

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

This year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity brings together two themes, two invitations extended to Christian churches and people: to pray and strive together for Christian unity, and to join together in responding to human suffering. These two responsibilities are deeply intertwined.

Both body of Christ, text chosen for prayer is a story 31-37 relates how who was deaf properly. As in accounts, in this hear of the Lord's sponse to suffer-eloquent testi-God. The octave Thursday. Here in January you are united service 6.30pm in Leigh Monday at noon e c u m e n i c a l



hence the principal this year's week of of healing. Mark 7: Jesus healed a man and could not speak many other gospel story of healing we compassionate re- ing and need; it is an mony to the mercy of of prayer begins on Leigh on Sunday 21 invited to attend a commencing at Baptist Church. On there will be another prayer service in the Parish Church (St Mary's). The theme this year comes from Umlazi in South Africa and asks us to break silence and speak out about the often overlooked suffering in our communities. If you can't get to the services, please do pray daily that all Christians will be one in Christ.

PEACE SUNDAY

This weekend, we celebrate Peace Sunday. Pope Benedict has invited us to reflect on the theme: "The Human Person: the Heart of Peace." At first sight the theme might seem a little odd, almost missing the point somehow. For when we think of peace and peace-making we usually think on a global level. Yet the Pope is surely right to follow up on his predecessor's insistence on "The Gospel of Life" and to underline that the human person is the measure of all things. No one is ever expendable. No one is ever unimportant. All are children of God, infinitely loved. All have God-given gifts that are needed for the flourishing of God's world. As Pope Benedict reminds us, the human person – everyone we meet and everyone who lives beyond our limited horizons – is truly "the heart of peace." For respect of our brothers and sisters, known and unknown, is the only possible path to the peace that our world craves.

IN THE PASTORAL AREA OF ST EDMUND ARROWSMITH
NEWSLETTER OF THE PARISHES OF

Sacred Heart, Our Lady of the Rosary and Twelve Apostles

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Fr. John R. Finch, Fr. Stephen Cooper
Deacons: Rev. Bill Parr, Rev. Dennis Vint, Rev. Tony Arrowsmith

SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C)
14TH JANUARY 2007
THE BRIDEGROOM REJOICES IN HIS BRIDE

Dear Parish Family,

The Christmas season is over, and things are back to normal. In the language of the Church, normal is called Ordinary Time. It is now the beginning of a new year and perhaps a good time to focus on the areas in our lives that need attention. We gain wisdom by reflecting at the places in our hearts where we have travelled this past year: where did the journey take us, what were the blessings, the appreciation that enriched us - while also attending to situations that challenged and tested us and perhaps left us discouraged.

Today's gospel story, according to John, focuses on the first of Jesus' miracles. At the wedding feast in Cana he changed water into wine. This event pointed to what would continue to happen throughout his public life and ministry. The changing of water into wine is symbolic of what He was about.

In Jesus' first miracle, Mary, His mother, played an important role in this event. She was the one who noticed that the wine had run out and asked Jesus to help.

His response is key; "Mother, my time has not yet come; you must not tell me what to do".

Mary then said to the waitress "Do whatever Jesus tells you to do."

As we reflect on this gospel story, let us count on God's power and goodness to help us in our need to change the things in our lives that need to be changed.

Peace! Fr John

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 13 January to Sun 21 January

Weekday Masses are subject to change in the event of Funeral Masses.

At Sacred Heart Church, Walmesley Road

Sun	14 Jan	9.30am	William Wall
Tue	16 Jan	12.00noon	Alfred Henry Carr
Wed	17 Jan	9.30am	Michael & Mary Dunne (12A)
Thu	18 Jan	12.00noon	Daniel Sims
Fri	19 Jan	1.30pm	Funeral Mass Margaret Cunliffe
Sun	21 Jan	9.30am	Annie Lang

At Twelve Apostles Church, Nel Pan Lane

Sat	13 Jan	6.30pm	James Hilton
Sat	20 Jan	6.30pm	People of the Parishes

At Our Lady Of The Rosary Church, Plank Lane

Sun	14 Jan	11.00am	People of the Parishes
Sun	21 Jan	11.00am	Henry Whalin

At Moss Bank Court Sheltered Accommodation, Faith Street

Magdalene Cox, Nellie Clearie, Wilfred Winstanley, Marie Halliday, T. Ward

Thu	18 Jan	10.00am	Collective intentions
Fri	19 Jan	10.00am	Gail Hampson

At Saint Joseph's Church, Mather Lane

Sundays	8.30am, 10.30am Masses
Mon, Wed, Fri	12.00noon Masses

At Saint Richard's Church, Mayfield Street, ATHERTON

A SUNDAY EVENING MASS FOR ALL NINE PARISHES
at 6.30pm

ADORATION—RECONCILIATION—MASS

SATURDAY 20 January beginning 11am, Mass at noon.
At SAINT JOSEPH'S CHURCH

LITURGY PLANNING

Our Easter Holy Week services will, in future, be occasions for our four communities and both our priests to share their celebrations together. The locations for 2007 are as follows: On Holy Thursday (7.30pm) the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper will be at Our Lady of the Rosary Church. On Good Friday (3pm) the Celebration of the Lord's Passion will take place at Sacred Heart Church. The Easter Vigil will begin at 8.30pm at Twelve Apostles Church. The churches will not just "host" their own service. We need all our musicians, song-leaders, readers, servers, flower arrangers, cleaners, organizers, anyone willing to help from all our parishes to get together to plan and take their parts in all three services. Please meet at 7.30pm on Thursday 25 January in the Chapel of Joy & Hope at Sacred Heart Church.

PSALM RESPONSE Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.



*As the bridegroom rejoices in his bride,
so will your God rejoice in you. Is. 62:5*

DELAYED THANKS

(No room last week)

Thank you to all who were involved in the Christmas Masses. Thanks to our choirs, organists, soloists, bands and musicians. Thanks to our sacristans, cleaners, servers, readers, ministers of holy communion and collectors. Thanks to those who decorated and prepared the Churches for Christmas, those who removed the decorations afterwards and all who helped in any other way.

Collections:

£393.47 (SH), £188.60 (OL), £203.86, Repair Fund £59.69 (12A). This week's retiring collection: (12A) SPUC White Flower appeal. Nugent Care Crib donations £71.73 (SH), £33.28 (OLOR), £20.00 (12A).

Sacred Heart Lottery: Winning Numbers: 3, 12, 21. Jackpot: £392.

Winners: NONE Next Week's Estimated Jackpot: £500.

Our Lady's 1000 Club Draw: £50 - 030, Mrs Unsworth, £10 - 582, Mr R Ellis. £5 - 577, Mr R Ellis. £3 - 201, Mr B. Boland. £2 - 369, Mr M. Flynn.

Twelve Apostles Club Jackpot Bingo every Sunday, **Bingo & Line Dancing** every Wednesday in the club. **Selection Box Raffle:** STILL UNCLAIMED (last chance) - White 239, 332, 342, 487 - Green 861. The next **200 Club Draw** will be on Wed 24 Jan. If anyone would like a number please see John Thompson (Tel. 253507). It is £1 per month.

The RCIA group meets on Wednesdays, 7.30—9pm in the Chapel of Joy & Hope at Sacred Heart church. The title of this week's *Evangelium* presentation is "Baptism and Confirmation". Welcome to new members!