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*Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message. If you do not wish to opt-in to hear more about our work and fundraising via text, but would still like to donate £5, text METROCATHERDALNOINFO instead.



Cathedral Record

www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends, Today is often called Gaudete (Latin for rejoice) Sunday because the entrance antiphon of the mass begins with the words, "Rejoice in the Lord always ..." from St Paul's Letter to the Philippians. We are halfway through the season of Advent and we celebrate a moment of Christmas anticipation. Indeed, we have much to be happy about. After a very tough time things are beginning to change for the better. A vaccine is becoming available to combat the virus which has devastated our way of life bringing death to and suffering to many people, unemployment to others and has restricted the movements of us all. We are also looking forward to seeing our loved ones and families at Christmas, and for some who are in residential care this will be a first meeting for several months. So, let us rejoice, and give thanks for the joy that awaits us. Nevertheless, Advent is always a very challenging time for Christians who take their faith seriously. This is because it is a time of waiting and waiting can be very unnerving. I don't know anyone who likes waiting; whether it is waiting in a queue at the supermarket checkout or waiting for a train or even waiting for Christmas. Today you are probably waiting to be vaccinated against the coronavirus and that brings its own anxieties. Waiting means acceptance of things which are outside our control. No matter how worked up we may get, the train is not going to arrive any sooner because of our anxiety. We may put up our Christmas tree today, but Christmas comes on 25 December and not a moment sooner. Part of the frustration we all feel about waiting is that when the waiting is over, we may be faced with disappointment. The holiday for which we saved all year ends up being ruined by bad weather and delayed flights. But sometimes we are pleasantly surprised. The future would be much less troublesome for us if we could control it, and then waiting would be easier on our nerves. A Christian approach to waiting is to understand the future as God's future - that is not as coming events which have been totally planned and prepared by us, so that there are no surprises, but as a time which comes to us full of the unexpected and brimming over with God's grace. That is not very easy for us to grasp because we all work to plans and 'to do' lists.

If we are not careful, we can plan God out of our lives, or what is just as bad, we may give just enough space to God to make our life pleasant for the time being. The pandemic we are enduring may have cured us of that attitude to life this year but every year we are given the season of Advent to remind us that God cannot be planned for. The future is not of our making but is a gift from God. God comes to us in unexpected ways: a baby in a manger, in the Eucharist under the signs of bread and wine, in the Scriptures and often the acts of love we show to each other. Just look at the wonderful explosion of love that has showed itself in the way that we have supported each other through these dark months. Every act of kindness to a lonely or hungry person has been an example of Christ working through each of us. We did not plan any of this and in a similar way we cannot plan for God intervening in our lives, except to be open to him at all times, and to fully use God's gift of himself. We must wait patiently in the assurance that God will guide us and lead us to a new stage in the life of our diocese. Yet we must also prepare and plan for the future using all the gifts of our people. The work of Synod 2020 has continued through the internet and social media and we are well on course for our meeting in June next year when we open our hearts to God. Adopting this 'Advent' attitude will ensure that our future will be vibrant and full of the life of the Holy Spirit, because the future that awaits us is God's will for us, and not our plans for him! Over the next two weeks you will be preparing for the Christ-child to come into your lives once more. Make a welcome for him by turning once again to the Lord who is ever-loving, as well as getting ready for family celebrations. Always show concern for those who cannot take part in such festivities because they are unemployed or homeless, or because they are far from home.

May God bless you in this holy season, and bring you much peace at Christmas.

Most Rev Malcolm McMahon OP Archbishop of Liverpool

Tel: 0151 709 9222
Email: enquiries@metcathedral.org.uk

Mass & Service Times

All services take place in the cathedral unless marked otherwise

WEEK COMMENCING: 13 December 2020

Sunday 13 December Third Sunday of Advent

9.00am Mass
11.00am Mass
This Mass will be streamed live on Facebook and Youtube

Monday 14 December St John of the Cross

9.00am Mass
12noon Mass

Tuesday 15 December 12noon Mass

Wednesday 16 December 12noon Mass

Thursday 17 December 12noon Mass

Friday 18 December 12noon Mass

Saturday 19 December 10.00am Mass 4.00pm Mass

RECONCILIATION (Confession)

Monday - Friday:
Following the 12noon Mass.
Please note that there are no Confessions on Holy Days.

Saturday: 3.00pm – 3.45pm

Confessions will take place in the St Columba Chapel.

