

## Parish Collections

**Sunday 17th December**

St. Agnes - £588.41

St. Aidan - £390.40

**November Standing Orders**

St. Agnes - £963.00

St. Aidan - £110.00

St. Agnes' team to count: Team 2

**Special Collections:**

**Crib Collection.**

*Thank you  
for your generous support*

Page references for Mass  
**24th December 2017**

Readings: 122

Psalm: I will sing forever of  
your love, O Lord.

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

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Preface: Page 34

## Book of Remembrance

There is a Gold Book which is at  
St Aidan's to be used by both Parishes.  
If you have a member of your family/loved  
one who has died and you would like their  
name entered into the book, please speak  
to Mary McCloy or ring the parish office

## 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.



**NUGENT CARE**

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](http://www.wearenugent.org)**

# The Parish of St. Agnes and St. Aidan

## Fourth Sunday of Advent



## Sunday, 24th December 2017



## Christmas Year B

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.*

NEWSLETTER



## **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, Rose Sankey, George Gibbons,  
Averyll Fairfield Logan, Carol Atkinson, Sr. Ann, Christine Lees, Susan McDougalle,  
Pat Madden, Marion, James Taylor, Philip Gallagher, 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 & Padraig McRory, Jerome Mitchell, Lawrence McClintock, Pauline Irvine,  
Peter Kelly, John Kennedy, Laura Mitchell, Sophie Bond, Colette Martin, Jennifer McKeown,  
Christina Hill, Baby Sonny, Angela Smith, Alan McMahon, Graham Dawson,  
Kathleen Keenan, Kate Williams, Gerry Reid, John Humphry, Rose Rawlinson, Marie Hunter,  
Tommy Swift, Nicholas Cragg, Sarah Doherty, John McCormack, Eileen Critchley,  
Terry Martin, Fr. Bernard Higham, Michael Ryan, Stella Passey, Fr. Simon, John Mulcahey,  
Anna Leatherbarrow, Sr Egno, Bruce Dixon, Marjorie Clutton, Grace Fernando,  
Peter Lovelady, Margaret Murphy, Fr Nicholas Wild, Molly Kennedy, James Abraham,  
Tom Brown, Ann Holden, Margaret Leadbetter, Mave Mooney, Mary Raisbeck,  
Richard Taylor.

***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 Deceased**

Patricia Collinge

### **Anniversaries**

Mary Rooney, Norman Garlick, Frank Kane, Bob Latham, Catherine Turner,  
Patrick & Mary McLindon, Mike Jobe, Billy Doyle & Chrissie Ford, Sean Mudge,  
Angela Reid.

### **Sanctuary Lamps week beginning – 24th December 2017**

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

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

*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.***

## **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

### **For your information:**

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

### **New Parish Web Site:**

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. Mary Rose* 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 CLUB**

**St Aidan:** 0151 489 9024

### **PASTORAL ASSISTANT:**

*Mrs. Christine Ball*

E-mail: christinewball@gmail.com

**facebook**

'Parish of St. Agnes and St. Aidan'

## 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**

## **CAFOD Fun Run**

The **perfect** opportunity to burn off the Christmas calories and help others at Christmas! Please encourage your friends and family to come to run or walk or toddle (from 2 – 8 kms) to raise lots of money for those who need it most

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December**  
**at Wavertree Park & Athletics Centre,**  
**Wellington Road, L15 4LE**  
**at 1pm registration opens at noon**

Signing up costs £7 per person, £15 for a family or £70 for a group of 10 or more people, sponsorship forms are available.

Prizes for the best fancy dress costumes!

For further details, please contact

**0151 228 4028,**

[liverpool@cafod.org.uk](mailto:liverpool@cafod.org.uk).



## **First Communion**

### **Dates**

The dates for next year's First Communion are:

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**St. Aidan's School**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**St. Joseph's School (Morning)**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**All other schools (Afternoon)**

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2018**

**St. Anne's School**

**(Morning and Afternoon)**

Times will be confirmed sometime in the New Year. Please do not request a specific time as this cannot be catered to on an individual basis due to the large numbers of participants.

