



ST FAITH'S
GREAT CROSBY

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday 21st December 2025

Hymns

360 For Mary, Mother of our lord
28 Lo, he comes with clouds descending
30 Hark the glad sound!
470 Hills of the North, rejoice

Notices

The Blessed Sacrament Lamp burns this week in loving memory of Mike Tuppen, beloved husband of Joan. **R.I.P.**

Congratulations to our December 100 Club winners: 1st prize (£85) – Shelagh Mulholland; 2nd prize (£45) – Angela Woodley; 3rd prize (£30) – Mary Crooke. If you need ideas for a Christmas gift, why not buy someone a subscription to the 100 Club? For membership details, please ask David Jones or email him at david.jones@stfaithsgc.org.uk

Donations and Giving: We rely on generous individual giving for much of our income at St Faith's. If you are a UK taxpayer donations can be Gift Aided to provide additional benefit to the church. If you worship here regularly then please consider joining the Parish Giving Scheme by using this link - <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/great-crosby-st-faith-liverpool/> . There is a contactless donation point at the back of church for phone or card use.

INEQE survey: We know how important safeguarding is, but they need to hear from us that this is the case in Liverpool Diocese. Please can you take a few minutes to complete the online form. Bishop Ruth has created a video to introduce the audit which you can find here <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/0rhb7-24VRA>

And you can read more on the Diocesan website INEQE safeguarding audit in Liverpool Diocese: <https://liverpoolcofe.org/diocese-safeguarding/ineqe-safeguarding-audit/>

Please make time to follow up on this, to complete the audit yourself and encourage others (newsletters, notices social media, face to face) to do so. There are different

audit forms aimed at different audiences. The link to the survey is here: <https://ineqe.com/churchofengland/liverpool/>.

Events

The next diocesan Lifecall Ordination Discovery Event will be held on **Monday 12th January at 7:00pm** at **St James' House**. This event focuses specifically on ordination pathways and will include information about both Distinctive Diaconal and Priestly ministry, their various expressions, and the different roles within them. We will also offer an overview of the discernment process, from first enquiry through to first post, and outline how the national discernment process has changed since many of us undertook our own selection panels.

Anyone who would like to hear more about ordained ministry, even those at the very earliest stages of discerning a call, are encouraged to attend. Individuals are welcome to come alone or with a supporter, and clergy are of course very welcome to accompany anyone attending. Further information and a link to book can be found on our Lifecall website: <https://lifecall.uk/events/>

This Week's Services

This Sunday 11:00am, Eucharist	Fr. Dennis Smith
The Fourth Sunday of Advent	Fr. Peter Cowley
This Sunday, 3:00pm	Fr. Louis Johnson
Nine Lessons and Carols	
Monday 22nd December, 9:30am	Fr. Louis Johnson
Morning Prayer	
Wednesday 24th December, 10:30am	Fr. Louis Johnson
Eucharist at St Mary's	
Wednesday 24th December, 5:30pm	Fr. Louis Johnson
Christingle	Rev Denise McDougall
Wednesday 24th December, 11:30pm	Fr. Louis Johnson
Midnight Mass	Fr. Steve Hall
Thursday 25th December, 11:15am	Fr. Steve Hall
Eucharist (Christmas Day)	Fr. Louis Johnson
Friday 26th December, 12 noon	Fr. Steve Hall
Eucharist (St Stephen's Day)	
Next Sunday 11:00am, Eucharist	Fr. Louis Johnson
The Holy Innocents	Fr. Dennis Smith <i>Readings: Jeremiah 31.15-17, Psalm 124, 1 Corinthians 1.26-29, Matthew 2.13-18</i>

Contacts

Vicar: Fr. Louis Johnson 07947 752 399 / louis.johnson@stfaithsgc.org.uk

Assistant Clergy: Fr. Dennis Smith 0151 928 5065; Fr. Bill Matthews 0151 281 4879; Fr. Peter Cowley CA Tel. 0151 426 5441, Fr. Steve Hall steve.hall@stfaithsgc.org.uk

