

Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE

Third Sunday of Advent
17th December 2023

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Crib Reflections

Have you put up a crib yet at home? I usually wait until nearer to Christmas but decided to go earlier this year so I put mine up this week. Do you know the origin of the crib? Right back in 1223 AD St Francis of Assisi made a living crib, an enactment of the birth of Christ near the mountain town of Greccio on Christmas Day. St Francis desired to present the lowly poverty of the Saviour born at Bethlehem. Francis asked a local nobleman for help and he sent him an ox and ass and helped to build a stable. Then as Christmas Night arrived St Francis and his companions joined together with local people lighting torches like the Christmas star to process to the 'crib'. St. Francis was overcome with joy and they celebrated Mass. Afterwards he asked that the hay and the animals were to be looked after to remind us to care for all our gifts of creation.

And so in the small town of Greccio, St. Francis recreated Bethlehem and the tradition of the crib was born. So when we place a crib in our home or see one in church, schools, town centres we are reminded of the poverty and humble beginnings of our Saviour. It is not just a simple Christmas decoration. We too recreate Bethlehem in our homes, schools and churches. We declare that we find space in our homes, families and lives for Christ to make a home.



Childrens Liturgy and Activities

We will be having Childrens Liturgy this weekend at the Sunday 11am Mass.

Thank you to all who are helped with our Advent and Christmas craft events which were enjoyed by all.



Nugent and Food Bank Thanks

This week both Nugent and the local foodbank collected our donations. Both were really happy and expressed their thanks for your support. We continue to be a collection point for the foodbank and after Christmas we will have a specific regifting appeal for the Nugent shop as we have done in previous years.

CAFOD Fun Run/Walk

This year's CAFOD fun run will take place on Wednesday 27th 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!



Prayer for peace in Israel and Gaza

Let us pray for the many people whose lives have been

torn apart by conflict in Gaza and Israel.

We remember especially those who have died, those who are grieving, the injured and those now without food, shelter or medical supplies.

We pray also for those who have the power to bring peace. May they be touched by a spirit of compassion and kindness.

Lord hear us.



Masses & Services This Week

Weekend 16th/17th December - Third Sunday of Advent

Saturday 5.30pm Mass at St JF (Deceased priests of the parish)

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (People of the Parish)

Tuesday 18th December

9.15am Mass at St C (Our Parish Schools)

Wednesday 19th December

9.15am Mass at St JF (Sr Columba and Sr Barbara)

Thursday 20th December

9.15am Mass at St C (Peace in Middle East)

10.00am Funeral Service for John Mangan at St C

Next Weekend 23rd/24th December - Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Chris Pearson and Family)

Confession - available before and after Mass or by appointment



Collections: Weeks 11th Nov - 3rd Dec TOTAL £1420.67

Second Collections

Thank you for your recent support for our Animate Youth Ministry services on Youth Sunday and the Survive-Miva Missionary appeal. With the terrible war in Gaza still on our news every day, and remembering the forgotten conflicts around the world, we will send our Christmas Mass collections to help as an act of solidarity and Christmas giving. The collection will be split 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.

Christmas Service Times

Mince pies and mulled wine will be served after Mass on Saturday 23rd 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 30th/31st 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, Eileen Hayden

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.