

## 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 24<sup>th</sup> December 2009

<b>6.00pm</b>	Newton: Ss. Mary & John	Platt Bridge: Holy Family
<b>6.30pm</b>	Newton: St. Patrick	
<b>7.00pm</b>	Haydock: English Martyrs	Lowton: St. Catherine
<b>8.00pm</b>	Newton: St. David	
<b>8.30pm</b>	Golborne: All Saints	
<b>9.00pm</b>	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 25<sup>th</sup> December 2009

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

## RECONCILIATION SERVICES

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

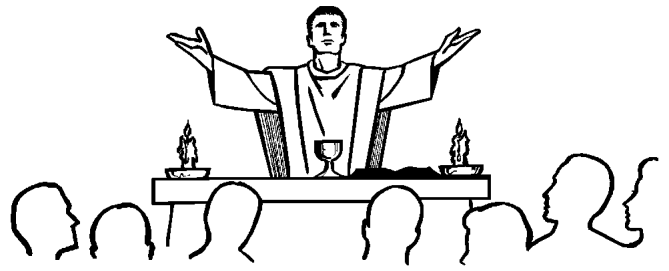
Priests: Fr. Ron Johnson (Lowton & Croft)  
Tel. 01942 206030  
Fr. John Joyce (Golborne)  
Tel. 01942 728962

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](http://www.vatican.va)

Archdiocese of Liverpool Website  
[www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk)

Parish Websites:  
*Platt Bridge & Stubshaw Cross:*  
[www.stwilfrid-hf-org.uk](http://www.stwilfrid-hf-org.uk)  
*Croft, Lowton & Golborne:*  
[www.stlewis.co.uk](http://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](mailto:AMangnall@aol.com)

Pastoral Area Website [www.edmund-arrowsmith.org.uk](http://www.edmund-arrowsmith.org.uk)