



HeartStone: the Parish of Sacred Heart and St John Stone Ainsdale

Living the Love of Christ: everyone welcome, everyone matters, everyone involved.



Sunday 16th August 2026 - The Assumption of Our Lady

Sunday 23rd August 2026

Saturday Sunday	5:30pm Mass: Ann Parker (A) 10:30am Mass: Recovery following Operation	SH SJS	Hospitality after Mass	SJS Lounge		
Parish Priest: Fr Paul Seddon Office hours: 08:00 – 12:30pm & 14:00 – 16:00pm Monday to Friday email: heartstone@rcaol.org.uk Website: https://heartstonerc.co.uk/			Administrator: Gary Foulds Parish Office: 01704 577722 Facebook: HeartStoneAinsdale			
Sacred Heart Church 483 Liverpool Road, Ainsdale, Southport, PR8 3BP			St John Stone Church & Parish Office 7 Sandbrook Way, Woodvale, Southport, PR8 3RN			
Parish Vision Team: Fr Paul, Steve Bousfield, Chris Hawkhead, Ann Rothwell, Irene Gibbons, Carole Baker, Maria Parker, Paddy & Wendy Durkin.						
SH Hall Bookings: cathbarry89@gmail.com 01704 573207			SJS room Bookings: heartstone@rcaol.org.uk 01704 577722			
Safeguarding Contacts: safeguarding092@rcaolp.org.uk						
Catholic Hospital Chaplain: If you or a loved one are in hospital, please ask a staff member to contact the Catholic Chaplain. Foodbank: 07768 772935						

Readings for the weekend - Reflecting on the Word of God

First Reading – Revelations 11:19,12:1-6,10.

The writer of Revelations describes the battle between God and Satan, with the ultimate triumph of God. Mary and her child were at the heart of the battle. A loud voice from Heaven proclaims, "Now the salvation and the power and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come."



Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 15:20-26.

Christ is the new Adam who undoes the harm done by the Old Adam in the Garden of Eden, for he has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. The Church identifies Mary as the new Eve who by her obedience to God undoes all the harm done by the old Eve.

Gospel Reading – Luke 1:39-56.

Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth and shares a hymn of praise to God for his goodness to her and to his chosen people. Elizabeth declares that Mary that "of all women, she is the most blessed." Today we celebrate the glorification of Mary as the Mother of Jesus. After hearing the wonderful words from Elizabeth, she might have gone home and basked in the light of self-approval. Instead, she stayed with her older cousin and helped her in the birth of John the Baptist.

As we celebrate this wonderful feast day, it would be easy for us to think Mary's life was easy. But it was anything but that. She went through the pain of seeing her Son's Passion and death on the Cross. Her faith would have been severely tested by all that she witnessed. Yet she had faith in God all along. As we journey through difficult times, let us remember Mary's faith and courage. May she inspire us to continue along the road of faith until we, one day, like her, meet God face to face in Heaven and enjoy the loving presence of Jesus forever.

Queenscourt Hospice: Many thanks to everyone for your hard work supporting Queenscourt Hospice. We simply cannot afford to lose our Hospice, so let us do what we can to keep it open. Why not visit the Hospice Charity Shop in Ainsdale? If any of you have any ideas of future fundraising events, then why not speak to Fr. Paul or one of the Parish Vision Team? We will continue to pray for the Hospice at Mass every weekend. Regular Giving Forms, prayer cards and collection boxes for Queenscourt Hospice are available at the back of church over the next few weeks. Please ask if you need any help.

Musical Gathering: We are hoping to have another gathering in aid of the Hospice. This will take place in St. John Stone Parish Centre on **Friday October 2nd** from 2-4.00pm. Please come along and support the Hospice. There will be no entry fee, but we will have a collection for Queenscourt. More information very soon.

Parish Development Plan: Please remember to take home a copy of the notes from the Open Meeting which took place a few weeks ago. Please take the notes away with you and have a good read. Over the summer think and pray about which proposals will be best for our deanery, and we will send them to the Archdiocese. We will finalize these, hopefully, at our next Open Meeting on **Thursday September 24th** at 7.30pm in St. John Stone Parish Centre. Please put the date in your diary and come along and join us. Any additional ideas or comments can be placed in the boxes at the back of both churches. Remember, it is so important that everyone feels that they been able to have a contribution to this process.

Archbishop's Visit: During the autumn, Archbishop John will be visiting the different parishes in the deanery. It will be great to welcome him to our Parish. He will be with us at the 5.30pm Mass on **Saturday October 31st**. Sadly, the Archbishop will not be available to celebrate Sunday morning Mass since he is visiting another parish then. Hopefully he will join us for a meeting at St. John Stone in the very near future. After the 5.30pm Mass, Archbishop John would like to meet with different people involved in Parish life, such as the Vision Team, the Social Committee, the SVP, and anyone else who would like to be involved. Hopefully we will have tea and coffee after Mass at Sacred Heart and have an opportunity to meet him then. More details soon.

Digging Deeper: The next gathering of the talks entitled "Digging Deeper" will take place at the Salvation Army Worship Centre, Shakespeare Street Southport, on **September 14th** from 7.00-8.30pm. The next talk is "The Communion of Saints – the shared life of Christ" and will be led by Fr. Chris Thomas from Irenaeus. All are welcome.

Scripture Group: A number of people in the Parish have expressed an interest in starting a Scripture Group. We are not sure what the format will be yet, but we are hoping to meet very soon to discuss a way forward. If any of you are interested, then please let us know. It will be good to gather together to share our interest in the Scriptures, especially the readings we have at Mass each week. Please watch this space for further details.

SVP Appeal: We are asking for your support for Queenscourt Hospice, which is in danger of being closed due to financial constraints. The SVP will be holding a raffle; all proceeds will be donated to Queenscourt. We are appealing for raffle prize donations, which can be given to SVP members or placed in one of the boxes at the back of church. SVP raffle tickets will be on sale after masses beginning weekend of 20/21 June 2026, tickets drawn **Saturday 22nd August 2026**. The next SVP Meeting will take place on **Wednesday September 16th** at 7.30pm. all welcome.

RCIA: At this time of the year, we invite people who may be thinking of becoming a Catholic to come along and find out whether they wish to join the Church at Easter next year. So, if you know of anyone who may be thinking of joining the Church, why not ask them and invite them to come along to Mass every now and then. Please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Paul so that we can make contact and begin preparations.

Chatsworth House: The Parish of Holy Family in Southport are organizing a day trip to Chatsworth House on **Saturday November 14th** and they have invited people from all over the deanery to join them. If you would like to go then please contact Athena at the Parish Office on 01704-532613 to book a place. Approximate cost is likely to be in the region of £60 to cover entry fee to the house and the cost of the coach.

Gardening Morning: The next Gardening Day will take place from 10:30 on **Thursday 20 August** at St John Stone Gardens. Many thanks to those who maintain the gardens and look after them so well. All volunteers welcome.



Thank You!

Weekly total Income £1092.09 which includes:	
*Plate/Envelope Offertory	£306.22
*Standing Orders (PM)	£585.87
Rent	£200.00