

PASTORAL AREA BULLETIN

ADVENT RISK-TAKING

Since last June, through until June 2010, we're living in what Pope Benedict has termed "The Year of the Priest". It's an opportunity for us to remember the indispensable role of the ordained priest in the life of the Christian Community, a role which can never be replaced, because no priest means no Eucharist, and no Eucharist means no Church.



Yet apart from regular reminders to those who read the weekly Catholic newspapers, it's a commemoration which has quietly slipped the average Catholic by. Probably because we priests don't like to blow our own trumpet, having the injunction of John the Baptist forever ringing in our ears: "He must grow greater; I must grow less".

It's probably true to say that the ones most affected by any change in our structures, and by the challenge to do and to be in a new way, will probably be our priests. Which is why most priests (if we're honest) are not too keen on change. It's easier to do things as we've always done them, since opening ourselves to new ways means taking a risk ... yes, the risk of Him growing greater but maybe also the risk of us growing more confused and uncertain! Yet the Lord calls all of us - ordained or non - to take a risk on his word: "Throw out your nets into deeper water" (Jn 21:6) "Go out into the world and proclaim the Good News to everyone" (Mk 16:16) which, to paraphrase the word of the Lord, means just one thing: "Leave Your Safe Harbours!"

During Advent we'll be faced with and challenged by people who took a risk on the Word of the Lord; Jeremiah and Isaiah, John the Baptist and Paul, Mary and Joseph. And the Word spoken to them will also seek entrance into our ears and our hearts. It will invite us and confront us. It will challenge and disturb us. But it will also encourage us with that often-heard assurance to those who risk all with the Lord: "Do not be afraid!"

The call to change is never an easy one to hear, but always a rewarding one to accept. Because it calls us to take a risk on the Word of the Lord, to allow Him to grow greater among us, while we may be growing less. And through the pains of that growing and the contractions of that bringing-to-birth, the Word once more takes flesh among us and will bring life to the world.

May the Word of the Lord thoroughly disturb us this Advent!

Fr. Tony Mangnall

Pastoral Area Leader

CHRISTMAS MASSES IN THE PASTORAL AREA CHURCHES

CHRISTMAS EVE – Thursday 24th December 2009

6.00pm	Newton: Ss. Mary & John	Platt Bridge: Holy Family
6.30pm	Newton: St. Patrick	
7.00pm	Haydock: English Martyrs	Lowton: St. Catherine
8.00pm	Newton: St. David	
8.30pm	Golborne: All Saints	
9.00pm	Stubshaw Cross: St. Wilfrid	

MIDNIGHT MASS with Carols from 11.30pm

Ashton: St. Oswald	Bryn: Our Lady	Croft: Saint Lewis
Hindley: Saint Benedict		Hindley Green: Sacred Heart

CHRISTMAS DAY – Friday 25th December 2009

8.30am	Ashton St. Oswald	Bryn Our Lady		
9.00am	Croft St. Lewis	Golborne All Saints	Newton Ss. Mary & John	
9.30am	Hindley St. Benedict	Hindley Green Sacred Heart	Platt Bridge Holy Family	
10.00am	Bryn Our Lady	Lowton St. Catherine	Newton St. Patrick	
10.30am	Ashton St. Oswald	Croft St. Lewis	Golborne All Saints	Haydock English Martyrs
11.00am	Hindley St. Benedict	Hindley Green Sacred Heart	Stubshaw Cross St. Wilfrid	Newton St. David

RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Tuesday 15th December	7.30pm	St. Oswald, Ashton
Thursday 17th December	7.30pm	St. Catherine, Lowton
Monday 21st December	7.00pm	Sacred Heart, Hindley Green
Monday 21st December	7.00pm	St. David, Newton-le-Willows
Monday 21st December	7.30pm	St. Patrick, Newton-le-Willows
Tuesday 22nd December	7.00pm	Ss. Mary & John, Newton-le-Willows
Wednesday 23rd December	7.00pm	St. Benedict, Hindley

CAROL SERVICES

Sunday 13th December - English Martyrs, Haydock at 6pm (with Senior & Junior Choirs)
 Monday 14th December – Holy Family, Platt Bridge at 7pm (with local schoolchildren)
 Wednesday 16th December – Ss. Mary & John, Newton at 6pm (with the schoolchildren)

PASTORAL AREA PARISH LINKS & CLERGY

Ashton-in-Makerfield, Bryn & Haydock

Priests: Fr. John Gorman (Bryn)
Tel. 01942 727271
Fr. Tom Kennedy (Haydock)
Tel. 01942 727005
Fr. Tony Mangnall (Stubshaw Cross)
Tel. 01942 866102
Fr. Brian Newns (Ashton)
Tel 01942 727249

Deacons: Rev. Peter Barr (Haydock)
Rev. Malcolm Cunliffe (Bryn)
Rev. Roy Moore (Stubshaw Cross)
Rev. John O'Brien (Ashton)
Rev. Mike Swift (Stubshaw Cross)