## **World Meeting of Families**

**with Pope Francis**

**(Dublin 21-26 August 2018)**

**We will issue a leaflet with more  
information in the near future.  
For more information please  
visit the website.**

Official Website:

<http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/>

## **Mass Intentions**

### **Saturday 23rd December**

St. Agnes Mass 5.30pm - Catherine Turner, Bob Lathom

### **Sunday 24th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent**

St. Aidan Mass 9.30am - Deceased Members of the Keight Family.

St. Agnes Mass 11.00am - Michael & Tony Gavin

### **Sunday 24th December- Christmas Vigil of The Nativity Of The Lord**

St. Aidan 5.30pm - Volunteers of St Agnes & St Aidan

St. Agnes 8.30pm - Patrick & Mary McLindon.

### **Monday 25th December - Solemnity Of The Nativity Of The Lord**

St. Agnes -11.00am – Family Mass - Parishioners of St Agnes & St Aidan

### **Tuesday 26th December - Feast of St. Stephen, First Martyr**

St. Aidan Mass 12 noon - Mark & William Burns, Terry & Frank Burns, William & Catherine Burns

### **Wednesday 27th December - Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**

No Mass

### **Thursday 28th December - Feast of the Holy Innocents**

No Mass

### **Friday 29th December - Feast of St. Thomas of Canterbury, (Becket)**

#### **Bishop and Martyr**

No Mass

### **Saturday 30th December - Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity**

St. Agnes Mass 5.30pm - Keith Byrne, Dan Healy

### **Sunday 31st December - Feast of the Holy Family**

St. Aidan Mass 9.30am - Jim Philips, Jose Mulcahey

St. Agnes Mass 11.00am - Michael Head, Eileen & Jim Casey.

**Confessions: Saturday at St. Agnes 5pm- 5.20pm**

**and 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 endlessly understandable

In today's gospel passage there is not a single quality of Mary that is named. Nothing. It doesn't say she was worthy, smart, good looking, filled with virtue. Not a single virtue is named. Instead, we hear her say, "He has looked upon his servant in her lowliness." God has loved her in her nothingness, in her littleness. Mary found favour with God. Now 'favour' doesn't say anything about the one who is favoured. It says something about the one who is doing the favouring. In Greek, the word we translate as 'favoured' means undeserved love, unmerited, totally free from the giver's side. We all know that it is very hard to receive an undeserved gift. We all want to prove that we earned it, that we're worthy of it, that we're smart or holy enough. Mary doesn't go there. She makes no claims to deserving this gift. Every other encounter in the Bible when an angel enters the scene and gives an announcement, the person argues about their worthiness. Mary doesn't. She simply accepts that God can do what God can do. She could not possibly have understood what was really happening. Somehow she becomes the receptacle that brings the Christ into the world.

That's the pattern everywhere, all the time for us too. We're not worthy either. We have no credits to our name. Yet it is into this nothingness that we are, that the Christ forever comes. It boggles the mind; it explodes the heart to imagine how this could be true. And the word to us, as it was to Mary, is: "Don't be afraid. You have found favour with God." In our world of computation and calculation, we cannot understand total, undeserved love.

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*! It is multilayered and pregnant with meaning and never totally admits to closure or resolution.

*(Richard Rohr)*

***May we all have a wonder-filled Christmas and spend the New Year unwrapping the mystery of the reality of God-with-us.***

## GIFT AID TAX REFUND 2016/17

**St Agnes - £7,516.91      St. Aidan - £4,020.98**

Fr. Anton would like to thank Parishioners who made their contributions through the Gift Aid Scheme which enabled the parish to reclaim the tax from government. **Thank you.**

*If you are a tax payer and would like to use gift aid envelopes please contact the parish office.*



