

Ss COLUMBA & JOHN FISHER HUYTON & KNOWSLEY VILLAGE

Fourth Sunday of Advent
24th December 2023

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Christmas Sadness and Joy

So we have nearly completed our Advent journey. Its been very short this time, Christmas is upon us just after our fourth Advent Sunday! The long anticipated joy and light of Christmas is here. Sadly this year we are as ever in times of trouble, war and uncertainty.

Last Sunday saw the killing of two innocent women in the church compound of the Holy Family Catholic parish in Gaza. Most of the Catholic families have gathered at the church for shelter and have also been organising aid and support for others in need. The women had merely stepped out of the church heading to go to the convent building when an Israeli sniper soldier shot and killed them. Seven others were also shot and injured as they tried to help others escape into the church buildings. There had been no warnings, no notification and there were no terrorists or threats within the church. These were cold blooded killings by the Israeli army. The attack has been outrightly condemned by the church authorities in Jerusalem. They ask us to continue to pray for the Christians in Gaza under so much threat and violence even as they prepare to celebrate Christmas. They also ask us to support the urgent calls for a complete ceasefire and the attempts to try and find a peaceful solution.

Jesus was born two thousand years ago into a land under military occupation. God's Light came into our world, and comes again this Christmas. It is needed more than ever today and forever.



Masses & Services

Week Starting Sunday 24th December

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)

Christmas Eve

Sunday 5.30pm Children's and Family Mass at St C
(Children of the World)

Sunday 8.00pm 'Midnight' Mass at St JF
(Peace in the World)

Monday 25th December Christmas Day

Monday 10.00am Christmas Morning Mass at St C
(People of the Parish)



Tuesday 26th December - Boxing Day

10.00am Mass at St C (For those lonely at Christmas)

Wednesday 27th December

9.15am Mass at St JF (James and Anne Donnelly)

Thursday 28th December

9.15am Mass at St C (Cowie Family and Friends)

Next Weekend 30th/31st December - Feast of the Holy Family

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

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Ellen, John and Conlon Family)

Masses & Services

Week Starting Sunday 31st December

Weekend 30th/31st December - Feast of the Holy Family

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

Sunday 11.00am Mass at St C (Ellen, John and Conlon Family)



Tuesday 2nd January

9.15am Mass at St C (Fr Michael and Family)

Wednesday 3rd January

9.15am Mass at St JF (Robert and Margaret Cullen)

Thursday 4th January

9.15am Mass at St C (The Work of Nugent)

Next Weekend 6th/7th January - Feast of the Epiphany

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

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

Confession - available before and after Mass or by appointment

Christmas Mass Collections

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 collections 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.



CAFOD Fun Run/Walk

This year's CAFOD fun run will take place on Wednesday 27th December. It will be the 39th year that the run has taken place. It is based at 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.

More information on registration can be found at

<https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/CAFODsChristmasFunRun>

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

Advent and Christmas Services Thanks

As ever we have enjoyed wonderful Advent and Christmas services, activities and celebrations in our parish. There are many people who have helped in all sorts of ways to make these such special times of celebration, community and prayer. Thank you to all who have helped.



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.