



AMDG PARISH EXTRA

NEWS, VIEWS AND INFORMATION FOR ST PETER'S,
ST JOSEPH'S AND THE STONYHURST COMMUNITY

You can contact Father Curtis directly by telephone 01254 826268 or email stpeterschurchstonyhurst@btinternet.com
Parish website: stpetersstonyhurst.org.uk (for newsletters, mass times, cemetery guidance etc)

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EDITORIAL

The challenge for this year will be to respond to the Pope's invitation to dream up a new future for the Church. He has asked every parish in the world to take part in a Universal Synod, where we listen to each other and come to a common consensus about the direction the church needs to take.

In the 1960's it was the bishops of the world who gathered in Rome for the Second Vatican Council. The result of this council, was to set the church on a new course. Pope Francis is hoping that the results of the Universal Synod will be just as far reaching.

However, this time it will not be just the bishops discerning our new course, everyone is invited to be involved. Early in the new year we shall be organising meetings in the parish and I hope that as many people as possible will contribute to this brave new initiative. The Pope sees this as a new way of being church. We are a church that walks together.

For more on the Synod and our parish, see Page 7

Just when you thought it was safe to go back into the water.

What another extraordinary year! Just when we thought things were getting better, along comes Omicron and we are back to taking precautions again.

The pandemic is teaching us how to be creative.

Last year we changed the 5.30pm Christmas Eve Mass into a drive-in celebration.

Those who came really appreciated being able to sing carols in their cars. This year we are back in church for all celebrations and we can sing in church. However, you will have to wear masks and socially distance. Parishioners who want to avoid crowds can choose one of the quieter celebrations.

One begins to wonder if we will ever get back to "normal". As Christians we should be accustomed to being taken by surprise! We pray for the grace to be able to face whatever the future may hold in store for us. Have a blessed Christmas, and keep safe!



Christmas Mass times

Fri 24 th Dec	5.00pm Carols in St Peter's 5.30pm Mass including procession to crib In St Peter's (please bring your baby Jesus) 8.30pm Carols in St Peter's 9.00pm Mass of Christmas in St Peter's <i>There is NO Mass at MIDNIGHT this year.</i>
Sat 25 th Dec	9.30am Mass in St Joseph's 11.00am Mass in St Peter's (No Sunday vigil Mass at 5.30pm)
Sun 26 th Dec	9.30am Mass in St Joseph's 11.00am Mass in St Peter's
Week after Christmas	Tue, Wed and Fri—Mass at 8am Exposition at 4.30pm Mass at 5.30pm Sat 1st Jan 9.30am Mass (St J's), Sun 2nd Jan 11.00am Mass (St P's)

Please take this Newsletter home with you at the end of Mass



My faith journey during Covid 19: written by Mrs Rita Holden.

We have all been living through some strange and difficult times during the past two years. I have been one of those who have had to 'shield' during lockdown.

I missed very much attending church, which has always filled a major part of my life. I have friends who have died and not been able to attend their funerals. Also, friends who have been seriously ill in hospital and I have been unable to visit, others who have dementia. Thankfully Fr Tim was able to get the newsletter delivered to us, and was available on the telephone. We were all very grateful for this. I discovered Catholic Daily Masses on the internet and visited places I have been on holiday in the past—rekindling many happy memories. Radio Lancashire has been on permanently from 6am, which has kept me informed of many important news items. The daily 'Keeping Faith' slot was interesting where different people explained how they dealt with life during Covid. I also loved Sunday morning 8am service with the sermons, the singing from all over the country.

The telephone was an excellent way of keeping in touch with friends. Many people offered to shop for me so my quality of life remained the same. Doorstep deliveries were the norm. The Arrupe pupils from Stonyhurst College could no longer entertain the Parish, but I became pen friends to two students with my letters being collected from my doorstep by Fr Tim.

The Coffee Stop at St John's Church where we had been meeting all our friends had to stop, so we kept in touch by telephone as most of us were shielding. Friends wanted to take me for the Covid vaccination and also the booster. I have made many new friends and my values have changed as I have prayed more—*exceedingly great is the power of prayer!*

So, as the hymn says: *"one more step along the road I go"* and also in *Sister Act* the movie the song *"I will follow him"*.



Thoughts from a parishioner on how I coped with my spiritual/prayer life during lockdown.

For me personally at first I found lockdown and having to stay at home for long periods of time not as difficult as I expected as my home and garden became my safe place in my own bubble.

However, not going to Mass and not being able to see and talk to other parishioners every week as well as taking part in the Mass both spiritually and receiving communion was very strange and I did, at first, find that a big gap. Once it was possible to link to streamlined Masses both locally and nationally I found it easier to cope spiritually. Knowing that so many others were in the same situation and that I was not alone watching the Mass online gave me comfort and ease of mind. For me, the ability to get outside and sit and reflect in my garden also gave me solace. It was lovely to see that God's great creation in nature carried on as normal even though we ourselves were in a type of limbo.

