

The following message will appear in XII Apostles & Our Lady's newsletter this week. Please read it and understand that it applies equally to Sacred Heart parishioners.

Greetings from Father John to all at Twelve Apostles and Our Lady's

Change always arouses some anxiety and fear of that change, but change isn't always a bad thing. It allows us an opportunity to look at our strengths as a community but also the areas where we need to pull together to make things happen.

In these times when there are fewer priests to go round, we have to rely on you the parishioners to work collaboratively, not just in your own parish but across the Pastoral Area. If the responsibility for the delivery of services falls only to the priest, deacon and just a few loyal helpers, that is not good enough. I am inviting you all to work with me to meet not only your needs, but the needs of others, especially the infirm and housebound. Without your full support and commitment we will not be able to cover all the bases.

So now is the time for you to decide what you as individuals can do to establish and maintain a high quality of provision for yourselves and those less fortunate than you. We are all called to be disciples and we must start serving, working, celebrating and praying together. I look forward to getting to know you better.

Finally I wish Fr Neil all the very best for his future studies and to express publicly my thanks to him for his help and support during my first year in Leigh.

See you soon! God bless. Fr John Finch.

**Please sign the greetings card at the back of Sacred Heart church. It will be presented to Father Neil.**



IN THE PASTORAL AREA OF ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH  
**Sacred Heart Church**, Walmesley Road, Leigh, Lancs., WN7 1YE  
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Parish Priest: Fr. John R. Finch  
Deacon: Revd. Anthony Arrowsmith

21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2006

"WE WILL SERVE THE LORD, FOR HE IS OUR GOD"

Real faith is not blind nor ignorant. It seeks understanding. Augustine of Hippo once said: "I believe, in order to understand; and I understand, the better to believe." That is why God gives us the help of the Holy Spirit to enlighten the *eyes of our mind* to understand his truth and wisdom. Jesus offers his life-giving word and Spirit to those who believe in him and who obey his word. Peter's profession of faith and loyalty was based on a personal relationship with Jesus. Through the gift of faith Peter came to understand that Jesus was the true Messiah, the Holy One of God. He believed in the words which Jesus spoke, because he accepted Jesus as the Son of God and saviour of the world. Faith is a personal response to God's revelation of himself to us. Faith is the key to seeing and experiencing God acting and working in our personal lives.

Do you believe, as Peter did, that Jesus can change your life because he has the *words of everlasting life*? Ask the Lord to increase your faith that you may grow in your relationship with him and in the knowledge of his love for you.

"Lord Jesus, you have the words of everlasting life. Help me to cast aside doubt and fear and to embrace your word with trust and joy. I surrender my life to you. Be the Lord and Captain of my heart, my will, my thoughts and my actions. May there be nothing which keeps me from you and your love."

Peace. Fr John

**WELCOME!** If you are new to the parish, please introduce yourself to the priest or one of the ministers after Mass or drop by the parish office during the week. We want to know who you are and be able to serve you better. We hope you will support your parish by your prayers, your presence, your talents and financial gifts. If you are a tax-payer, call the parish office to register for Gift Aid: 673753.

**MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS**  
**Week beginning Sat. 26<sup>th</sup> August**

Sat	6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sun	9.30am	Sister Anunciata
Mon	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Tue	9.00am	Kathleen Winstanley
Wed	9.00am	A successful operation
Thu	9.00am	Lily Lloyd
Fri	<b>6.30am</b>	Francis Gallagher
Sat	12.00	Special Intention
Sat	6.30pm	Frank Kennedy
Sun	9.30am	Mrs Norah Heneghan

**PLEASE NOTE!** **EARLY** Mass on Friday morning  
 Encouraged by the Archbishop, and by the numbers attending, experimental early Masses will continue. Please tell everyone you know who works during the day about this opportunity to attend at weekday Mass.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Sat: 11.00 - 11.45 am & 6.00 - 6.15 pm.

**Exposition:** Sat: 11.00 - 11.45 am

**SUNDAY READINGS**

TWENTYFIRST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME (B) p 324 ff.

**Collections:**

Last weekend's collections:- £706.63

Today's retiring collection :- S.V.P.

**Parish Lottery:**

Winning Numbers: 4, 8, 9      Jackpot: £202.

Winners: NONE                      Next Week's Estimated Jackpot: £.270

**Baptism of your Child.**

God's dream for your child is bigger than any dream you can ever have. Your child is carried into the Baptismal font by your faith. Presenting your child for Baptism is your commitment to raise your child as a Catholic and is a promise you make before God.

We hold a preparatory meeting on the first Tuesday of each month. Godparents must be 16 or over, be practising Catholics who have been confirmed and who have received the Eucharist.

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Parish House**

**Saint Joseph's** will be saying a final farewell to Father Anton and Brother John on **this Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September** with Mass at 7.30pm.

**R.C.I.A.**

In partnership with the other churches in our Pastoral Area, Sacred Heart Parish is establishing an RCIA group. RCIA stands for "Rite for Christian Initiation of Adults", and is the process by which adults who have not been baptized, or who belong to other Christian traditions, are prepared to join the Church. However, RCIA is not just for those who have a firm intention to become Catholics. We aim to provide a group in which anyone can come to talk about the Church's teaching in a spirit of enquiry and so RCIA is for any adult who wants to prepare for baptism, reception into the Church or Confirmation, anyone who thinks that they might want to take that path, but who wants to find out more before making any sort of commitment, anyone who simply wants to learn more about the Catholic faith. We shall start our autumn programme of weekly meetings in late September. Our discussions should be an opportunity for genuine enquiry and questioning so that we can make the faith our own. The emphasis is also on how the Christian faith affects our life in the world and our daily experience. If you, or someone you know, would like to join the RCIA then contact the parish office (01942 673753) or Deacon Tony on 01942 606329.



*Be subordinate to one another out of reverence to Christ.*

Ephesians 5:21

Congratulations to Christopher Evans and Lisa O'Neill, whose wedding took place at Sacred Heart Church last Saturday.

*Julia Galloway writes ...*

LASARS Charity Friday 18th.: praise and thanks to God for His great love at work in so very many people, making the evening a great success. "He who is mighty keeps doing great things through each person: holy is His Name". A big 'Thank You' to all who helped in any way to raise £2,215.