Parish Reader: Mrs Paula Lampard

Church Wardens: Mr Rick Walker 0151 924 6267 / 07710 226 300; Mrs Maureen Madden 0151 924 2154 / 07704 004 670

Administrator: Mrs Carolanne Leary 07913 873 697 / carolanne.leary@stfaithsgc.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Mari Griffiths 07811591922 / mari.griffiths@stfaithsgc.org.uk

Please keep in your prayers

The Diocese: St Luke Crosby, Storyhouse Crosby, St Lukes Primary, All Saints with St Frydeswyde Thornton, All Saints Children's Ventures Preschool, St Giles with St Peter Aintree, Davenhill Primary, St Andrews Primary, Hudson Primary, Melling Primary, Summerhill Primary.

Parish: Allenby Avenue, Rutherglen Avenue, Parkway, Glenby Avenue, Dorbett Drive, Derwent Road.

The World: For peace in all areas of conflict in the world. For those affected by fires, floods, famines and earthquakes. For emergency workers working in disaster areas. For refugees, asylum seekers and agencies that help them. For good stewardship of the earth and its resources. For all victims of cruelty, injustice and exploitation.

The Church: The unity of all Christians everywhere. Archbishop Stephen, Bishop Ruth, Ven Pete Spiers, our Archdeacon, Churches in the South Sefton Deanery, and local ecumenical partners.

Those who are sick: Joan McKortel, Alistair Byron, Fr. Michael Brinkworth, Angie Price, Susie Greenwood, Jill Deeprose, Holly Keira Barnes, Ken Welsby, Martin Goodwin, Evie Dunne.

The recently departed: Brian Bennett, David Wilcox (Priest).

Those who are to be remembered at this time: Joyce Cropper, Dorothy Parry, Beatrice Gallaher, Marjorie Outram, Irene Gilford, Edmund Henry Coates, Constance Fry, Gordon Thomas Hewitson, Kathleen Heygate, Mervic Claremont, Dorothy Hoben, William John Jones, Eileen Broom, Alice Capes, Mona Turner, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nona Reid, Elsie May Foy, Mary Turnbull, Beatrice Woods, Eileen Knowles, Dennis Bury (Priest).

The Collect

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading, Isaiah 7.10-16

Again, the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Psalm 80.1-8

Response (congregation):-

Show the light of your countenance, O Lord God of hosts, and we shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock;
Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

Show the light of your countenance, O Lord God of hosts, and we shall be saved.

Stir up your mighty strength
and come to our salvation.
Turn us again, O God;
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

Show the light of your countenance, O Lord God of hosts, and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry at your people's prayer?
You feed them with the bread of tears;
you give them abundance of tears to drink.

Show the light of your countenance, O Lord God of hosts, and we shall be saved.

You have made us the derision of our neighbours,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Turn us again, O God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Show the light of your countenance, O Lord God of hosts, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading, Romans 1.1-7

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord.
No one comes to the Father except through me.

Alleluia.

Gospel, Matthew 1.18-end

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Post Communion

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Christmas Services at St Mary's and St Faith's

St Mary's Church:

32 Brooklands Ave, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 3XZ

St Faith's Church:

Crosby Rd N, Waterloo, Liverpool L22 4QQ

Vicar: Revd Dr Louis Johnson

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Sunday 21st December,
3pm:
Nine Lessons and Carols
@St Faith's

Wednesday 24th
December,
4pm:
Christingle
@St Mary's

Wednesday 24th
December,
5.30pm:
Christingle
@St Faith's

Wednesday 24th
December,
11.30pm:
Midnight Mass
@St Faith's

Thursday 25th December,
9.45am:
Christmas Day Eucharist
@St Mary's

Wednesday 25th
December,
11.15am:
Christmas Day Eucharist
@St Faith's

Friday 26th December
12pm
St Stephen's Day
Eucharist
@St Faith's