on **Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/580539512933145/?ref=share>
Facebook: 'Parishes of Sts Agnes & Aidan's LGBTQ+ Social Group'

Sr Elizabeth Kelly Community Room

- Community Prayer Circle (1-3pm)
- **Next meeting 6th January**
- Music Group (7.30 pm)
- **Next meeting 6th January**

No experience needed. Join us to make new friends and contribute to our worship.

All are welcome

Car Boot Sale

Last Saturday of each month
8am to 12 noon.

Next Car boot sale on 31st January 2026



Missing Parishioners

As parishioners we need to be aware that if we don't see someone for a few weeks we should find out what has happened. Or it may be that you are unable to attend Church because you have been ill. In either case please contact the office as soon as possible and we will make arrangements for someone to keep in touch, if they so wish.



WCMAD Meetings:

Interested in our projects, traveling to Romania or helping with fundraising? Join us on March 8th 2026 July 12th 2026 at 12.30pm after the tea club to learn more and get involved!

Save the Date

Empire by David Olusoga

If you haven't yet seen **Empire by David Olusoga**, make it a priority - watch it however you can.

This gripping series offers a clear, honest, and accessible look at what **really** happened during the era of empire - revealing stories often left out of traditional history lessons. David Olusoga brings these forgotten stories to light, helping us understand the forces that shaped the world we live in today.

Watching Empire isn't just about learning history - it's about gaining perspective. It highlights experiences we must never forget, lessons that should be shared, and truths that can guide us toward a fairer, more inclusive society. Encourage your children and grandchildren to watch too, so these stories and lessons are passed on to the next generation.

You can watch Empire anytime on BBC iPlayer if you're in the UK. Don't just watch it - share it, talk about it, and pass it on. This is history that matters, for all of us.

Parish WhatsApp Group



It's wonderful to see so many parishioners connecting via the parish WhatsApp group. All those who worship here and their families are invited to be part of this link. If you are interested please contact Brian Roberts on 07779 328 414.

This is a great tool to keep everyone informed of important events/services. Our hope is that this will bring more positive energy to our vibrant parish community.

Mass Intentions

When completing a Mass Intention envelope, please include your name and contact number. Occasionally, due to unforeseen circumstances, we may need to cancel a weekday Mass at short notice. Having your contact details allows us to inform you as soon as possible. If you are requesting a Mass for a specific date, please provide at least a few weeks' notice.