

Newsletter St Austin's & St Teresa's Parishes:

4th Sunday of Advent. Christmas-New Year January 2025

staustins.sthelens@rcaolp.co.uk or stteresaofavila@rcaol.org.uk

01744 812115 St Austin's Church or 01744 23128 St Teresa's Church.

Websites

www.staustinssthelens.com & www.stteresaofavilasthelens.com

Archdiocese of Liverpool Charity number: 1199714



WE STAND UNITED IN OUR PRAYER WITH THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)

It's only in this last week before Christmas that we begin to hear about the "Christmas story" itself. For the past weeks we have been preparing ourselves to greet the Lord, when he comes. Now we prepare to remember how he first came, by listening to the prophecies of his coming, and by hearing of the events before his birth. We meet the woman, Mary, who herself had been prepared for the coming of the Messiah. She has received the angel's greeting, and his strange news, and has accepted her role in God's plan. Now she hurries to her kinswoman, Elizabeth, who herself bears John the Baptist in her womb. John, just as we heard last week, alerts us to the presence of the Lord, as he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. His joy is that God has kept his promise, and is with his people.

A reflection for Christmas and the New Year



"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light." The mystery of Christmas is this - a great revelation: a light in the darkness, a star through the night, the birth of the Sun of Justice; the showing to the whole world of the love of God, made visible in Jesus. No wonder there is a great throng of the heavenly hosts shattering the darkness of the cold night on the hillside outside Bethlehem - because the invisible night of sin and sadness is shattered by the light of the Saviour's birth. Christmas is a very emotive and (in a sense) romantic feast: many of the congregation over Christmas will come with childhood memories and their own idea of what Christmas is about. It is important that are aware of this, so that you can allow the deepest wonder of this season to penetrate through what sometimes are rather shallow thoughts about the mystery.

Remember it is not about "then" - this is about "now" and our salvation.

Masses and Services for Christmas and Advent:

Parish Reconciliation Service Sunday 4th Sunday of Advent 22nd December at 2pm at St Austin's followed by refreshments in the Hall afterwards.

First Masses of Christmas on Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve

4.30pm at St Teresa's

6.30pm at St Austin's (Signed)

Midnight Mass at 12.00 (Midnight)

Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day

9.30am at St Austin's

11.00am at St Teresa's

Sunday Masses:

St Austin's Saturday 6.30pm & Sunday 9.30am:

St Teresa's 11.00am.

Weekday Masses/Services at 9.15am

Usually Tuesday and Thursday at 9.15am at St Teresa's. Wednesday and Friday at St Austin's at 9.15am. Also, there is Saturday Morning Mass 9.30am at St Austin's. * Christmas Day Masses are listed above

Livestreaming Masses:

Masses & Services on Teams Tuesday & Thursday 9.15am and Sundays at 11.00am. Please E mail:

stteresalivestreaming@rcaol.org.uk

(There will be no Livestreaming on Christmas day)

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

St Austin's each week on Wednesday mornings from 8.15am until 9.00am. *During Adoration, each week at St Austin's there will be a time of prayer for peace for Ukraine and the Middle East. (None on Christmas Day Morning) But there will be Exposition on New Years Day.*

St Teresa's Evening Prayer and adoration on Thursday: 6th February at 6.00pm – 7.00pm
(None in January)

Dates for your Diary St Austin's Parish 2025
Circle Dancing.

The next one will be on Friday on 31st January 7.30pm – 9.30pm in the Parish Centre at St Austins Entry by Donation which will go towards the Maintenance Fund of the Parish.

St Teresa's Christmas Raffle

A big thank you to everyone who bought and sold tickets for the raffle which raised £750 for church funds. Thanks also to all who donated prizes. We really appreciated donations from local businesses including Tesco, Asda, Morrisons, Blackburns and Beauty by Helen French (Kiln Lane) and many generous individuals. The elf's name has been revealed as Louie and is now living with the winner - a pupil from St Teresa's school. Thanks again to everyone for your support.

Pope's Prayer Intention for January 2025

For the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

St Teresa's Club

There will be meetings in the New Year to discuss how we develop the Club. Also, the vision we have for its future.

Feed my Lambs & Feed my Sheep Foodbank:

Thank you for all the food items you have brought in. We are feeding a number of Families, during this challenging time. If you need, or know anyone in need of help, please ask any SVP member. Or leave a message on 0799 990 0083.

Parish Websites:

They are in construction now: We will be adding pages etc and new forms over the next few months. staustinssthelens.com
stteresaofavilasthelens.com
have a look and also register with your Parishes.

Centenary Celebrations Update St Teresa's

Short Meeting in the Presbytery after 11.00am Mass Sunday 29th December 2024

The Collection for Ukraine:

Will be divided between our own local SVP which is supporting locally Ukrainian refugees here and many others. And also, Fr Oleh in the Ukraine and the Communities he serves.

The SVP

We are looking for new members, from both our Parish Communities. It might be the new opportunity you have been looking for. Please let Fr Martin know or alternatively ring 0799 990 0083. The direct number for the SVP shop is 02045996813 The SVP Shop has opened on Cambridge Rd. Monday - Saturday 9.00am until 4.30pm. The SVP shop they are looking for volunteers and if anyone is interested to call the shop **02045996813**.

St Austin's Parish: Dorcas Group:

Meets on Tuesdays at 10.00am -12.00 Noon in the Parish Hall at St Austin's. New members are welcome from both parishes. Come along for a cup of Tea and a chat.

(SVP) Learning Hub: Support Group

Holidays now until after the New Year. Thank you again for all your support.

LGBT+: Local Support Group:

The Parish of SS. Agnes & Aidan's Support group meet every 3rd Sunday of the month.

Annual Sock Appeal

This Appeal will end on the 1st January 2025.

CHRISTMAS TREE APPEAL

Many Thanks to both Parishes for this Year's Tree appeal. You have helped over 64 family members this year. Your generosity knows no bounds. Thank you.

Presbytery

Please note Fr Kevan O' Brien will be moving into the Presbytery for his retirement in early January 2025.

Thank You

For all your Prayers, Cards, gifts, support and help in both Parishes over the year. May God bless you all this Christmas and New Year.

Fr Martin and Parish Deacons Kevin and Dave