

# Extraordinary Newsletter for the Catholic Parishes of St John Vianney & St Monica and St Cuthbert, Blackpool

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**29<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)**

## THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Today (29<sup>th</sup> November) we begin a new liturgical year (Year B). We also begin on this First Sunday of Advent our preparation for the coming of Christ at the end of time and in his birth at Christmas. Our live-streamed Masses on this First Sunday of Advent are at **9.00am** and **10.30am** - transmitted on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicsinSouthBlackpool/>

On Monday and Tuesday this week our live-streamed celebration of Mass will be celebrated at **12 noon**.

## OUR SAFETY MEASURES DURING THE PANDEMIC

With a welcome return to the public celebration of Holy Mass from Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, please continue to adhere to the following measures when coming to our two churches for private prayer and Mass:

- 1. Not to come to church if you have symptoms of Covid-19 yourself or if you live with someone with Covid-19 symptoms or if you are self-isolating.**
- Always, wear your (mandatory) face covering in church - remembering, that some may have medical exemptions.
- Once you have sanitised your hands, leave your name and number on the Track & Trace List or use the *Test & Trace* app on your mobile phone with the QR code on display coming into church.
- Be vigilant to keep physical distance from others as you come into church and at all times in the building. Spread out in church - but please do not move the benches or touch the bench-ropes.
- Do not to wander round church greeting people and do not to go into the sacristy.
- For Holy Communion, come out calmly, bench by bench (starting from the front), forming **one single-file queue** in the centre aisle and keeping well-spaced behind the person in front, using the full spacing available at the front (i.e. at St John Vianney's around the altar steps) returning to your original place down the side aisles as per usual.
- At Holy Communion, unloop one's face covering and consume the Sacred Host and then replace the face covering before moving immediately back to your original place.
- If the organ plays, **please do not start singing**.
- Leave church using the one-way system.
- Do not congregate to chat at entrances, exits, porches and car parks.

## MASSES IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY IN ADVENT

In Advent, our Saturday Mass takes on a more significant character as these Masses are traditionally called *Rorate Caeli* Masses. We will offer these Masses at the Lady Altar at **St Cuthbert's Church** at 10.00am (on 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> December). Perhaps make this your Advent gift to the Lord!

## THURSDAY AT ST CUTHBERT'S

At least for the winter months, the Thursday Mass at St Cuthbert's will return to **10.00am**

## PRIVATE PRAYER & MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

From Sunday to Tuesday (inclusive), we will continue to be open for private prayer (only) as in recent weeks.

Please note the Mass times **from Wednesday onwards** which will form the pattern now (except for over Christmas) until review again into 2021:

### Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November

#### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10.00am-11.00am (SC) Open for Private Prayer  
11.30am-12.30pm (SJV) Open for Private Prayer

### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November

*St Andrew*

9.00am-10.00am (SJV) Open for Private Prayer

### Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December

*St Ralph Sherwin & Companions*

9.00am-10.00am (SJV) Open for Private Prayer  
10.30am-11.30am (SC) Open for Private Prayer

### Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December: Public Masses Resume

9.15am (SJV) Mass for James & Ann Jordan RIP  
10.00am (SC) Mass for Julie Butler L.D.

### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December

*St Francis Xavier*

9.15am (SJV) Mass for Veronica Murphy & Family  
**10.00am** (SC) Mass for FB

### Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December

*St John Damascene*

10.00am (SC) Mass for Jean Baugh  
12noon (SJV) Requiem Mass for Margaret Messenger

### Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December

10.00am (SC) Mass for Breslin Family Deceased  
5.30pm (SJV) Mass for the people of our parishes

### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.00am (SJV) Mass for Ann Lee RIP  
10.00am (SC) Mass for Patricia & Frank Nixon RIP  
11.00am (SJV) Mass for Mr Abraham RIP  
3.30pm (SJV) *Benediction*

**Please do support these Masses this Advent. We are blessed that our two churches have been promptly reopened for public worship – some are not yet able to open for a variety of reasons or have a very limited number of Masses.**

## SUNDAY BENEDICTION

Sunday Benediction at St John Vianney's resumes again on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December at 3.30pm. All are most welcome!

### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Please pray for our sick: Andree Etienne, Trudi Denham, Joan Edge, Phyllis Hatton, Jean Baugh, Patricia Doherty, Grace Braithwaite, James Kevin Hickey and John Radcliffe and for all our sick and housebound.