## Christmas Services 2017

**Saturday 23rd December**  
Mass

St. Agnes 5.30pm

**Sunday 24th December**  
4th Sunday of Advent

St. Aidan 9.30am  
St. Agnes 11.00am

**Sunday 24th December**  
Christmas Vigil of the  
Nativity of the Lord

St. Aidan 5.30pm  
St. Agnes 8.30pm

**Monday 25th December**  
Christmas Family Mass

St. Agnes 11.00am

**Tuesday 26th December - St. Stephen Feast**  
Mass

St. Aidan 12 noon

**Saturday 30th December - Feast of the Holy Family**  
Mass

St. Agnes 5.30pm

**Sunday 31st December - Mass of Thanksgiving**  
Mass

St. Aidan 9.30am  
St. Agnes 11.00am

**Monday 1st January - New Year Mass**  
Mass

St. Aidan 12 noon

**Saturday 6th January - The Epiphany of the Lord**  
Mass

St. Agnes 5.30pm

**Sunday 7th January - The Epiphany of the Lord**  
Mass

St. Aidan 9.30am  
St. Agnes 11.00am

## Rosary at St. Aidan's

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



## Welcoming in the New Year

We will be having a Day of Retreat to welcome in the New Year on **Saturday 6th January 2018** **The Old Schoolhouse. 10.00-4pm** led by Fr Richard and Sr. Maryrose finishing with Mass at 3pm

## ST. AGNES MISSION BOXES

Mission boxes are due to be emptied this month.

***Thank you for all your support***

## Dates for diary 2018

### Day of Retreat

10.00-4.00pm 6th January  
Old School House

**Winter Night** 23rd February  
**WCMAD Fundraiser** 20th April

## SVP VISITS

### St Vincent de Paul Society

If you are aware of anyone who would benefit by a visit from a member of the SVP team please contact:

**Bob Singleton on: 0151 489 6793**  
**Or the office on: 0151 489 3085**

## 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 Christine Ball or 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.



## Romania & Suriname Projects

If you are a parishioner who is 16+ and regularly worship at St. Agnes or 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.



## Car Parking

Please pay attention to parking on the streets during Mass.

Often cars are parked which makes it impossible for wheelchair users and prams to pass safely on the pavement.

Residents also need to access their driveways with ease.



## FOOD BANK

Could any donations for the food bank be left at the back of either Church please.

Thank you for your continued support!



## THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE

*'Sometimes you need to sit in a quiet room in order to hear your own voice and not let it drown in the noise of others' -*

**Charlotte Eriksson**

The Old Schoolhouse on St John's Road has opened a room for quiet reflection, a space to think, a place to pray. It is open to all who feel the need for a time alone with their thoughts and a chance to speak with God.

Please know you are welcome to come anytime **Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 5.00 pm**

## New First Communion Programme Details

There will no longer be an evening preparation session. In order to prepare for First Communion, we are asking the children to attend **Sunday Mass from 4th February to the First Communions in June**, where the Preparation Book will be distributed and worked through alongside catechists in Little Church. This offers the best opportunity for your child to have full understanding of this very special sacrament.

It is **essential** that your child attend the day of preparation which will be arranged for each school. For those who do not attend St Aidan's, St. Joseph's or St. Anne's, there will be a separate day of preparation advertised through the parish newsletter in the new year.

In order to participate in the First Communion Programme, your child **MUST** be baptised. We will have to have their name, date of birth and date of baptism before they start in February. If you are not sure of their baptism date, please phone the Parish office of the church where they were baptised to confirm. Please complete an application form (can be found at the back of both churches and will be given to schools after half term) and hand into the **Parish Office: 92 Adswood Road, Huyton, L36 7XR.**

*We cannot confirm dates as yet, but the proposed month for First Communions is June 2018.*

## 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 (Romanian Project moving to a new location)

The parish will be sending out a group to Romania again in July 2018. The village of Homorodu du Jos, where the group have worked with the summer camp for the last six years, has gone from strength to strength. Quite a number of the families now have work and, generally, the poverty level has lifted. This year it was the consensus of the group that it was probably time to move on as we felt the original need had been fulfilled. We have now made a new connection with Caritas in Petrosani (in the south west of Romania) with the help of Sr Silvia who is a member of The Helpers of the Holy Souls (the congregation to whom Srs Elizabeth and MaryRose belong). Petrosani is a former mining town but after the fall of the communist regime, many mines were closed. Petroşani is one of the Romanian cities which has experienced the fastest population loss from the 1990s onwards.

