



## AN ALL-SINGING ALL-DANCING SAVIOUR

Someone once said that the definition of a Puritan is a person who has a constant nagging feeling that someone, somewhere, is enjoying themselves!

We laugh, but actually it's quite easy to be taken for a Puritan when in fact you're simply a Christian. That's because we Christians have sometimes allowed ourselves to be painted into a corner where we're thought of as stuffed shirts or kill-joys. Rightly or wrongly we've taken on the image of censorious people who view pleasure with suspicion and whose first words are usually "Thou shalt not..." rather than "Oh, that looks good; can I have a go?"

Why should we be thought of as disapproving when our saviour was quite clearly at home eating and drinking, singing and dancing? Why should we want to reduce the glorious Middle Eastern nuptial festivity to a grape-juice Temperance affair?

Could it be because at heart we find it hard to believe fully in the incarnation? Yes, we accept that God took flesh in the person of the baby Jesus. But to accept that Jesus was identical to us in that he enjoyed a good day out, singing and dancing, eating and drinking...? Are we going too far here?

Are we uncomfortable thinking that Jesus actually provided more wine when the guests had already quaffed what the family had provided? Wasn't that a bit irresponsible, encouraging alcoholism perhaps? Are we put off by the tone of voice that Jesus uses for his mother, something that only a son would be allowed to get away with, something that demonstrated familiarity and mutual understanding?

Once God became a human being there was nothing about our human nature that was left unredeemed. The incarnation means that by becoming a man Jesus shows us how to become fully human. Jesus is God's way to be a man, God's way to be a woman.

Sometimes we need to open our eyes wide to the good things that God has put around us. We need to thank God for the wonder of life and love, for the many gifts that bless our rising and resting. Sometimes we need to take off our hair shirts, to set aside our dictionary of disapproval and simply take pleasure in what God wants us to enjoy. Why drink only water when your God wants to give you wine?



**Clergy:** Father John Hindley  
Saint Marie's Presbytery  
Almond Brook Road  
Standish, Wigan, WN6 0TB  
Telephone: 01257 423291

*Serving the Churches of:*  
**St Marie of the Annunciation**  
Standish  
www.stmariesstandish.co.uk

**St Bernadette** Shevington  
www.stbernadetteshevington.org.uk  
jointparishes@gmail.com  
www.twitter.com/stmstb

**Download our parish app at**  
**www.myparishapp.com**

**Parish Office at St Marie's:**  
Open Monday to Friday  
from 9.00 am to 12 noon

**Baptisms:** By prior arrangement.  
Information available at weekend  
Masses. All baptisms take place  
during Mass. St Bernadette's first  
Sunday, St Marie's third Sunday  
of the month.

**Confessions:** Saint Bernadette's:  
Sunday 9.10 to 9.20 am. Saint  
Marie's: Thursday 6.30 - 6.50 pm.  
or by request.

**Church opening:** Please  
remember that Saint Marie's  
Church is open for private prayer  
during weekdays between 9.00  
am and 12 noon.

**Funerals and Marriages:** By  
arrangement.

**Visits to sick and housebound:**  
Please inform Fr John if you know  
of sick or housebound  
parishioners who would like Holy  
Communion.

**Hospital Visits:** If you wish to  
see a priest please let the hospital  
staff know.

**Mass Requests:** Place in an  
envelope and hand in to the  
Sacristy or to the Parish Office.  
Please indicate your preferred  
church, if any. Please also specify  
the reason for the intention, i.e.  
recently deceased, anniversary  
etc. For a particular day, please  
request early.

**Newsletter Notices:** Please e-  
mail to jointparishes@gmail.com  
or hand in to the Parish Office by  
Thursday morning.

**Repository:** Open at the back of  
church after each weekend Mass.

**St Marie's Hall:** All bookings for  
hall usage should be made in  
advance with the Parish Office  
during the parish office hours.

Liverpool Roman Catholic Archdiocesan  
Trustees Incorporated. A registered charity.  
Number 232709.

### Mass Intentions this week

Second Sunday of the Year		People generally serve the best wine first and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now. (John 2:10)	
Day	Church	Time	Intention
Saturday	St Bernadette's	5.30 pm	Frances Quinn & Mary Hutchings (Anniv) Patricia Sheerin (LD)
	St Marie's	6.45 pm	
Sunday	St Bernadette's	9.30 am	Thomas Stanley Johnson People of the Parish
	St Marie's	11.00 am	
Monday	St Marie's	<b>9.30 am</b>	Roland Williams (Anniversary) <b>Funeral: Maureen Wilding</b>
	St Bernadette's	<b>11.00 am</b>	
Tuesday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	Pat Herbert (Anniversary)
Thursday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	L.I.S.C.F. <b>Funeral: Joseph Healen</b>
	St Marie's	<b>10.45 am</b>	
Friday	St Marie's	7.00 pm	Tony Cosgrove
	St Marie's	9.15 am	
Third Sunday of the Year		He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour. (Luke 4:18-19)	
Saturday	St Bernadette's	5.30 pm	Jean Lawton (Anniversary) Ernie Gibney
	St Marie's	6.45 pm	
Sunday	St Bernadette's	9.30 am	People of the Parish Christian & René Thomas
	St Marie's	11.00 am	

### **This weekend:**

Sunday after 11.00 am Mass: **Tea and coffee** in St Marie's Hall.

