

# Saint Margaret Mary's Catholic Infant School Newsletter



Thursday 17th December 2020

**NEW SCHOOL TELEPHONE 0151 477 8815**



## St Margaret Mary's Church

**Christmas Masses are by ticket only, 8pm on 24th December is now full.** Spaces are available for 8:30am on 25th December. Parishioners need to book to come to Christmas Mass. Bookings can be made by telephoning the parish house on 0151-228 1332 on Wednesdays & Thursdays between 10 am and 12 noon. After booking your place/s you need to be seated in church 5 minutes before Mass begins otherwise your seat may be taken. Anyone who turns up for Mass without booking their place may find there is "no room in the inn!" We will stream the Christmas Eve Mass on YouTube and through the parish Facebook page.

Please follow the link to listen, watch and pray with the parish Advent Service; <https://youtu.be/fE6ANfgB10E>

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of a busy and slightly unusual term in school, I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my heart felt thanks. Thank you for the support that you have given in abiding by the rules and routines we have needed to put in place to try and keep everyone safe. These routines will continue into the Spring term. All staff have appreciated the thanks and comments of goodwill passed on to them throughout the term.

Your children have been fantastic this term. They have adapted to new routines and followed the instructions of their teachers, teaching assistants and support staff. They have been kind and courteous to their friends. They have learned so much. Please pass on my thanks to each one of them.

I always tell everyone how wonderful our staff are, here at St Margaret Mary's, but it has never been truer than this term. They have had to have been vigilant about keeping themselves and the children safe, as well as ensuring that the children learn, catch up, are happy and having fun. So thank you, to every single one of our staff.

I am happy to confirm that I have been in touch with Father Christmas and every child is on the good list. I hope you all have a very Happy and Holy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Kind regards,

Mrs Byrne



## A CHRISTMAS PRAYER TO SHARE

*Gentle Jesus born this day, in a manger filled with hay.  
We your Christmas children be—Help us now your love to see.  
Gentle Jesus, come today. Be our shepherd, Lord we pray.  
Gentle Jesus, come this hour. Fill us with your love and power.  
You fell asleep in Mary's arms. God kept you safe from all  
alarm.  
Gentle Jesus, come today. Be our Shepherd now we pray.  
AMEN*



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND MESSAGES FROM KNOWSLEY COUNCIL

### **Christmas bubbles**

With Christmas fast approaching, ensure you know the rules about creating a Christmas Bubble before you make plans. You can meet with people from no more than 3 households in total from 23-27 December only. From 28 December, Tier 2 arrangements will continue which means you can't mix with other households in any indoor setting. You can meet with up to 6 people in an outdoor setting ('rule of six'). <https://www.knowsleynews.co.uk/christmas-bubbles-what-you-need-to-know/>

### **Changes to self-isolation**

From Monday 14 December, if you test positive for COVID you only need to self isolate for 10 days (previously 14 days). People in your household, support bubble or close contacts will need to self-isolate for 10 days too. <https://www.knowsleynews.co.uk/changes-to-self-isolation-period-announced/>

### **Support line**

The Knowsley Volunteer & Support Line is still available for people needing help and support with shopping, medication, dog walking or just someone to chat to. If you don't have family and friends and you're self-isolating, call the team on 0800 073 0043 or complete an online form on the council's website. <https://www.knowsleynews.co.uk/remember-were-still-here-to-help/>

### **Christmas opening times for SMART test centres**

Residents are being encouraged to visit one of the borough's testing facilities if you don't have any symptoms. It can identify people with the virus who are unknowingly passing it on to others. In particular, get one after the festive break and before you return to school or work. Testing centres are open at Volair Leisure Centres in Halewood, Huyton and Kirkby for people who are not displaying symptoms. People can pass on the virus without knowing they have COVID, so getting tested can identify people who need to self-isolate. Centres are open 9am-6pm Monday to Friday and 10am-4pm at weekends. <https://www.knowsleynews.co.uk/lets-get-tested-knowsley-2/> The opening hours for the test centres have now been confirmed – no appointment is needed. <https://www.knowsleynews.co.uk/get-tested-and-start-2021-covid-safe/>

### **Important advice about New Year**

Can you meet up with family and friends at New Year? The answer is no. The restrictions have only been relaxed for 5 days to allow family and friends to see each other for Christmas from 23-27 December. From 28 December, restrictions come back into force which mean you can't mix with other households in any indoor setting. If you meet outside, the rule of six applies. <https://www.knowsleynews.co.uk/important-information-about-new-year/>

### **Travel over the festive period**

If travel is part of your festive plans, plan your journeys in advance. Bus services will continue to Christmas Day from 12pm until 6pm covering most hospital routes, Mersey Tunnel tolls will be free from 10pm on Christmas Eve until 6am on Boxing Day. Some transport services will finish earlier than usual so please check before you travel and remember to wear a face covering on public transport. <https://www.knowsleynews.co.uk/travel-advice-for-the-festive-season/>



Santa Claus  
North Pole

AJC/HJF

14 December 2020

Dear Santa,

As a resident of the North Pole you will be aware how difficult this year has been for everyone on our planet. This has been especially so for the children of the world who just want to have fun, go to school with their mates, learn new things and enjoy time with their families.

As Chief Constable of Merseyside Police I thought that the Coronavirus restrictions might get in the way of you doing your most important job this Christmas - delivering presents to all the children and putting a smile on their faces.

So, in order for that to happen without you getting into trouble with the law, I've decided to make a very important decision.

On Christmas Eve, but not before, you, your seven reindeer and whichever elves you need in your bubble to help you, will be temporarily exempt from the Coronavirus laws and restrictions. This means that:

- You can land on someone's roof and go down their chimney without worrying about needing to be in their bubble or mixing with another household.
- You can travel outside of Merseyside to other parts of the country ... as long as you visit our households first.
- And I will allow you a glass of sherry and a few mince pies, but please remember to wash your hands afterwards.

Face masks are trickier. I know that for gentlemen who have a beard, masks can be annoying and itchy, but for safety reasons I would like you and your elves to keep them on.

Andy Cooke QPM BA (Hons)  
Chief Constable  
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Email: [andrew.j.cooke@merseyside.police.uk](mailto:andrew.j.cooke@merseyside.police.uk)

The flight paths in the sky should be a little quieter than normal and so should the roads, but plenty of my officers will be out and about on patrol to keep an eye on those on our Naughty List which I am glad to say does not include young children.

So give us a wave when you fly over our Police Stations.

And please keep your sleigh to the speed limit, I don't want our helicopter to have to give you a ticket.

Thank you and Merry Christmas.

Yours festively



Andy Cooke QPM  
Chief Constable