

PARISH OF ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN MORECAMBE

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SUNDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2021

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C). Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were already experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke's Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus' second coming was near.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear, but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances.

Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	St Patrick's	6.00pm	Manuel Merino RIP
Sunday	St Mary's	8.30am	Bride Hughes RIP
	St Mary's	10.30am	Fr Michael
Tuesday	St Patrick's	10.00am	Joe Murphy RIP
Wednesday	St Mary's	10.00am	Philip Milner
Thursday	St Mary's	12.10am	Canon Cooper
Friday	St Patrick's	10.00am	Lynn Regan RIP
Saturday	St Mary's	10.00am	Special Intention (IFG)
	St Patrick's	6.00pm	Hobbs Family RIP
Sunday	St Mary's	8.30am	Tony Caden RIP
	St Mary's	10.30am	People of the Parish

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION

- Saturdays - St Mary's, **10.30am to 11.00am** in the **confessional**
- St Patrick's, **5.20pm to 5.45pm**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Julie McCann, Louis Rowan, Winnie Coupe, Vincent Murray, Zoe Jarman, Matthew Hoey, Mary Bland, Alan Anderson, Karen Guerrero, Dorothy Chadwick, Donald and Margaret McQuaker, Win Cowell and the sick and housebound in the parish and those in local hospitals and nursing homes.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Please pray for: Francis Bolton Montgomery, Pamela Mary Moran, Freda Richardson, Joe Fern, Nora Jean Thornton-Wiles, John James (Sean) Magill, Jean McLaughlin, John Joseph Egginton, Leonard Slater, Charles Lapping, James (Jim) Kelly, Peter Whelan, Margaret Ball, Dorothea Galloway, Francis Turner, Jean Margaret Gilligan, Nancy Ann Connell, Joseph Murray, Rt Rev Wulstan Preston, Henry Thornton, Betty McEvoy, Michael O'Brien, Marie Hutchinson, Phyllis Bicker, Patrick Hurley, John Joseph Byron, Michael Foley, Joseph Leonard Hodson, Henry Sidney Holden, William Kiggins, Frank Reynolds, William Gerald Siddle, Mary Agnes Herbert, Pauline Dean, Catherine Daisy (Rene) Spink, Sally Harris, Rose Nellis, James Ryan, Margaret Slater, Lynn Carol Regan, Eveleyn Mary Broadhead Ellen Butler, Hubert John Eckersley, Myra Eckersley, Margaret Roberts, William Turner, Billy Driscoll, Thomas Mulvaney, Margaret Winder, Annie Taylor, Kathleen Sheard, John Sheard, all those whose anniversaries occur between 28th November and 4th December and all those whose names appear on the November lists.

Lately Dead: Veronica Ryan – funeral arrangements to be confirmed.

PARISH NEWS

Christmas cards: These are available from the piety stalls at each church - great quality at great prices!

Tea and Coffee after Mass: After 10:30 Sunday today.

Christmas Mass times: Christmas Eve 4:30pm St Patrick's, 6:30pm St Mary's and Midnight St Mary's. Christmas Day 8:30am St Patrick's and 10:30am St Mary's. Boxing Day (Sunday obligation) 8:30am and 10:30am St Mary's. These Mass times are only proposals and will depend very much on numbers - especially the midnight Mass. Please let the stewards know today which Masses you will be attending over the Christmas period: at this stage we do not need names just numbers.

SVP Christmas Appeal: Collection this weekend, 27th/28th November and 5th/6th December at all Masses. We are again asking for chocolate treats, hats & scarves and men's/ladies toiletries. Goods should be non-perishable, packaged and long-dated. The goods will be distributed in our local area. Thank you.

SVP Christmas Lunch: On Thursday 16th December there will be the Christmas lunch after the 12:10 Mass at St Mary's. **If you wish to attend please put your names on the list in the porch: we will be restricted by numbers so please put your name down today to avoid disappointment.**

Carol service: There will be a carol service on Monday 20th December at St Mary's at 6:30pm followed by refreshments in the parish hall. **Please sign up on the sheet at the back of Church so we have an idea of numbers.**

Congratulations: To The Legion of Mary who celebrated 100 years with a thanksgiving Mass at Liverpool Cathedral. We thank the Legion of Mary for their presence in our parish and for the work they do. We also thank them for taking our petitions to the centenary Mass.

St Mary's School: We welcome years 2 & 3 at Mass on Wednesday 1st December.

Cuppa n Chat: Monday 29th November, 10.30am at St Patrick's. All welcome!

Thank You: Many thanks to those people who are taking Holy Communion to our brothers and sisters at home.

OTHER NEWS

Foodbank: The Food Bank currently needs the following items: Cup a Soup, Sponge Puddings, Instant Mash Potato, Fruit Juice, UHT Milk, Hot Chocolate, Cereals and Pot Noodles (or anything that can be made with a kettle), also Large Nappies (Sizes 5,6,7). With Christmas coming any little slabs of Christmas cake would be welcome. Baskets at the back of Church.

Message from CAFOD: “Like many women around the world, Garmah in Liberia had no legal rights to her home when her husband died. CAFOD worked with local experts to help her and now Garmah and her children live rightfully and happily together in their family home. “I feel safe, my children have a place to rest their head and I can make a garden to feed them and myself. God sent redeemers to fight for my land rights. I am overfilled with joy.” Thank you for your support which enables hundreds of women like Garmah remain in their homes during times of struggle. Other examples of our work can be found in our World Gift catalogues or website worldgifts.cafod.org.uk Have a wonderful Christmas.”

The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SVP)

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