Sunday after 11.00 am Mass: **Baptism preparation** in St Marie's Hall.

### **This week:**

Monday: **Prayer Group** meeting at St Marie's at 7.30 pm. This is an open meeting. All are welcome.

Tuesday: **Pantomime** at Wigan Little Theatre. The coach will pick up at St Marie's Church at 6.40 pm and at St Bernadette's Church at 6.50 pm.

Thursday: **Multi Use Games Area** opening and chalking at St Marie's school at 1.45 pm.

### **Next weekend:**

#### **World Leprosy Day.**

**Appeal and second collection** at all Masses to support the work of Lepra, a specialist charity working to beat leprosy.

Sunday: **Refreshments** after 9.30 am Mass. Proceeds to a local charity.

Sunday after 11.00 am Mass: **Tea and coffee** in St Marie's Hall.

Sunday after 11.00 am Mass: **Baptism preparation** in St Marie's Hall.

**Thank you** for your offerings  
£1,609.88.

### **Bonus Ball**

No.26 - Rollover - £39.

### **At the back of church...**

- Rotas for St Bernadette's counters.

### **At this time, we say farewell to:**

Maureen Whittle and Joseph Healen  
Until we meet again....

### **Sanctuary Lamps**

**St Bernadette's:** Joseph Healen  
**St Marie's:** In loving memory of Betty Riding

### **Christian Unity Week**

There will be a service for Christian Unity at St Wilfrid's this Sunday, with Ecumenical Prayers at 12 noon at St Wilfrid's on Monday and Friday, at St Marie's on Tuesday and Thursday and at Standish Methodist on Wednesday. All are welcome.

### **Mass on Monday**

Mass on Monday will be celebrated at 9.30 am. Year 2 children at St Marie's will be attending.

### **Synod 2020**

You will notice in church the banner for the Synod and we will be saying the synod prayer at all Masses this weekend. On Sunday, 3 February at 3.00 pm in the cathedral, the Archbishop will celebrate formally the calling of the Synod. All are welcome to attend.

Synod Members will be mandated to undertake their task and we will all be invited to pray with and for them and for the working of the Synod. Our parish is being represented by Claire Cropper and two representatives from our parish, Karen Bliss and Christine Catlow have been selected to represent our pastoral area.

### **Marriage Matters**

*Our marriages are blessed with gifts*

Just like the bride and groom at Cana, our marriages are blessed with gifts. Every day we are given the grace to live our marriage vows: loving, cherishing and honouring each other in sickness and health, whether money is flowing or frozen. Each time we embrace each other and our own personal circumstances, we are letting God's glory be seen.

### **Development Fund**

To simplify the administration of the Development Fund, annual subscriptions only will be collected after weekend Masses during January. Please do support this worthwhile fund raising exercise.

### **Fr Joseph**

Fr Joseph Simionato will be celebrating the 6.45 Mass at St Marie's every other week, subject to his other commitments.

### **Baptism**

This weekend, we welcome Isabella Marie Conning who will be baptised during the 11.00 am Mass. Congratulations!

### **Children's liturgy**

Just a reminder that unfortunately parents are not allowed to stay with their children at children's liturgy beyond a settling in period of a couple of weeks unless they have a DBS through the Archdiocese allowing them to stay. We are required to follow the Archdiocesan safeguarding procedures on this matter.

### **Offertories**

Traditionally, parishioners have made their weekly offerings to the Church during Mass either through the envelope system or loose change. More recently, some parishioners have set up regular standing order payments. The Joint Parishes Working Group has considered a suggestion which would enable parishioners to set up regular payments online to the parish account as offerings to the Church thereby reducing the amount of cash collected, counted and banked each week. Should you wish to set up a direct payment, the name of the parish account is 'St Marie & St Bernadette', account no. 61545922, sort code, 40-29-12. For administrative purposes, parishioners are asked to inform the parish office accordingly.

For parishioners wishing to gift aid their offerings, which enables the parish to claim 25% from HMRC, gift aid declaration forms are available from the parish office. Thank you.

### **Thank you**

Thank you to all who bought cards, grave pots, mince pies and cakes, which raised £1,014 for children in the Philippine mission run by the Sons of Divine Providence.

### **Spring Clean**

You will notice a few changes this weekend in St Marie's. The remembrance book has been moved in front of St Joseph's altar and the benches have been repositioned to create further space. We are currently trying to source benches from the Archdiocese. A bench will also be placed at the side of church, in front on St Joseph's altar, with room for parishioners in wheel chairs, prams etc.

### **Nesting Boxes**

In association with Standish Voice and the local branch of RSPB, two bird boxes have been erected in St Marie's churchyard.

### **How you can help:**

**Counters:** A vacancy has arisen for a volunteer to join a group who are next counting on 17 February. If you are available and willing to help out once every six weeks, please let Fr John know as soon as possible.