### PRAYERS FOR OUR DEAD

Pray also for our recently-deceased: Margaret Messenger and Christina Finnerty. May they each rest in the peace of the Risen Lord.

### OPENING CHURCH TIMES FROM 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER

At this time our churches will only be open around the time the public Mass is offered in that particular church.

#### At St John Vianney's church:

Monday – Friday church opens at 9.00am and closes immediately after Mass for cleaning - except on Wednesday when church will close at 10.15am.

On Saturday church opens at 5.00pm and closes immediately after Mass for cleaning.

On Sunday church opens at 8.30am and closes at 12noon for cleaning and re-opens at 3.00pm and closes immediately after Benediction for cleaning.

#### At St Cuthbert's church:

Tuesday – Sunday church opens at 9.30am and closes immediately after Mass for cleaning - except on Tuesday when church will close at 10.50am.

### CONFESSION TIMES RESUME

Our times for Confession will now be as follows, until review into 2021:

#### At St John Vianney's:

Wednesday (with Eucharistic Adoration) 9.45am – 10.15am  
Saturdays 5.00pm – 5.20pm  
Sundays 3.00pm-3.20pm

#### At St Cuthbert's:

Tuesdays (with Eucharistic Adoration) 10.30am-10.50am  
Saturdays 9.30am-10.00am

**N.B: Outside of these published times, our churches must remain closed due to contagion control and regular sanitisation.**

### CHRISTMAS HAMPERS TO LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED

This significant Parish initiative now serves families in need across *both* our two Parishes with a substantial Christmas Hamper – working with *both* our Parish primary schools.

**Donations for these hampers can still be left in the boxes marked out at the back of both our churches.** Specific donations of biscuits, savoury crackers, tinned meat/fish, mince pies, apple pies, Christmas puddings/cakes, Christmas crackers and *new* children's toys are needed.

For larger items please do call Carole Cox directly on 07866543107. Any monetary donations in a **marked envelope** can be sent to Fr Etienne.

### OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Baskets will be with our stewards on Sundays for you to give your offerings as you leave. If, however, you would prefer you can still push your offerings through the presbytery letterbox or arrange to make them via bank

transfer/standing order (for details on how to do this with your bank go to: <https://catholicsinsouthblackpool.com/contact/gift-aid/>)

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

Although it is *not Christmas yet*, we need to start planning. For our Parishes, the following generous spread of Christmas Masses is proposed:

#### Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve

4.00pm - St John Vianney

6.00pm - St Cuthbert

Midnight - St John Vianney

#### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Day

9.00am - St John Vianney

10.00am - St Cuthbert

11.00am - St John Vianney

The 'safe number' of individuals in our churches are:

St Cuthbert: **50** (may vary with household bubbles)

St John Vianney: **80** (may vary with household bubbles)

For those who have not yet emailed or written to Fr Etienne yet, please do so as soon as possible. When doing so please indicate the number of places required for your family bubble or simply for yourself. Fr Etienne is keeping a record for each Mass on a '**first come – first served**' basis. Thanks to a good number of parishioners who have already been in contact to confirm their places at Christmas Masses so far.

**- To those who have already emailed – Fr Etienne has responded.**

**- To those who have already written by note - please note, via this newsletter, that your request has been accepted.**

Once the limit for each Mass has been reached beforehand individuals will be directed to another Mass. If individuals simply show up for these Masses on Christmas Eve or on Christmas Day *and* we have already reached our 'safe number' then admission cannot be granted – so please pass the word!

**N.B:** As government rules currently stand, congregational singing remains prohibited – so, regretfully, the singing of carols at Christmas Masses will not be permitted.

### STEWARDS FOR CHRISTMAS

If you are able to steward at any of the **Christmas Day** Masses please contact Fr Etienne so we are well prepared.

### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Donations for flowers in our two churches at Christmas can be made in memory of loved ones and can be handed to Fr Etienne or posted through the presbytery letterbox.

### ADVENT REFLECTIONS

Given the resumption of public Masses our temporary online transmission of Mass will cease after the Mass online on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December. Fr Etienne will, however, give a brief online reflection **at 5.00pm on Wednesdays in Advent**, beginning on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Tune in for this via our '**Catholics in South Blackpool**' Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CatholicsinSouthBlackpool/>