

Sunday 21st December



First Reading Isaiah 7: 10-14

Behold, the virgin shall conceive

Responsorial Psalm

Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory

Second Reading Romans 1: 1-7

Jesus Christ, descended from David, Son of God

Gospel Acclamation

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which means, God with us.

Gospel Reading Matthew 1: 18-24

Jesus was born of Mary who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David

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-room on these Saturdays:

- 10, 17 & 24 January 2026

All are welcome



Please scan me



Sunday 21st December 2025

Fourth Week of Advent — Christmas

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.

NEWSLETTER

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 20th December

Mass 5.30 pm - David Collins, Joseph Davies



Sunday 21st December - Fourth Sunday in Advent (Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers)

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

Monday 22nd December

9.30 am - Celebration of the Word and Communion

Wednesday 24th December - Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord

Mass 5.30 pm - Mass with Children's Nativity

Mass 8.30 pm - Parishioners of St Agnes & St Aidan



Thursday 25th December - Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

10.30 am - Parishioners of St Agnes & St Aidan

Saturday 27th December - Feast of Saint John

Mass 5.30 pm - Felicia & Charles Roberts, Tony Roberts

Sunday 28th December - Feast of the Holy Family Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Mass 10.30 am - McCloy & Foley Families, Mary & Patrick McLindon

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



Parish Volunteers

We continue to look for volunteers to support the many activities in our parish. We are especially seeking new people who can take on roles that have been faithfully carried out by long-standing volunteers over the years.

If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office. As we know, many hands make light work, and together we can ensure the smooth running of parish life.

We take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our volunteers - past and present - for their generous service and ongoing support. Please encourage your family and friends to get involved too!

In the beginning was the Word

The Word was with God ... and the Word was God.

'In John's gospel we read about the eternality of God. St John is a mystic and from the first verse of his gospel he raises us into the realm of the everlasting, into the realm of eternity. St John is encouraging us to *experience* the eternal nature of God, to *experience* our own eternal nature, our birthlessness and our deathlessness.' [1]

In the beginning was the Word.

What exactly does that mean? Logos is Greek for 'the Word'. Logos doesn't just mean 'word'. It means meaning; it means purpose. As human beings we are built with questions and desires, and the fundamental question is for meaning. [2]

And the word became flesh.

'When God self-discloses in Christ and names Himself as the Word, what He is saying is that He is the answer to the question of human existence.' [2] We could paraphrase St John's words by saying: 'In the beginning was the answer. In the beginning was the meaning.' 'Do you want to know what our Lord meant in all this? Love is his meaning.' [3]

Through him all things came to be, not one thing has its being but through him.'

May we open ourselves to re-discovering and experiencing our oneness with God and with each other. In those moments 'when you are gifted with an understanding of who "I" is, you'll never be the same again.' [4]

Adapted: [1] Aiden Tozer [2] Father John Nepil [3] Julian of Norwich [4] Richard Rohr



Catholic Association for
Racial Justice

CARJ (CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE) / CARJ Merseyside

CARJ is an independent charity, established in 1984 in London. Here in our parish, we have an active CARJ group, and we would like you to consider joining us in our effort to

promote racial justice in the church and the wider society.

Here is some of the work CARJ is involved in the UK?

CARJ works to support people from diverse backgrounds

- Empowerment of black and minority & to give them an effective voice in the Church and in the wider society. We support people from diverse backgrounds in the struggle for a more just and cohesive society.

Awareness raising and education for racial justice

- To campaign for awareness raising and education for racial justice to be an integral part of training in Seminaries, Colleges, Schools, Parishes, and Catholic organisations.

Promotion of spiritual growth and development

- To facilitate the integration of the spiritual, liturgical and theological with the moral and political struggle for justice and cohesion.
- To develop ecumenical links and links with other faith communities.

Advocacy

- To respond to requests for advice and support from those who are victims of prejudice, discrimination, and injustice.

CARJ Merseyside – Get Involved

CARJ National is based in London, but our local group here in Merseyside is always eager to welcome new people who share a passion for racial justice.

Contact CARJ Merseyside:

Email: carjmerseyside@gmail.com

Phone: 0151 489 3085

If you care about racial justice and want to be part of this important work, please get in touch—wherever in the country you may live. We would love to hear from you.

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

Tony Anderson,

Anniversary

Elizabeth Callaghan, John Malone, Elizabeth Roberts, Eileen Ward, Dennis Vasey, Mary Maher

Sanctuary Lamp Week 21st December - Expectant Mothers

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 18th January

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.

You make our parish a place where truth is spoken, compassion is practiced, and justice is made visible.

Fr. Rolheiser reminds us that we come to church to "take our rightful place in the human family" and to "help carry one another's burdens." I see that happening here week after week. You are building a parish where the Eucharist is not only received but shared in the way you love, serve, and care for one another.

As Christmas fills our hearts with the light of Christ, and as the New Year opens before us with hope and possibility, I thank you for being a community where God's presence is real, tangible, and alive.

May the peace of the Christ Child rest upon your homes, and may the coming year be one of grace, healing, and renewed joy.