Hindley, Hindley Green & Platt Bridge

Priests: Fr. Tony Mangnall (Platt Bridge)
Tel. 01942 866102
Fr. Joe Weston (Hindley & H.Green)
Tel. 01942 255306

Deacons: Rev. Ken Holding (Hindley Green)
Rev. Terry Rose (Platt Bridge)

Lowton, Croft & Golborne

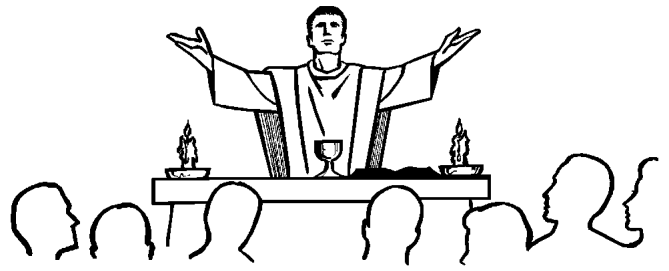
Priests: Fr. Ron Johnson (Lowton & Croft)
Tel. 01942 206030
Fr. John Joyce (Golborne)
Tel. 01942 728962

Deacons: Rev. Derek Morris (Lowton)
Rev. Frank Newton (Retired)

Newton-le-Willows

Priests: Fr. Vin Fedigan
Tel. 01925 226106
Fr. Frank Smith
Tel. 01925 225884

CURRENT MASS TIMES IN THE PASTORAL AREA



Saturday Evening Mass (Nine Masses)

5.00pm Golborne: All Saints
Stubshaw Cross: St. Wilfrid
5.30pm Hindley Green: Sacred Heart
6.00pm Haydock: English Martyrs
6.30pm Lowton: St. Catherine of Siena
Newton-le-Willows: St. David
Platt Bridge: Holy Family
7.00pm Bryn: Our Lady Immaculate
Hindley: St. Benedict

Sunday Morning Mass (Fifteen Masses)

8.30am Ashton: St. Oswald
Croft: St. Lewis
9.30am Hindley Green: Sacred Heart
Newton-le-Willows: Ss. Mary & John
10.00am Bryn: Our Lady Immaculate
Lowton: St. Catherine of Siena
Stubshaw Cross: St. Wilfrid
10.30am Ashton: St. Oswald
Golborne: All Saints
Haydock: English Martyrs
11.00am Croft: St. Lewis
Hindley: St. Benedict
Newton-le-Willows: St. David
Newton-le-Willows: St. Patrick
11.30am Platt Bridge: Holy Family

Sunday Evening Mass (One Mass)

4.30pm Newton-le-Willows: Ss. Mary & John

LEAVING SAFE HARBOURS PRAYER

**Holy God, whose presence must be made known
in any structures we build and renew, establish us
as a community of hope, never seeking to contain your mystery,
but willing to be led, by the Holy Spirit,
beyond our safe harbours into new and sacred waters.**

**SUNDAY EVENING ADVENT SERVICES
AT OUR LADY'S, BRYN AT 6.30PM**

On each of the Four Sundays of Advent

Led by the students of Saint Edmund Arrowsmith High School, Ashton

Everyone Welcome!!!

(Please note that these are not celebrations of Mass)

**NO EVENING MASSES ON BOXING DAY
SATURDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2009**

Please note that there will be NO Masses in any of the Pastoral Area churches on the evening of Saturday the 26th of December 2009 (Boxing Day). In addition to the usual Sunday Morning Masses there will be the usual Afternoon Mass on Sunday the 27th of December at 4.30pm at Saints Mary & John, Newton-le-Willows but also a Sunday Evening Mass on that day at 6.30pm at Our Lady's, Bryn.

**SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2009**

Our Lady's, Bryn celebrate their Patronal Feast on this day with Solemn Mass in the church at 7.00pm and a Social Evening in the Parish Centre from 8.00pm. All welcome.

**FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES
THURSDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2010**

Our Annual Pastoral Area Act of Devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes on her feastday will take place at Saint Patrick's Church, Newton-le-Willows at 7.30pm with Candlelight Procession, Rosary, Sermon and Benediction.

Website Addresses

Vatican Website
www.vatican.va

Archdiocese of Liverpool Website
www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk

Parish Websites:
Platt Bridge & Stubshaw Cross:
www.stwilfrid-hf-org.uk
Croft, Lowton & Golborne:
www.stlewis.co.uk

Dean & Pastoral Area Leader

Father Anthony Mangnall VF

Holy Family Presbytery,
Lily Lane, Platt Bridge, Wigan, WN2 5LL
Telephone 01942 866102
Fax 01942 865901
Email AMangnall@aol.com

Pastoral Area Website www.edmund-arrowsmith.org.uk