

## **Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE**

First Sunday of Advent  
3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

Fr Michael Fitzsimons Tel. 0151 936 7688

Parish Office Tel. 0151 489 1802

Email: [cjf@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:cjf@rcaol.org.uk)

Website: [www.columba-johnfisher.org.uk](http://www.columba-johnfisher.org.uk)

### **Advent Times**



So we reach a new Church year with the season of Advent. This year it is as short a season as possible, with Christmas Day falling on a Monday, the final fourth 'week' is barely a few hours long! With its shortened time it is even more important that Advent is allowed its due space and focus and not be overshadowed by our rush into Christmas.

Advent is a time of waiting, patience and longing. Lets face it there is so much in the world that we have to wait and long for. The elusive reality of peace in our world is absent in Israel and Palestine, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and so many other places. The joy of Christmas celebrations and festivities is shadowed by the knowledge that many people and families may be struggling to have any celebration at this time - I am always struck when politicians and others talk about tough economic times they avoid using the word poverty but when children will spend Christmas with no bed to sleep in or not having any real celebration, I am sure we must acknowledge it for what it is.

Advent is that time we we really take stock of the world and our own lives. How can we speak out? How can we change? What can we do in our lives to help be better prepared to greeting the coming Christ child this Christmas. Tough questions for tough times this Advent so even more reason to stick with those questions this Advent time. Engaging with these with hope, patience and perseverance will help make our Christmas celebrations even more full of light and joy.



## Childrens Liturgy and Activities

The next date for Childrens Liturgy is  
Sunday 17th December

Also on Sunday 10th December we will  
be holding a Children and Family Crafts

and Christingle Service at 3.30pm at St Columba's. We will gather for a range of children's activities including making a Christingle and other Christmas crafts. We will then celebrate a short Christingle service. All are welcome.



## Service of Light

On Wednesday 6th December we will hold an Advent prayer service at St John Fishers at 7pm. It is an opportunity to enter into the longing of Advent. We will have time together waiting in darkness and lighting candles, with prayers, readings and reflections.

Advent is a time of preparation so this is an opportunity to take time to prepare in prayer and spirit for the coming joy at Christmas. Please come along if you are able.



## CAFOD Fun Run/Walk

This year's CAFOD fun run will take place on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December. It will be the 40th year that the run has taken place. It is based at the the Mystery Park in Wavertree. There is a 3k and 5k route and people of all ages are welcome to join and can run or walk the routes. Registration takes place at 10am and the run starts at 11am. The cost to take part is £5 per child, £10 per adult and £20 per family.

Or just turn up on the day - it's a great way to burn off any Christmas excess!



## Archdiocesan and Deanery Synodal Councils

Last weekend we had the Archdiocesan Synodal Council and we will receive a report from that in the new year. Next weekend we will also hear the progress of our Diocesan Synodal Council which has been meeting for the past few months.

# Masses & Services This Week

## Weekend 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> December - First Sunday of Advent

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (People of the Parish)

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered)

## Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December

9.15am Mass at St C ()

## Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

9.15am Mass at St JF ()

## Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December

9.15am Mass at St C (Pauline Quirk)



## Next Weekend 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> December - Second Sunday of Advent

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (People of the Parish)

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Jackie McGlynn)

**Confession** - available before and after Mass or by appointment

---

**Collections:** Weeks 1st Oct - 5th Nov TOTAL £1767.36

CAFOD - £339.60

World Missions - £209.83

## Second Collections In Coming Weeks

Next weekend we will have a second collection for Survive Miva a specialist missions charity that provides cars, vans and bicycles for missionaries around the world. Based here in Liverpool, it makes grants to mission projects around the world.

With the terrible war in Gaza still on our news every day, and remembering the forgotten conflicts around the world, I am minded that this year we could send our Christmas Mass collections to help as an act of solidarity and Christmas giving. I suggest we could split the collection, sending half to CAFOD's emergency Palestine Appeal and half to Ethiopia to support the Sisters of Charity's work in supporting women victims of sexual assault in the Tigray conflict.

## Advent and Christmas Services

The dates and times of Advent and Christmas Services are as follows

### Advent Service of Light

Wednesday 6th 7pm at St John Fisher Church

### Childrens Crafts and Christingle Service

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 3.30pm at St Columba.



**Mince pies and mulled wine** will be served after Mass on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at St John Fisher.

## Christmas Mass Times

### Christmas Eve (Sunday 24th)

Children's and Family Mass 5.30pm at St Columba

'Midnight' Mass 8.00pm at St John Fisher

### Christmas Day (Monday 25th)

Christmas Morning Mass 10am at St Columba

Tuesday 26th (Boxing Day) Mass at 10.00am at St C

Wednesday 27th Mass at 9.15am at St JF

Thursday 28th Mass at 9.15am at St C



**We will return to our usual Mass schedule the weekend of 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> December (The Feast of the Holy Family) and the following week.**



### Please pray for the sick of our parish:

Les Orritt, Joan Haigh, Norma Pritchard, Loretta McDonnell, M. Rivi, Thomas Hopkins, Amy Murphy, Joseph Cameron, Sharon Whitting, Rowan Sanderson, Karen Duffy, James Murphy, Betty Stewart, Elizabeth Jones, Marie Shepherd,

## Parish Safeguarding Representative

Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives is

Jan Box 0151 548 5268

Please make contact if you have any concerns relating to the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults in our parish.