

Hymns

- 49 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness
- 327 From the eastern mountains (all verses)
- 48 Earth has many a noble city
- 47 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning

Notices

The Blessed Sacrament Lamp burns this week in loving memory of our brave friend Pat Owens. **R.I.P.**

100 Club: The 100 Club draw for January will be made after today's service. For membership details, please ask David Jones or email him at david.jones@stfaithsgc.org.uk.

On Sunday 11th January, The Baptism of Christ we will be blessing a carving of The Wounded Christ, made by Thomas Southworth (a descendant of the Lancashire martyr, St John Southworth). This carving has been placed in The Chapel of The Cross.

Funeral of Sheila Roberts will take place at the Funeral Parlour of McCallum & Tritton on Stanley Road, Bootle on **Wednesday 14th January** at **11:30am**. Attendance is welcomed.

Blessed Sacrament Lamp Dedications: A BIG thank you to everyone who chose to remember their loved ones in this way. We reinstated the practice at Pentecost, and through your kindness, have raised **£214.30** for Church funds, up to the end of 2025. We are very grateful for your support. If there is someone in your life who you would like to remember, family or friend, please speak to Judy Riley with a few weeks' notice and donations of £5 or more please. Thank you.

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/>.

This Week's Services

This Sunday 11:00am, Eucharist Epiphany Sunday	Fr. Dennis Smith Fr. Louis Johnson
Monday 5th January, 9:30am Morning Prayer	Fr. Louis Johnson
Wednesday 7th January, 10:30am Eucharist at St Mary's	Fr. Louis Johnson
Thursday 8th January, 12 noon Eucharist	Fr. Louis Johnson
Next Sunday, 11:00am, Eucharist The Baptism of Christ	Fr. Louis Johnson <i>Readings: Isaiah 42.1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10.34-43, Matthew 3.13-end</i>

Contacts

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Please keep in your prayers

The Diocese: Holy Trinity Formby, St Michael & All Angels Altcar, Trinity St Peter, Redgate Primary, St Peter Formby, Freshfield Primary, Trinity St Peter Primary, St Luke Formby, Formby High.

Parish: Myers Road East, Myers Road West, Crosby Road North, Belvidere Road, College Avenue, College 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: Sheila Roberts.

Those who are to be remembered at this time: James Jones, John Holt, Margaret Williams, May Ormesher, Maude Oxenforth, Agnes Parry, Bill Sheil, Frances Plant, Emeline Hay, Thomas Booth, Gertrude Chadwick, Eva Halbert, Edith Warrington, Irene Harwood, Jack Naylor, Robert Ralph Honner (Priest), Edward Stembridge, Peter Hewitt (Priest), Clifford Broadbent, Albert Clawson, Richie Williams, Nancy Stone, Ralph Moore, Patricia Joan Kelley.

The Collect

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

First Reading, Isaiah 60.1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon

you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Psalm 72

Response (congregation):-

May all nations be blest in him

Give the king your judgements, O God,
and your righteousness to the son of a king.
Then shall he judge your people righteously and your poor with justice.
May the mountains bring forth peace,
and the little hills righteousness for the people.

May all nations be blest in him

May he defend the poor among the people,
deliver the children of the needy and crush the oppressor.
May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

May all nations be blest in him

May he come down like rain upon the mown grass,
like the showers that water the earth.
In his time shall righteousness flourish,
and abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

May all nations be blest in him

May his dominion extend from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.
May his foes kneel before him
and his enemies lick the dust.

May all nations be blest in him

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute;
the kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring gifts.
All kings shall fall down before him;

all nations shall do him service.

May all nations be blest in him

For he shall deliver the poor that cry out,
the needy and those who have no helper.
He shall have pity on the weak and poor;
he shall preserve the lives of the needy.

May all nations be blest in him

He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence,
and dear shall their blood be in his sight.
Long may he live; unto him may be given gold from Sheba;
may prayer be made for him continually
and may they bless him all the day long.

May all nations be blest in him

Second Reading, Ephesians 3.1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

The word of the Lord endures for ever.

The word of the Lord is the good news announced to you.

Alleluia.

Gospel, Matthew 2.1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.”’ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Post Communion

Lord God, the bright splendour whom the nations seek: may we who with the wise men have been drawn by your light discern the glory of your presence in your Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Happy New Year!

Some say that time's a river,
A calm and steady flow,
I guess that's one perception,
But me – I just don't know.

I'm sure when I was younger,
Time never seemed to race,
Each New Year came decades apart,
They crept so slow a pace.

Yet now they seem to come each week,
And birthdays just as quick,
I wish that time would just slow down,
It goes at such a lick!

So if you seek a moral here,
I think I'd simply say,
Enjoy over moment of this year,
And savour every day.