I really looked forward to joining in with other parishioners on Zoom to say the rosary. Being able to see and have chats with them was so nice and brought a sense of normality in our very strange lives. Sharing and reading the rosary over zoom brought a sense of parishioners coming together even if only online. When it became possible to return to celebrate Mass in church after such a long time was something I very much looked forward to, even with all the necessary regulations. We are very lucky here at St Peter's Stonyhurst to have such a large parish church with so much space. This helped me take a leap of faith and attend Mass again although I have to admit that at first it was something I had to fight with emotionally and physically.

I have also been very blessed in my personal life as I have had wonderful support from friends and family. I never felt isolated or alone at any point in these last months and years. Their continuing presence in my life has been something I say a prayer for every day.



Anon.



Sacramental Preparation 2021

Damien Morley writes:

'For the Year 4 pupils at St Joseph's, it had been a long wait for first Reconciliation and first Holy Communion, but their sacramental preparation journey concluded joyfully in mid-October.

The effects of the pandemic meant that the start of their sessions had to be delayed by over a year, but the fourteen children and their families were able to meet each Sunday before the 9.30 Mass, albeit spread out in St Peter's. Week by week, they discovered more about the love of God that forgives and heals us. On a beautiful early July evening at St Peter's, they had their first Reconciliation, their initial nervousness turning to the broadest of smiles after this wonderful encounter. In the autumn the focus of their study and prayer was God's gift of himself in the eucharist, with Fr Tim also tailoring his homilies to the younger audience (who often found themselves acting out the Gospel reading!) and using the special Eucharistic prayers for children. The great day finally came just before the October half-term, and it was so good to be together again in St Peter's as the children received Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time. We are grateful to Stephen Winckley and the catering team at St Mary's Hall for the lovely reception afterwards.

Our thanks go to Fr Tim, to catechists Sarah Hodgkinson and Tren Morley, and to Mrs Orr and Mrs O'Connor from St Joseph's for all their help and support. We look forward to seeing the children and their families at parish Masses in the future. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue in their journey of faith. Invitations to participate in our 2022 sacramental preparation programme will be given to the current Year threes after Christmas.



ST JOSEPH'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL



The headteacher, Laura Orr writes:

It has been quite a year here at St Joseph's R.C Primary School. As the Covid-19 restrictions began to lift, life became a little more 'normal'. Singing recommenced, groups were reunited and long awaited traditions such as the Year 5/6 residential to the Lake District, and Leavers Events took place. In July, we bid a fond farewell to Mr Crabtree, who had dedicated so much of his life to our school. Colin was an inspirational teacher and touched the lives of so many pupils but with a special song, cards, presents and parties we wished him well as he starts a new chapter of his life – cycling his way through retirement.

In September, not only did we welcome our new children we also welcomed Miss Hall - our Year 5/6 teacher and Mrs Williams our EYFS teaching assistant. The creative curriculum is going from strength to strength with visits from a St Ignatius, a Viking and Paddington Bear. Class projects such as castle building, baking and fossil exploration creates memorable moments in our children's education.

As a Jesuit school we are always ready to help and serve others. We have been collecting items for our local foodbank, raising money for the Jesuit missions and making a variety of decorations to sell for the Haiti appeal too.

As the year draws to a close, we look forward to the Nativity where our younger children will retell the story of the first Christmas and a blockbuster production of *Joseph and his Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. With an array of fabric, tinsel and a chariot of gold sitting in my office two days are never the same and that is just how we like it!

We follow our mission statement 'To grow daily in God's love, blossoming in His will' and here at St Joseph's we see ourselves as a unique little family, with talents to share, gifts to bring and love to give.

We wish you all a peaceful Christmas and hope the New Year will be happy and bright.



St Joseph's Youth Group Friday night fun.

After missing a year of Youth Club our members were chomping at the bit to get back to some sort of normality. Our membership has increased to record levels this term with 30 to 40 members attending every session.

Our activities this year have been extremely restricted for obvious reasons, but if things improve in the Spring we do intend to do some sort of group activity. We are in need of a new / used table tennis table as the one we have is on its last legs, literally, so if anyone knows anyone, please let me know. We do, however, now have the addition of a basketball hoop following a charitable donation, and this has been received with great enthusiasm by the kids. We have also had our usual Halloween party in October which was very popular and are now preparing for a Christmas disco at the end of term.





Parish life and our great volunteers!

Parish life has many facets and responsibilities: with the shortage of clergy being the reality of Diocesan life, the involvement of the laity is key in running the Sacramental programme, the Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Youth Club and so forth.

We rely on volunteers supporting our Parish Priest so that his job is made easier and we have the opportunity to put our faith into action.

New blood is always welcome. It allows us to refresh some of the regular activities, promote new ideas and ensure the delivery of some of the important routines.

Whilst the pandemic does restrict quite a number of normal activities, there are still jobs and tasks which are vital and ensure we share the workload as widely as possible and help make a difference.

