

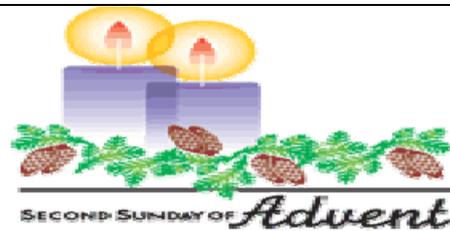
Saint Charles Swinton

Parish Newsletter

6 December 2015

Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Page 84 in Mass Book.



The Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Bishop John writes...

"In union with the Holy Father in Rome, and with Catholic Dioceses throughout the world, here in Salford we are celebrating the Holy Year in a variety of ways. Pope Francis has called us to celebrate the mercy of God, something we must experience and practise in our lives, in our communities, and in a world much in need of mercy and reconciliation".

On the diocesan website and in the Diocesan Handbook for the year of Mercy (take one from back of church if you didn't do last week) there is a whole catalogue of resources and events for the year. I will highlight some each week for the next few weeks.....

The Holy Door.

The Holy Year is (literally) opened by the ceremonial opening of the normally bricked up "Holy Door" in Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome by Pope Francis, on Tuesday 8th December 2015. This door, through which pilgrims will pass during the whole year, is a symbol of the special invitation made to the whole world to journey with the Holy Father in our celebration of the Mercy of God. Other Holy Doors will be opened on Sunday 13th December - in the major basilicas in Rome, and in cathedrals and churches throughout the Catholic world. Our own Bishop John will solemnly open the Holy Door in Salford Cathedral at the 11.00 a.m. Mass on Sunday 13th December 2015 - all are invited to join that celebration. *continued over....*

**EXTRAORDINARY
JUBILEE OF MERCY**
DEC. 8, 2015 - NOV. 20, 2016



The Coming Week.....

Sunday

6 December

Second Sunday of Advent

Mass 6.00pm (Saturday)
8.45am. 11.00am

Today we celebrate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the forming of the uniformed organisations of the Scouting Movement in our parish. Currently we have Cubs, Beavers, Brownies and Rainbows. The Scouts and Guides amalgamated with other groups some years ago.

We congratulate them on this anniversary. It is only possible because of the generous commitment of leaders over the years.



We usually have a 'Church Parade' on the second Sunday of each month at the 8.45am Mass but given the date of the anniversary we are holding it this weekend instead.

2.00pm Eucharistic Adoration ("Exposition") and Evening Prayer. A prayerful way to begin Advent as a time of waiting.

7.30pm "Christmas is Coming" - a service of Music and readings for Advent and Christmas in the cathedral, in aid of Caritas and Loaves and Fishes. Offering £5.00

Monday 7 December

Saint Ambrose Bishop and Doctor. Born around 340, he was a surprising choice to be Bishop of Milan in 374; renowned for his charity and eloquence. He died in 397.

8.30am Mass.

1.00pm Funeral Mass for Marie Kidd, RIP, aged 92 of Charles Street (latterly Kenyon Lodge Nursing Home)

**Tuesday
8 December**

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8.30am Mass

Today Bishop John will be celebrating his first anniversary of installation as our bishop. There will be a Mass in the cathedral at 7.30pm and he invites all who wish to join him for that.

**Wednesday
9 December**
Advent Weekday

9.15am Class Three Mass here in church. *All welcome.*

7.30pm Formation in the Faith (RCIA). This week we will be welcoming the Travelling Nativity as part of the evening and having a **Power Point presentation** introducing the Year of Mercy.

7.15 pm in Manchester Cathedral - "Echoes of Love" - concert to launch a single produced by the churches of Greater Manchester in support of the Refugee crisis. Tickets available only online. See more details and hear the music on www.gmct.net.

Thursday 10 December
Advent Weekday.
8.30am Mass

Friday 11 December
Advent Weekday
8.30am Mass

Saturday 12 December
9.00am Mass in Cemetery.
10.00am First Reconciliation for children Sacramental Programme
11.30am - 12noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Carols and Cribs in Swinton Precinct 10.00am - 2.00pm. **This year we can only hold our usual Prayer Station on this one Saturday.** The good news is that Asda have allowed us to use their foyer and we are incorporating an exhibition of cribs, including our own "Travelling Nativity". The Salvation Army will be providing the music for carol singing. *As always, volunteers welcome for a slot please let me know if and when you can.*

Schools' Holy Door Initiative....

Based on the relay of prayer, it is proposed that a Holy door will go around all the schools in the Diocese of Salford commencing at Thorneyholme Primary School, Dunsop Bridge and finishing at the Cathedral School of St Peter and St John, Salford.