Crypt Crypt Chapel

SS -
55 Seel St,
Missionaries of
Charity

RLUH -
Royal Liverpool
University Hospital

CLERGY:

PRIESTS:
Canon Anthony
O'Brien Dean
Fr Stephen Lee
Fr Chris McCoy
Fr Peter Murphy

DEACONS:
Rev Noel Abbott
Rev Paul Mannings

Cathedral Notice Board

MASS INTENTIONS

Theresa Young, Richard Duhig (RIP), Barbara Formby (RIP), Victorine Tsika-Kabala (Thanksgiving), Shelagh Weston (RIP), Gerard Webb (RIP), Holy Souls, Josie Byrne (RIP), Julie Byrne (RIP), Alice Gregg (RIP) Tommy Cook (RIP), Christopher Beaton (RIP), Ronnie Pillsbery (RIP), Mary McNally (RIP), Molly Gallagher (RIP).

PASTORAL FORMATION UPDATE

New resources now available include:

Reflection for the Third Sunday of Advent (also available as an audio download).

Readings for next few Sundays. Week 14 in the series of 'Armchair Retreats' with Fr Denis Blackledge SJ.

Key characters of Advent: Mary. All can be accessed/downloaded at

<https://www.liverpoolcatholicresources.com/> or through <http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/> by clicking on 'Prayer and Other Resources'.

POLITE NOTICE

While we will attempt to take appropriate precautions consistent with the advice of public health authorities, parishioners should understand that they assume the risk of contracting COVID-19 any time they enter a public space since such precautions do not eliminate the risk of infection.

NEWS FROM SAINT NICHOLAS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Last Sunday was Saint Nicholas's Feast Day. Thank you to Father Peter for being filmed as part of our special assembly last Friday when he reminded us all about some of the good deeds Saint Nicholas carried out when he was alive. Using the wonders of technology Father Peter was able to be "beamed" into all classrooms and then afterwards he gave out bags of gold chocolate coins to all children to remember how Saint Nicholas gave gold coins out as this was one of his good deeds.

PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

We pray for Pope Francis ... may his vision of a better, more just and peaceful world, through a fraternity and social friendship which welcomes the contribution of all, be born in our hearts and communities this Advent.

We pray for all who continue to face poverty and hardship ... that they may be guided to services which can provide them with enough for their needs in these days.

For those who grieve and mourn the loss of a loved one ... may they be comforted.

WOMEN'S REFUGE

Our appeal for toiletries, nightwear, toys for children, chocolates and other new items for the Women's Refuge has started once again, and is needed now more than ever before. As you start your own Christmas shopping please consider popping a little bit extra in for these families who have been through a tough time, and have found it more difficult than ever during lockdown. Please be as generous as you can.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

You are invited to buy a Christmas flower in memory of a departed loved one by placing £5 and the name of the person in an envelope and leaving it at the reception at Cathedral House or give it to one of the Cathedral clergy. The 11.00am Mass on Sunday 27 December will be offered for all their names.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Things will look and feel slightly different this year for our Christmas Masses. So that we can keep everyone safe and adhere to the guidelines everyone has to have a ticket. We hope that we have catered for everyone. Please go to our website for all details. Please don't leave it until the last minute as tickets are limited due to our capacity. We have set up waiting lists for the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve and Midnight Mass. We look forward to welcoming you to the Cathedral at Christmas.

Don't forget that you need to bring any tickets that you have with you to the Masses.

CATHEDRAL MUSIC STAFF TO RUN MARATHON FOR MICAHA

Music staff from the two Cathedrals in Liverpool are coming together to raise money for MICAHA, the social justice charity set up by Liverpool Cathedral, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King and St Bride's Church to relieve Liverpool residents from social injustice and poverty. Christopher McElroy is Director of Music at the Metropolitan Cathedral. Stephen

Mannings is the Director of Music Outreach at Liverpool Cathedral. The pair will be running a marathon on New Year's Eve 2020 to raise money for MICAHA Liverpool. Chris and Stephen are hoping to raise £2000 for MICAHA, to assist them in their current projects to combat unemployment and deliver emergency food aid and affordable food at this difficult time for so many people. It is also hoped to raise public awareness of issues relating to poverty and social exclusion, which are particularly acute in our city at this time. The pair have launched a JustGiving page to help them reach their target.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/micahmarathon>. If you would feel able to make a donation and sponsor Chris & Stephen this would be greatly appreciated, and would go a long way to supporting the work of MICAHA in our city, amongst our most underprivileged communities. Please pray for good weather (or at least not high winds and gales!) The full route will be posted on the just giving page, as well as regular updates as the date draws closer.

Last week's collection: **£574.23**



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Golden Book of Remembrance

The Golden Book is open and accepting your entries but on a limited basis for the time being.

Please email enquiries@metcathedral.org.uk or telephone 0151 709 9222 where a member of the team will assist you.