

*The Parishes of*  
**St. Anne, Ormskirk &  
 St. Elizabeth, Scarisbrick**

**Parish Priest:** Very Rev.Fr. Godric Timney OSB

**Assistant Priest:** Rev Fr Joseph Jacob

**Deacons:** Rev. Des Bill & Rev. Peter Mawtus

**Youth Minister:** Mike Price: [mpyouthminister8@googlemail.com](mailto:mpyouthminister8@googlemail.com)

**St. Anne's Priory** 23 Prescott Rd Ormskirk L39 4TG **Tel:** 01695 572168

**St. Elizabeth's Presbytery** 10 Hall Road Scarisbrick L40 9QE **Tel:** 01704 880226

**Parish Office:** Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri 9.30am -12.30pm

**Parish Administrator:** Colette Adams-Duff **Parish office e-mail:** [paxorm@btconnect.com](mailto:paxorm@btconnect.com)

**St Anne's Website:** [www.stannes-ormskirk.org.uk](http://www.stannes-ormskirk.org.uk)

**St Elizabeth's Website:** [www.stelizabeths-scarisbrick.org.uk](http://www.stelizabeths-scarisbrick.org.uk)

**Parish Pastoral Council address:** [ppc@stannes-ormskirk.org.uk](mailto:ppc@stannes-ormskirk.org.uk)

**Safeguarding Officers:** Terry Graham (St Anne's) & Les Rippon (St Elizabeth's)

PRAY AS YOU GO LINK <https://pray-as-you-go.org>



**ADVENT PRAYER CARDS**

*Please take one of CAFOD's Prayer Cards which are available at the back of church.*

*Each card has a separate prayer for the 4 Sundays of Advent, with a final prayer for Christmas Day.*

*On this Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent, our prayer is one of Hope.*

1st December 2024

**First Sunday of Advent**

Readings: Jer 33:14-16; Ps 24:4-5, 8-9, 10 & 14; 1 Th 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36.

**St Elizabeth's Mass Times**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>1</b>	9.00am	<b>Andrew Horner</b>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>4</b>	9.30am	<b>Tom Massam – School Advent Mass</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>8</b>	9.00am	<b>George &amp; Margaret Wright</b>

*live simply*

**THIS WEEKEND – PLEASE SIGN ONE OF OUR PARISH CARDS TO THE HOLY LAND**

Every Christmas parishes in Liverpool Archdiocese send cards to Catholic parishes in the Holy Land. We have been advised to send one large card, rather than many smaller ones, so that they can be displayed in the churches for everyone to see. Postage to the Holy Land is difficult so the cards are sent to the Latin Patriarch who distributes them. In the hope they will arrive by Christmas, the cards will be in the narthex this weekend. Please sign one and add a greeting if you wish.

## St Anne's Mass Times

<b>Sat</b>	<b>30</b>	4.00pm 5.00pm	<i>Feast of St Andrew</i> <i>Sacrament of Reconciliation &amp; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 4.45pm</i> <b>Michael Scanlon</b> (Vigil Mass) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retiring Collection: Church Flowers</li> </ul>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>1</b>	10.30am  Noon	<b>Bill Adams</b> (streamed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Retiring Collection: Church Flowers</li> </ul> <i>Baptism: Jessica Ann Corish (streamed)</i>
<b>Mon</b>	<b>2</b>	9.15am 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayer</i> <b>Liz McCann</b> <b>&amp; Holy Souls</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UCM in Pastoral Centre at 1.00pm</li> <li>• SVP in Pastoral Centre at 8.00pm</li> </ul>
<b>Tue</b>	<b>3</b>	9.15am 9.30am	<i>Feast of St Francis Xavier</i> <i>Morning Prayer</i> <b>Tony Smith</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer Group at 10.30am in the Pastoral Centre</li> <li>• Heritage talk at 1.30pm in the Pastoral Centre</li> </ul>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>4</b>	9.15am 9.30am	<i>Morning Prayer</i> <b>June Peacock</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ormskirk Community Choir Christmas Carol Concert in church at 7.00pm</li> </ul>
<b>Thu</b>	<b>5</b>	9.15am 9.30am	<i>Feast of St John Almond</i> <i>Morning Prayer</i> <b>John Joseph Coffey</b>
<b>Fri</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Requiem Mass: Freda Margaret O'Neill</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>7</b>	4.00pm 5.00pm	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation &amp; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 4.45pm</i> <b>Margaret Hyland &amp; John Smith</b> (Vigil Mass) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Display of Missals &amp; Books for sale after Mass</li> </ul>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>8</b>	10.30am  Noon	<b>Margaret Lynch</b> (streamed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display of Missals &amp; Books for sale after Mass</li> </ul> <i>Baptism: Xaia Babs Harvey</i>

