



Our Lady Immaculate & St Joseph Catholic Church

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Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Risley

Sunday 5th November 2023

Thirty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)



*'O God, who from living
and chosen stones
prepare an eternal
dwelling for your majesty,
increase in your Church
the spirit of grace
you have bestowed,
so that by new growth
your faithful people
may build up the
heavenly Jerusalem.'*

The Pope's Cathedra,
St John Lateran

Remembrance Sunday

There is a slight change to the town services for the Armistice this year. Due to ongoing repairs to the roof of the Parish Church, they are unable to host either of the services this year and have asked us to host instead. This is a wonderful opportunity to provide this for the town when we remember those who have died in war. As such there are a couple of changes to the Mass schedule. **There will be no midday Mass next Saturday and the Sunday morning Mass will be at the earlier time of 10am**

There will be two short ecumenical services to mark the Armistice and remember those who have died in war. The first will be on Saturday 11th at the War Memorial inside Prescot Cemetery. The second will be next Sunday 12th and will begin at the Cenotaph before moving into church. Both will begin at 10.45. All are welcome to attend.

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes

It would be lovely to run a pilgrimage for the parish next year. I have enquired about a pilgrimage overland to Lourdes that incorporates both Lisieux (home of St Therese) and Nevers (where St Bernadette's incorrupt body lies). Dates are not set at the moment but it would be around the beginning of September 2024 and the cost would be roughly £969 pp for a nine day pilgrimage. A provisional itinerary is on the noticeboard. If anyone is interested please see Fr Dominic.

Tesco Blue Tokens

A huge thank you from the school for supporting the blue token appeal. Our Lady's school came in first place and will receive a £1,500 grant to go towards improving the playgrounds and outdoor areas of the school.

Parish Christmas Party

Tickets will be on sale next Sunday for our first Christmas Party taking place at the Guild Hall on Friday 8th December from 7:30pm. The evening will include a Raffle, Hot Food and DJ. Tickets are priced at £10.

Christmas Raffle Prizes

The ladies who run the Parish Kitchen are looking for prizes to put towards this years Christmas Raffle. If you have any chocolates, biscuits or bottles to donate please hand the in to the Kitchen.

Families of Parishes Roadshow

The Pastoral Plan outlines a path forward for the Church in our Archdiocese. It envisions the creation of "Families of Parishes." There are three informative roadshows, open to everyone. These will take place at the following locations and times: Tuesday 7 November, 7.00pm – 9.00pm at St Anne's Pastoral Centre in Ormskirk; Wednesday 8 November, 7.00pm –

9.00pm at St Julie's Eccleston, St Helens. If you have questions or would like clarification about this strategy, attend one of the open meetings – there is no need to book, just come along.

Feast Days

Thursday 10th - Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

This feast commemorates the dedication of the basilica built by the Emperor Constantine on the Lateran Hill which, by a tradition dating from the 12th Century, is said to have taken place on this day. This is the Cathedral church for the City of Rome, and houses the Pope's cathedra, his seat of authority. At first the feast was kept only in the City of Rome but then, in honour of the basilica which is called Mother and Head of all the Churches of the City and of the World, it was extended to the whole of the Roman Rite as a sign of unity and respect towards the Holy See.

Friday 10th - Memorial of St Leo the Great

St. Leo was born in Tuscany. He lived during a time of great political chaos for the Church. Barbarian armies were ravaging the once mighty Roman Empire. Leo was an ordained a Deacon. He became the Bishop of Rome in 440. He was Bishop of Rome for 21 years, until his death in 461. During his papacy, he was known for meeting Attila the Hun in 452 as he was preparing to invade Italy. Amazingly, he persuaded him to turn back, and avoided a war. Leo fought many heresies, including Pelagianism which teaches that grace was not necessary for salvation. Leo was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Benedict XIV in the eighteenth century. The title "Great" has been given to only three Popes. The three "Great popes are St. Leo the Great, St. Gregory the Great and St. Nicholas the Great.

Saturday 11th - Memorial of St Martin of Tours

He was born of pagan parents about the year 316. He received baptism, gave up his career as a soldier and founded a monastery in Liguge in France where he lived the religious life under the guidance of St Hilary. Then he was ordained priest and was chosen to be Bishop of Tours. As a bishop he lived a simple, austere life, visiting all the parishes of his diocese, instructing the clergy and preaching the Gospel to the poor. He fought heresies but was merciful to heretics. He died in the year 397 and, at his own request, was buried in the Cemetery of the Poor

Offertory Collection - Gift Aid £133 Loose £282. Thank you for your generosity.

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Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 4th	6.00 pm	Pious List
Sunday 5th	11.00 am	Pious List
Monday 6th	12.00 pm	Private Intention
Wednesday 8th	12.00 pm	Malcolm Rawson
Friday 10th	12.00 pm	Joseph Ashley
Saturday 11th	No Mass	
	6.00 pm	Pious List
Sunday 12th	10.00 am	Pious List

Please remember in your prayers the members of our parish who are sick and those who have asked for our prayers:

Thomas Owens, Derek McEgan, Clare Walsh, Monica Allen, Tony Duncan, Anne McCafrey, Karen Parry, Sandra Johnson, Geraldine Shacklock, Toni Shacklock, Gwen Bode, Joe & Family, Mary Sherwood, Vera Lynn, Jo Knight

If you would like us to pray for someone who is sick, who has recently died or whose anniversary is coming up please contact the parish office.