Our parishioners will be involved in various types of voluntary jobs while in Petrosani. These will involve manual work (painting the house, fence, playground, etc) and they will also be helping with the children in the Maria Stein centre. Our parish volunteers have been preparing for this new challenge during their monthly meetings and 12 of them will embark on this project on 21 July 2018. As we thank you for your support please continue to remember them in your prayers.



## SHARe Knowsley News Update

SHARe Knowsley wants to extend its sincerest thanks for all the support you have given to us these past two years. From when we started out with the trip to Calais to our present day, where we have a weekly drop-in, your ongoing donations have provided the backbone for what we do. To date, over the past two years you have donated an AMAZING £7866.54. WOW!! A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT! Without this money, we would not be able to do what we do. I think our parish certainly embraced the call from Pope Francis to 'welcome the stranger in our midst.'

So what have we been spending your money on?

As asylum seekers only receive £5 a day per person to live on, we are committed to refunding any transport costs incurred in getting to the weekly drop-in, as we believe that it is important that everyone should be able to access our services freely. At the drop-in, we welcome people with a free lunch, tea and coffee and a big smile. We also purchase a selection of fresh fruit and other foodstuffs as well as nappies and baby milk which we sell for nominal amounts as well as selling second hand clothing and toiletries to try and ensure that basic needs are met. We are currently spending between £180 and £200 each week on transport refunds and the purchase of the items we sell. When people receive refugee status there is often an interim period where they have no money at all, so we then provide an emergency payment of £10 per person per week. This has proved invaluable to those who have found themselves in such an awful situation. And of course, when we can't find items for free, we purchase basic items that are needed to help them set up their new homes.

In addition to the weekly drop-in, we also organise social events, which are enjoyed by both service users and volunteers alike and enables a wonderful sharing of various cultures. We have people from a range of countries including Iran, Syria, Iraq, Albania, Nigeria, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya, Yemen, Tunisia and Sudan.

The Christmas party on 9th December was a huge success. Thank you to all those who joined in.

SHARe Knowsley is staffed entirely by volunteers and we are reliant wholly on the generosity of donations to do the work we do. Since we started the drop-in in June 2016, with YOUR HELP we have supported a total of 66 adults and 38 children. I am in a very privileged position to see the difference we really do make to people's lives. If you want further information, you can look on our website: [www.shareknowsley.org.uk](http://www.shareknowsley.org.uk), facebook page or email: [shareknowsley@gmail.com](mailto:shareknowsley@gmail.com). Once again, a heartfelt thank you for all your ongoing support. On behalf of SHARe Knowsley, I would like to wish you all a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

**Margaret Roche**

## Missing Parishioners

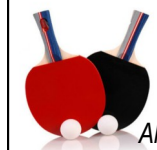
As parishioners we need to be aware that if we don't see anyone for a few weeks we should find out what has happened. Sometimes it is due to the fact that a bus route has changed and it's time and no longer ties in with the mass times. Please contact the office as soon as possible if you become aware 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.



**Saturday  
27th January 2018**

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**



**TABLE TENNIS**

**Will resume Tuesday,  
9th January, 2018**

*All Welcome (year 6 and above)*



**PILATES CLASSES**

FREE Pilates Classes for people  
who have been diagnosed or undergone  
surgery for Breast Cancer

To be held every  
**Wednesday Evening at 7.30-8.30pm**  
**at St. Margaret Mary's Junior School Gym,**  
**Pilch Lane, Huyton.**

If interested, please contact **BREASTMATES**  
on **07835 982879 or 07835 918576**

## 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 2018 will be held on  
**25th-29th July 2018 at The Bield at Blackruthven, Nr Perth, PH1 1PY.**  
<http://www.malejourney.org.uk/rites> or speak to Fr. Richard Sloane or Fr. Anton