## ***Dear Parishioners and Friends***

***Jacinta Brown, St Bede's School Chaplain, came to St Anne's Parish Pastoral Council a few weeks ago and the PPC suggested it would be a good idea to have some communication between the school and the parish. Here is this month's uplifting input from some of the young people in St Bede's.***

*Godine OSB*

### **Conflict: Where is God?**

*By St Bede's Liturgy Group*

This week we are revisiting a tricky question that many of us as young Catholics ask ourselves as we watch and try to make sense of the terrible conflicts in the news today. A year on from a mass attack on Israel and the subsequent Israeli invasion and attacks on Gaza and now Lebanon, world leaders are calling for peace but things have only got worse. The violence in the Middle East keeps spreading.

After a year, a peaceful and just solution seems very distant and so, we might find ourselves asking a big question.

Why does God allow war?

If God is omnipotent and omnibenevolent, why doesn't he step in and take control and stop the war?

It's a question that for many people can become an obstacle to faith. David Hume, an atheist philosopher described suffering as "the rock of atheism." There is no doubt of the suffering caused by war, so we think it's incredibly important to address this question boldly. Rather than nervously resisting the question because we feel it could damage our faith; we see it as an opportunity to strengthen our faith. So, this week, this is what we have been discussing in our Liturgy meetings and what we now want to share with you. Where is God?

One's of God's greatest gifts to us is free will. God gave us freedom because he loves us. Free will means we are free to make our own decisions, to choose. We can do things right, but we can also things wrong. C.S Lewis, one of the most influential writers of the twentieth century offers us a very clear explanation of freewill, God and love.

"If a thing is free to be good, it's also free to be bad. And free will is what has made evil possible. Why then, did God give us free will? Because free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having."

To live like robots who can't think for themselves, who are not free to make decisions and choices is not freedom. We are not machines programmed to act in a certain way. A loving father who wants his child to be happy does not control and enforce rather seeks to see his child choose love freely and voluntarily.

And yet, we get it wrong. We choose the wrong path, then we blame God. War is of our making. War is a result of us choosing the wrong path, We choose power and greed when what God wants us to choose is love and justice. War is the result of human beings wanting to run the show and have power. We don't use our freedom for God speaks to us through scripture and the Bible makes this very point, war is of our making. In James we read:

"Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they not come from your own desires?" James 4:1

Our desire and greed for land, for territory and power and control is the common denominator in all conflicts we see unfolding across the world. Conflict and greed is completely contrary to the Kingdom God wants us to build, "For God is not a God of disorder but of peace." Corinthians 14:13. When we choose the wrong path, the path opposite to justice, love and peace, it would pain any loving father. God is no different. "Jesus wept" John 11:35. Understanding all of this and yet still blaming God for war, seems to us beyond audacious. We might ask, well why doesn't God remind us and warn us? Doesn't a loving parent warn, correct and reconcile, try to keep us on the right path? He does. He speaks and works through the words of the peacemakers, the advocates, the actions and appeals of the humanitarian workers who promote and advocate for peace. This is how God intervenes, this is how God tries to keep us on the right path, through the people who are waving the signposts displaying the right direction to follow, we simply choose ignore them and God.

And what of the Church? Catholic Social Teaching is a source of wisdom which enables us to make the right choices, it guides us in our decision making as we enact our God given freewill. It's another one of the signposts which God offers us. Catholic Social Teaching, tells us that all human life is sacred and the dignity of every human being should be at the foundation of everything. War is completely contrary to this. How can land or territory ever be seen as more valuable than human life? Yet this is what we see unfolding. The Catholic Church makes it quite clear that we should work tirelessly to avoid war. We are responsible for creating just systems which eliminate injustice, marginalisation and oppression. We believe, to be a Catholic is to actively participate, not observe passively. This is true of our leaders too. We believe that leaders should strive in every way possible to prevent conflict, with power comes responsibility, it is their duty.

The question is do we, in our freedom, choose fairness, truth, justice and solidarity, in order to bring about true peace? Or do we make the wrong choice and then blame God?