We need new volunteers in the following areas: (we have added the current Lead volunteer name)

Sacramental Programme (Tren Morley)
Finance Committee (Les Bury) Quarterly meetings
St Joseph's 9.30am Mass set-up / tidying up (Catriona Canty)
Readers at St Peter's (Andrew Snape) Rota of once a month
Readers at St Joseph's (Tom Eccles/Catriona Canty)
Pastoral Committee (Niall Macfarlane) Five meetings a year
St Joseph's Cemetery grass cutting (Bernard Holden) Seasonal!
Eucharistic Ministers (Julie Macfarlane/Tom Eccles)
Music at St Peter's (Fr Tim / Andrew Snape)
Assistants to Fr Tim at funerals (Mary Bailey /Linda Nutter) Roles include Thurifer, sounding the gong!
Parish website (Peter Nicholson)
St Joseph's Youth Group (Darren Turner)
Children's Liturgy (St Joseph's) Damien Morley
Offertory collectors (Annie Nicholson, James Slater, Bill Holden)
Wedding Registrars (John Thomasson and Julie Macfarlane)
Music at St Joseph's (Andrew Snape)
Safeguarding Officer (Niall Macfarlane)

We would like to develop more activities such as visiting the sick, greeters for Mass, social event organiser, musicians, altar servers, prayer groups, and anything else you think would enhance the life of the Parish.



Thank you in anticipation .



Jesuit Pastoral Conference 2021

Walking together towards a new vision of Church

Two members of the Parish - Lucy Harrison and Andrew Snape - accompanied Father Tim to the triennial Jesuit Pastoral Conference at Swanwick in Derbyshire, between 28th - 30th October. The Conference was a very stimulating and enjoyable experience, a chance to re-connect with delegates from previous conferences and a fascinating insight into the diversity of the other Jesuit Parishes within the British Province with representatives from Boscombe, London (Stamford Hill, Farm Street, Southall, Walm Lane Polish Community), Liverpool, Preston, Stonyhurst, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The topic of the Conference was that of "Synodality" following the opening of the Universal Synod of the Church in Rome by Pope Francis on 9th-10th October where he invited the world wide Church to consider what God expects of the Church in the third millennium. The Synod will consist of a number of stages or phases before in 2023 Bishops from every Diocese across the world will meet to draft a Report to be submitted to Rome prior to the final phase of the Synod taking place in the Vatican later that year. Whilst there will therefore be a Diocesan response to this invitation the aim of the Conference was to consider the response from the Jesuit parishes in the British Province.

There had been some small amount of preparatory work required of all delegates prior to the Conference of which the most welcome was a very well organised pre-conference Zoom meeting during which delegates were introduced to the subject matter of the Conference: the Pope's wish for us to be a "Synodal Church", by which he means Bishops, Priests and people journeying together in a common mission or as Pope Francis himself said "to inspire people to dream about the Church we are called to be, to make people's hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts and restore strength to our hands for our common mission."

As the first stage of the Synod is intended to be a consultation and listening process, delegates were asked to consider how this journeying together is happening today and what steps the Holy Spirit is asking the Church to take and to consider how the faithful can journey together, both within their Church communities and outside them. Pope Francis asks the faithful to look to the horizon with hope, to listen deeply to each other and to the Holy Spirit. The Church is asked to live Communion, to achieve Participation and to open herself to Mission.

Prior to the Conference delegates were asked to create moments to have conversations about journeying together, both with practicing Catholics and with those who no longer practice, or who have never done so. What did they think about the Church? What have their experiences been? How do they think it should move forwards from here? The conversations were fascinating and enlightening. Once people started talking they wanted to continue. Some said "you don't want to know what I think", but when reassured they went on to share deeply.

At the Conference delegates were privileged to hear an excellent speaker, Father James Hanvey SJ and to work in small "listening" groups with people from the other Jesuit Parishes. Much networking was done over coffee, at mealtimes and when relaxing in the evening. There was an uplifting Mass each evening and it was wonderful to be together again after experiencing the restrictions of the COVID pandemic for so long.

There were many take home messages, which included: the importance of listening deeply ("spiritual listening"); that God is to be found in the secular too; to recognise the value of creating opportunities for people to talk about the Church, past, present and future and their experiences of it; the difference between knowledge "about" God, the Church and the wider human family and knowledge "by acquaintance"; the importance of generosity and gratitude; the importance of reaching out to those that the world rejects; to recognise and welcome 'the Church behind the pillar' and those on the margins of society who often fail to be seen and to recognise that every person's viewpoint matters.

In February/March 2022 it is hoped to offer a number of workshops at Fr. Tim's house or by Zoom, to consult and listen in a Parish context and to consider how this Parish, guided by the Holy Spirit can journey together in the-mission of the world-wide Church as Pope Francis invites us all to do.



Have a laugh with us

*When you smile the whole world smiles
with you...*



Mathematical Equation:

1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given

Q: Why are atoms liars?

A: *They make up every-*

Q: What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the normal alphabet?

A: *The Christmas alphabet*

Q: How do you make Holy Water?

A: *Boil the **hell** out of it.*

Q: What do you call Santa's helpers?

Q: What's the difference between your elbow and a dancing skeleton?

A: *One's your funny bone and the other is bony fun!*

Q: Why is Hurst Green so wet?

A: *We live in the Dribble Valley*

Q: Did you hear about the Spanish fireman with twins?

A: *One was Jose, the other was hose B...*



Q: Why should the number 288 never be mentioned?

A: *Its too gross!*

