

PEACE THOUGHTS

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

He's grown, that Baby - not that most people have noticed.
He still looks the same, lying there in the straw
with animals and shepherds looking on.
He's safe there, locked in that moment where time met eternity.

Reality, of course, is different.

He grew up, astonished people with his insight,
, disturbed them with ideas that stretched them into new maturity.
Some found him much too difficult to cope with
and nailed him down to fit their narrow minds.

We are more subtle.

We keep him helpless, refuse to let him be the man he is,
adore him as the Christmas Baby,
eternally unable to grow up until we set him free.

By all means, let us pause there at the stable and marvel at the miracle
of his birth, but we'll never get to know, Emmanuel - God-With-Us,
until we learn to find him at the inn - on the streets, in the prisons,
in the migrant hotels - a fellow-guest who shares our joys and sorrows,
the host, who is the life we celebrate.

Oh yes, he's grown, that Baby.

Will you?

Ann Lewin

WORTH WATCHING

Follow Aljazeera English online for challenging and insightful world news.

SUNDAY 8.00pm BBC2: PILGRIMAGE WITH SIMON REEVES

The adventurer continues to explore the faith, hopes and desires of early pilgrims as he follows the Camino Way to Compostela in Spain then on to the Great St. Bernard Pass high up in the Alps.

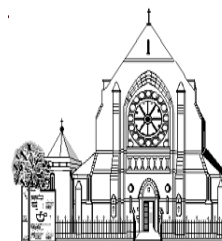
MONDAY 8.00PM BBC1: WHY ARE VET BILLS SO HIGH?

Over half of UK households have a pet, but vet bills have rocketed in recent years, increasing by almost 50% since 2020. This report investigates why they have become so much more expensive.

MONDAY 11.00PM BBC4: SEARCH FOR THE LOST MANUSCRIPT

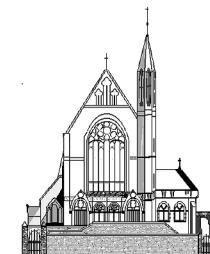
The extraordinary story of St. Julian of Norwich, the first woman to write a book in English in 1373, proposing that God was unconditionally loving and always accepting of the frailty of the human condition - a message that put her at odds with the Church of her time. Despite her writings being suppressed for over 600 years, a very determined group of women preserved them through the centuries.

Registered Charity **232709**



THE PARISH OF ST MICHAEL AND SACRED HEART

Fr. James Nugent Pastoral Area
St Michael's Church, Horne St, L6 5EH
Sacred Heart Church, Low Hill, L7 8TN
Tel: 0151 263 6578



10th/11th January Feast of the Baptism of the Lord p.118

MASS TIMES

Monday 9.00am Sacred Heart

Tuesday 9.30am St Michael's

Thursday 7.00pm St Michael's

Saturday 6.30pm Sacred Heart

Sunday 10.30am St Michael's

GOSPEL THOUGHTS: Matthew 3: 13-17

Who was your favourite teacher? There is usually someone who sits in your memory when hundreds of others are forgotten. Parents, teachers, best friends and lovers have a great impact on us. Their personality influences us deeply and shapes our life.

John the Baptist, Isaiah and Matthew have all been deeply impressed by the SPIRIT. The spirit came down on Jesus and does so on every baptised person too.

We discover the Spirit, which is God's wisdom, imagination, and energy, as we hear the readings of this feast day.

Life, love, patience, courage, knowledge of God, wisdom, energy and reconciliation are God's plan and are some of the characteristics of Jesus. They are God's gifts to all the baptised. As Jesus now starts his adult life, so should we.



REMEMBERED...during Mass

Stephen McGuinness, Veronica McArdle, Andrew Howarth,
Margaret Cushion, John Cox,
Please keep these families in your prayers.

ARCHDIOCESAN YOUNG ADULT GROUP

After the Christmas break, the group will reconvene, beginning with a Young Adult Mass on Tuesday 6th January '26 18:30-20:00 at the Pauline Book Centre (Church Street, L1 3AY) in the city centre. Anyone, aged 18-35, is most welcome. No registration required. For more info. contact Moses at m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

ACTION FOR PALESTINE

Leafleting at Barclays Bank, Lord Street, Monday 12th January at 1.30pm, highlighting the bank's role in financing Israeli apartheid and inviting customers to move their accounts.

PEACE MARCH

No march today. The next march for peace with justice for Palestine will be on Sunday, 1st February, 2.00pm, starting at the RC Cathedral.

PEACE SUNDAY 2026

To commemorate Peace Sunday on 18th January, our weekend masses will focus on this year's theme as shared in Pope Leo's World Peace Day Message, using specially chosen prayers and hymns to help us pray for peace in our hostile world.

PEACE LECTURE

Also, all who wish to deepen their understanding of Pope Leo's message, and reflect on what it means for us today, are warmly invited to this year's Peace Sunday Memorial Lecture at 2.00pm in St. Vincent de Paul Church, Hardy Street, L1 5JN (also on 18th January).
Dr Joanna Frew will speak on the theme, 'Towards an 'Unarmed and Disarming Peace': Seeking Sustainable Security for an Unstable World.' All are welcome!

KNITTING / CROCHETING FOR THOSE IN NEED

Thank you to all those who have used their skills to contributed with knitted /crocheted squares, blankets and wool. In 2025 we have sent over 150 blankets to Armenia, Africa and Gaza. A fantastic achievement!

SVP

The SVP is an important part of parish outreach.
The collection is the first weekend of each month.
You are very generous. Thank you.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

WYA, Parents' Only Meeting - Tuesday, 13th January 5.30pm,
St. Michael's Church. (NO CHILDREN)

Parish Forum - Wednesday, 14th January, 7.00pm, St. Michael's.

PARISH FORUM

The Parish Forum is due to meet on
Wednesday, 14th January, 7.00pm in St. Michael's.

This meeting, important for the development of our parish, for sharing ideas and for making plans together, is open to all. Come along and see what happens as we prepare for the future.

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Any young person (Year 8 and above) who wishes to be confirmed in 2026, should complete the registration form with their parent/guardian at: www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk/confirmation. You will be contacted after 13th February when registration closes (probably after Easter), with news about meetings in our area.
Any queries, please see Fr. Fitz.

COMPANIONS FOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Safeguarding regulations insist that Eucharistic Ministers do not visit people alone. We are therefore asking for people who are not Eucharistic Ministers but who have some time to give to this work each month to consider this role. Accompanying our Eucharistic Ministers will be a way of serving those in our community who are unable to attend church but wish to receive the sacrament. Please let Fr. Fitz know if you can be part of this.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS

Sunday 8th February 2026, 11.00am at the RC Cathedral.

It will include the renewal of marriage vows and a special blessing for those celebrating significant anniversaries. Refreshments afterwards.

If you are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary, please register online for a certificate, which you can collect on the day at: [HTTPS://FORMS.OFFICE.COM/E/UE6AMHRQ6W?ORIGIN=LPRLINK](https://forms.office.com/E/UE6AMHRQ6W?ORIGIN=LPRLINK)

For more info. contact Moses at: m.mui@rcaol.org.uk

'OLD AND NEW' REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

at the Irenaeus Centre, Great George's Road, L22 1RD,
10:30-12:noon on Wednesdays, 14th, 21st, 28th, January and 4th February.
Zoom links are available from jenny@irenaeus.co.uk