### **Anniversaries to 7<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (Last 10 yrs)**

**St Anne's** Elizabeth Rutherford, Annette Graham, Bob Taylor, Gerard Swarbrick, Helen Nolan, Colin Houghton, Tony Toal, Colin Porter, Peter Hickey, Edna Coleman.

**St Elizabeth's:** Agnes Branwood, Margaret Whalley, Tom Massam, George Charnock, Margaret Wright, Ronald Bibby, Maurice Bialeck, Agnes Dawes, Harry Barnes.

### **Please pray for the sick:**

**St Anne's:** Catherine Allen, John Casey, Chris Coyne, Jean Daunt, Mike Devlin, Margaret Halsall, Stephen Hankin-Hallsworth, Stan Ludlow, Hughie McGinley, Paul McWilliams, May Mitchell, Jeannette Murphy, Stella O'Keefe, John Orritt, Alicia O'Toole and her baby Ava, Ann Potter, Stella Potter, James Rolfe, Frances Smith, Sandra Sugden, Richard Sutherland, Maureen Taylor, Joan Whelan.



**St Elizabeth's:** Terry Turner, Sue Carver, Tess & Eric Mills, Jean Olverson, Paddy Mott, Joe Ackers, Katie, a parishioner in distress, and all in need of grace.

**Recently Sick:** Mary Linton, Sally Kirkby, Rev Fr Gerry Tuite.

**Please pray for the repose of the souls of Josephine Wilkinson, Patricia Sanders & Freda Margaret O'Neill who died recently.**

## **St Anne's News:**

**Reconciliation Service** at 7.00pm on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December.

**The Environment Group** would like to thank everyone who supported their pre-Christmas Swap Shop and Sustainable Crafts event last Sunday. Thank you to Ruth, Ann, Ann and Bridget for all the lovely things they made, to Becky for her craft demonstration, Pat for the cards, Anne and Bill Gilham for the tombola and St Bede's Faith in Action students for the bobbles and baubles. Thank you also to everyone who brought Christmassy things to swap and everyone who came and took part.

### **St. Anne's Children's Liturgy of the Word Mass on Christmas Eve**

During the Christmas Eve Mass at 6.00 p.m. the children will be taking lots of roles, including creating the nativity tableau as the Gospel is read, readings, offertory, and opening candle procession. If your child would like to take part, please email [Annegilham@gmail.com](mailto:Annegilham@gmail.com) with your child's name and age.

A short practice will take place on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December after the 10.30 a.m. Mass.

### **Help needed**

- Firstly, if anyone would like to join our team as a catechist, and take a full part in planning and delivering the sessions, we would love to have you. You will require a DBS to be undertaken by the parish, and if we get a few more helpers, we will be able to set up a rota for each Sunday.
- Secondly, we would like to create a list of people who would be willing to come into the session with us, as a 2<sup>nd</sup> person in a group, if we are short of help. This would be a very different role to the team members, as it will not be regular, and could even only be once a month or term or less, when we are short. There would be no planning or delivering requirement and as it is not a regular role, no DBS is needed, although if you are willing to have one, this could be sorted.

A WhatsApp group would be made, and on a Saturday evening or even Sunday morning, when we know we are short of help, a call would go out and if you are going to be in Mass, and willing to come out with us, that would be brilliant.

If you would like to join us, either on the team, or as an occasional support helper, or if you would like more detail first, please contact me – [Annegilham@gmail.com](mailto:Annegilham@gmail.com)

## St Elizabeth's News:

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December:** The children from St Mary's will join us for their **Advent Mass**. Please join us if you can to support the children and staff.

**Reconciliation Service at 6.00pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December.**

**Religious Christmas Cards:** These are now on sale at the back of the Church.

**Christmas Flowers:** We invite you to bring poinsettias to church to help decorate the church for Christmas. They can be brought to church at any time during Advent and we will store in the cloister until we decorate the church for Christmas. This is a lovely way to remember a loved one who has died during the year.

Donations for flowers for the High Altar for Christmas can be made in the box by St Joseph.

**Christmas Tree:** A big thank you to **Massams Supplies** who are donating a Christmas tree which we will decorate and place on the Sanctuary for the big feast!

**Christmas Mass & New Year Times:** Mass will be at **5.30 pm on Christmas Eve** and **9.30 am on Christmas morning**. Carols will be held before the start of the Christmas Eve Mass.