With gratitude and every blessing,

Fr. Anton Fernandopulle

Come and Visit LAZIZ Café – St Helens, on Thursdays from 11.am to 1.30pm

Café Laziz is more than just a café — it's a welcoming community space where people come together through food, culture, and connection.

Our aims are to: Break down barriers between asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, and the local community. Use food as a vehicle to celebrate the different cultures that make up Café Laziz, while showcasing our volunteers' skills and rich cultural backgrounds.

Location:
Chain Lane Community Centre
Saint Helens, United Kingdom
WA11 9HT

Phone: 07491 258863
Email: cafelaziz@hotmail.com

We warmly invite everyone to come along, enjoy delicious food, meet new people, and support a café that makes a real difference.



Christmas & New Year Message from the Parish Priest

To all who worship in this church, to all who call this parish their spiritual home, and to everyone in Huyton who joins us in faith and friendship.

As we celebrate Christmas and prepare to welcome a new year, I want to speak a word of gratitude and blessing to each one of you.

You do not come to church out of obligation. You come because God calls us into a community where His presence becomes visible—at Mass, yes, but also in the countless ways you care for one another. When I look at our parish, I see that truth lived out beautifully.

My heartfelt thanks go to all our volunteers—those whose names are known and those who quietly work behind the scenes. You help build a community where no one stands alone, where the Eucharist is not only celebrated but lived.

Thank you to those who greet others with warmth, who ask “How are you?” and genuinely wait for the answer. Thank you to those who learn names, notice absences, and check in on those who may be struggling. Thank you to those who visit the sick, comfort the lonely, and offer lifts to parishioners who otherwise could not come to Mass. In these simple, human gestures, God becomes visible.

Thank you to our Altar servers, musicians, cleaners, decorators, catechists, sacristans, gardeners, stewards, and all who run the pensioners’ club. Your dedication ensures that our parish remains a place of welcome, beauty, and reverence. You remind us that the Church is not merely a building we enter, but a family we belong to.

A special word of gratitude to our housebound parishioners. Your prayers are a hidden strength for our community. We miss you at Mass, but you are deeply present with us in spirit, and you remain in our prayers every day. Your faith, offered from your homes, is a precious gift.

I also want to thank all who are involved in justice and peace work. As we know, justice is what love looks like in public—a faith that refuses to remain private or comfortable, but instead steps courageously into the suffering and hopes of others. Many of you live this out with remarkable generosity.

To those who welcome asylum seekers and refugees, who offer practical support, friendship, advocacy, and dignity—thank you. Your work embodies the heart of the Gospel. You show that solidarity is not a slogan but a way of life: a willingness to listen, to accompany, and to let the struggles of others shape our own priorities.

Advent Reflection

Join us this **Monday** evening, **22nd December**, at **7 pm** in the Sr. Elizabeth Kelly Room for a short Advent reflection, drawing on music, slides and short extracts read from “A Woman Wrapped in Silence” by John Lynch.

The evening will be approximately 45 minutes and be a time of calm and quiet in this often very busy time of year.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Parish Music Ministry

Enjoy singing or playing music? Join our *parish music group*—even once a month makes a difference!

Contact the parish office or speak to Von. Thank you.



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.



WCMAD Meetings:

Interested in parish 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!

Joseph

'Every third year, our liturgy gives us the perspective of Joseph a quiet, unassuming descendant of the House of David. It is his willingness to lean into the impossible, to embrace the scandalous and to abandon *his* notions of holiness in favour of God's confusing plan of salvation that allows the miracle of Christmas to unfold. But we make a grave mistake when we sanitise Joseph's consent. We distort his humanity when we assume that his acceptance of God's plan came easily, when we hold ourselves at arm's length from his humiliation and doubt. In fact, what Joseph's pain shows is that God's favour is not the shiny, comforting thing we'd like to believe it is. God's call required Joseph to embrace a situation fraught with tension, complications, suspicions and the inexplicable. Then again, Joseph's story gives me hope. I can't relate to a person who leaps headlong into obedience. I *can* relate, however, to a person who struggles, to a person whose "yes" is cautious, ambivalent, and scared.

In the verses that immediately precede our Gospel reading, Matthew gives us a genealogy of Jesus' ancestors. How interesting that God chose a long line of brokenness, imperfection, dishonour and scandal. The perfect backdrop, I suppose, for his beautiful work of restoration, healing, hope and second chances.

The angel's first words to Joseph were, "Do not be afraid." If we want to enter into God's 'chaotic' story, then perhaps these are the first words we also need to hear. Do not be afraid when God's work in your life looks alarmingly different from what you hoped it would be. Do not be afraid when God challenges your pre-conceived ideas about where God is to be found. Do not be afraid of confusion. God is in the confusion.' [1]

'I wonder how often we miss our own life because we limit it to what we know, what's familiar, what makes sense and we 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 surrendering and entering into the mystery. 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.' [2]

Adapted: [1] Debbie Thomas [2] Michael Marsh

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.

First Communion Preparation

Letters have been sent via schools 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

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