This will raise the awareness of the Year of Mercy, with an opportunity for children/young people/staff to 'walk through the Holy door'. The door will be made by pupils and staff from Thornleigh Salesian College, Bolton and can be folded to ensure it can fit inside a car!

Each of the schools will be provided with a resources pack which will include: a template of the 'handing over' assembly/service; templates for the liturgies for the forthcoming year of mercy including putting into action the corporal works of mercy; ideas for the schools to take further the question: How can we show mercy? PowerPoint of hymns for Mass, Lesson ideas, Web links, Images of mercy, Youtube videos. All the resources will be split into primary and secondary files. All the resources will be given on a DVD for people to adapt/amend accordingly.

The Holy door will be presented at the 'Launch of the Year of Mercy' on 8th December at Salford Cathedral where schools will be invited to send representatives. The Holy door will then begin its 'journey' around the diocese.

On 25th November 2016 there will be a celebration event in thanksgiving for the Year of Mercy.

"Stay With Us, Lord, On Our Journey"

Copies of the Summary report are now available. Please take one from the back of church on your way home. This is a summary version with the main points. The full version is worth reading and you can access it via the diocesan web site - www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

Do read at least the summary to see the content and background of any news headlines you may have seen during the past week.

Year of Mercy "Stuff".

As mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter, Pope Francis is inviting the whole Church to reflect on the mercy of God in a special "Jubilee Year of Mercy" beginning 8 December. I will be saying much more about this over the coming weeks/months and all the ways of entering into the spirit of that year. There are quite a number of resources on the table at the back of church. **Do help yourself - all free, give an offering if you are able.**

Advent "Stuff"

AS in past years there are special publications provided by the diocese for the season of Advent to help us prepare for Christmas. There is the "Walk with Me" booklet with reflections for each days' Scripture readings.

There is also an Advent Calendar with suggestions for each day to help you use Advent well. **These are for you to take free of charge.** If you would like to make a contribution that would be welcome.

CAFOD Christmas Cards are available at back of church - please put money in Piety Stall box.

**Sunday
13 December**
Third Sunday of Advent.
Year of Mercy - opening celebration Mass in the Cathedral at 11am with the opening of the Holy Door.

Saint Charles Rambling Club.

We are a family friendly group who have been part of the parish community since the 1970s and we would like the group to continue for many years to come! This of course will depend on new members and everyone is welcome to join us. No experience required, just enthusiasm! We go out walking on the third Sunday of each month. A list of all the 2106 walks can be found in the church porch.

Any questions of queries, please contact Julia Lightfoot on 794 5528

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

I am glad to say that I can now announce that I have been able to appoint Frank and Ruth Robinson to this important role. There is some backlog of work as it is some while since our last reps moved. They hope to introduce themselves to the various groups in the parish before too long.

Thanks.....
for recent collections.....
£308.28 for Retired Priests' Fund.

£196.10 for Missio collection and for support of UCM Christmas sales - £410.51

A member of Churches Together in Swinton and Pendlebury

Parish Priest: Rev Mgr Paul F Smith STL • ☎ 0161 794 1089 • ✉ paulsmith@saintcharles.freeserve.co.uk website: www.stcharlesswinton.co.uk

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 6.00 pm (First Mass of Sunday)

Sunday

- 8.45 am (Church Parade every second Sunday of the month)
- 11.00 am (with children's Liturgy of the Word)

Monday to Friday: usually 8.30 am

Holy Days

7.30 pm (eve), 8.30 am

Registered Charity No. 250037

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 11.30 am to 12.00 noon
and after evening Mass

BAPTISMS

By appointment. Parents are expected to attend a course of preparation.

WEDDINGS

Six months notice is normally required.

Saint Vincent de Paul Society
Monthly as announced

Union of Catholic Mothers
First and third Tuesdays at 7.15pm

Beaver Scouts

Mondays in school at 6.00pm

Cub Scouts

Tuesdays in school at 6.00 pm

Brownies

Wednesdays in school at 6.00 pm

Rainbows

Thursdays in school at 6.00 pm

If you would like to receive this weekly newsletter by e-mail please give me your e-mail address.

Churches Effort for Refugee Crisis.

Greater Manchester Churches Together are producing a single "Echoes of Love" to raise money for the refugee crisis.

If you would like to be part of this amazing opportunity to join the choir for this single and the live concert - they are looking for choir volunteers for the 70-100 piece choir. This will involve a rehearsal on 10 November at 7.00pm and the recording on 17 November at 6.30pm, both in Manchester Cathedral.

To register for this please visit www.gmct.net.

There will be concert on 9 December when the single will be launched and available *More details on posters or visit above website.*

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