**New Years Day:** Mass at St Elizabeths will be at 10

**Carol Concert:** **Scarisbrick Hall School** are holding a Carol Concert in school on **December 16<sup>th</sup>**.

**Holy Communion under both kinds:** We plan to reintroduce the Holy Chalice from Easter 2025. The date is so far in the future to allow the necessary training and DBS clearance. So we can ensure we have the appropriate number of Eucharistic Ministers please **can you indicate if you would like this on the form at the back of Church.**

**SEPTEMBER 2025 RECEPTION INTAKE:** The Admissions window is now open for parents to apply for a 2025 reception place at St Mary's. The following link will take you to the Admissions page on the school website <https://www.stmaryscps.co.uk/admissions/> You are very welcome to come and visit the school and look at the beautiful facilities and see the curriculum in action. Please contact the school on 01704 880626 to arrange a tour with Mrs. Preston.

You may also know a family friend or relative whose child is due to start school in September 2025. We need your help to remind them that the application window is now open.

## Children's Liturgy of the Word Advent Preparation

We are holding our Advent Preparation today, **Sunday 1st December**. This year we will take the children out of 10.30am Mass for a little longer than usual, all children 3-11yrs are welcome. We will be looking at what Advent means to us, and how we can prepare for Christmas. We will come back into Mass at the usual time of the offertory.

***Thank you from all on the Children's Liturgy Team***



## Christmas Carol Concert

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 7:00pm - 8:00pm**

Ormskirk Community Choir would like to invite all parishioners, their family and friends to an informal carol concert in church followed by mulled wine and mince pies in St Anne's Parish Centre.

Please do join us to welcome in the festive season.

Donations towards church funds welcome on the night.

We look forward to seeing you

## Advent Talk 'A Journey to Christmas through Art and Scripture' by Fleur Dorrell.

The Parish Council are delighted Fleur Dorrell is joining us at **7.00 pm in the Parish Centre on 17th December**. In this meditative style talk, Fleur will illustrate how artists show us the truth of Christ's birth. Through some beautiful paintings, Fleur will explore how Scripture and art shed light and colour on our Advent journey.

Fleur is an author, Biblical Apostolate Manager for the Bishops' Conference for England Wales and hosts the 'God who speaks' website encouraging greater engagement with the Scriptures: [www.godwhospeaks.uk](http://www.godwhospeaks.uk)

## St Anne's Church Roof Update

Thank-you to everyone for your ongoing support for the Church Roof Appeal...through regular Direct Debit Donations or from the events that groups are kindly running to support us. I am also pleased to say that we are receiving Gift Aid payments as a result of the donations.

We are now in a position to start the Tower restoration, the most complex and therefore expensive phase that we have taken on. At this point, the Roof Fund does not have all the funds needed, so I am grateful to the Parish who have extended a 'loan' to enable the work to start.

We will completely replace the roof of the Tower and its guttering. In addition, we will replace the louvres on the sides of the tower and remedy other stonework problems in this area. Much of the work will be undertaken at height and following a bat survey we must also complete it during Bat hibernation season.

At the start of January, you will start to see scaffolding being erected, with the whole project targeted to be completed around Easter 2025.

There may be some restrictions on Church access routes and services in this time, which we will communicate in the Bulletin.

I will issue a more detailed Newsletter early in January to keep you updated on the progress of the penultimate stage of our project. Once again this would not be possible without your very generous and ongoing support **Phil Wilkinson**

## INTERESTED IN ORMSKIRK AND ITS HISTORY?

*There will be Heritage talks over the next few months in St. Anne's Pastoral Centre based on Ormskirk and its history.*

*Presented by local historian, Dot Broady-Hawkes, and Kathryn MacDonald, Librarian, Ormskirk and District Family History Society, the talks will cover a wide variety of topics and will start at 1.30pm.*

**Tuesday 3rd December** A Very Ormskirk Christmas History

**Tuesday 7th January** History of Ormskirk Inns and Beer Houses

**Tuesday 4th February** West Lancashire Military Heroes Remembered

**Tuesday 4th March** The Manor of Ormskirk

*All the talks are free, but donations are appreciated. Everyone is very welcome - choose to attend which ever ones appeal to you. For bookings and information please contact [dothawkes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:dothawkes@hotmail.co.uk)*

***Sponsored by Ormskirk Community Partnership in conjunction with St. Anne's Pastoral Centre.***