

The Parish of the Good Samaritan

NEWSLETTER

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8TH DECEMBER 2024 YEAR C



Churches of

- ◆ Christ the King
- ◆ St Mary of the Assumption
- ◆ St John the Baptist Burnley

John was the one who announced the good news of the coming of Christ, is our companion for the second week of Advent. He tells



people to have a change of heart to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom of God. He tells us to follow his advice, given to every generation to follow; the advice is simple; follow the ways of right not the ways that are wrong. We are told his is also the fulfilment of Isaiah who tells us to make the paths of the Lord straight. In Advent we have a chance to reflect and to think about the direction our lives are going. John is not an easy or comfortable companion for us. He lives simply himself, living off locusts and wild honey, living as he does in the wilderness. He will ask us gently but firmly to invite the Lord more fully into our lives; to be more honest and more

truthful with ourselves and other people; and to be more trusting of the Lord as we see the need to change.

Advent is a time to welcome in the Lord, particularly to get rid of all the things that clutter our lives, our mistakes and acts of selfishness that become barriers between ourselves and the love of God. We want to rid ourselves of all those things that are not life-giving to our selves or to others. We are asked to straighten out our lives, this means to have a re-think, to reassess the direction our lives are taking. There will be certainly aspects of our lives that are wholesome and life-giving, so we need to have in our Advent reflection, time to affirm and celebrate these.

DIOCESAN SYNOD UPDATE - PARISH MEETINGS

Sincere thanks to those who came to the last of the four themed sessions. We are now in the process of sending to the Diocesan Synod office our suggestions for each of the four themed sessions.

RETIREMENT MASS

Mrs A Barrett is retiring from St Mary's school after more than 35 years of loyal service here. We will be celebrating a retirement Mass for her at St Mary's church on Friday December 13th at 9.30am which will replace the usual Parish Mass that day.

Mrs Barrett has contacted us to say she would love for parishioners to join us for Mass that morning. All are welcome.



ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE



Some important meetings have recently taken place regarding Theo and last week it was confirmed that Theo Sharrock, our seminarian has had his application for ordination to the Diaconate formally accepted by Bishop John. Therefore we are delighted to confirm that Theo will be ordained as a Deacon at St Mary's church, Burnley at 12 noon on Saturday 28th December. Further details will be made available nearer the time so in the meantime please note the date and continue to keep Theo in your prayers.

PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

First Mass of Christmas

Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th December

6.00pm St. Mary's 7.00pm St. John's 12.00 Midnight Christ the King (Midnight Mass)

The above Masses will be preceded by a service of carols and readings which will commence 30 minutes before the start of Mass.

Christmas Day Masses

Christmas Day Wednesday 25th December

9.15am Christ the King 10.00am St Mary's 10.45am St John's.

PARISH CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH— ST. MARY'S PARISH ROOMS

Once again this year we are able to offer a Christmas Day lunch for those who would otherwise be alone, as well as couples who would otherwise also be on their own. The meal will start at 2.00pm but book early— places are limited and on a strictly first come, first served basis. Please contact Mike on 07563 998 334 or Barbara on 07884 014 711. Alternatively, you could email web-site@goodsamaritanparish.org.uk A warm welcome is guaranteed! When making a booking please state: your name, your telephone number and any dietary requirements.



POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION DECEMBER 2024

FOR PILGRIMS OF HOPE

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.



CAFOD NEWS DECEMBER 2024

CAFOD has produced a series of prayers for Advent. Please join in with CAFOD's prayers of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace as we journey through Advent. The theme for the second Sunday of Advent is Love:

Come, Lord, bearer of love. We repent and are sorry for the damage we have caused to our earth and to one another. Guide us as we seek to straighten the paths of injustice and prepare a way for you. Lead us in your ways, as together we make a change and reach out in love to others.

Salford Diocese Schools Singing Programme

Local schools will be presenting a Carol Service at St. Mary's **this Thursday at 6.30pm**
All are welcome



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS



The Christmas decorations and tree will be going up at St. Mary's after the 10.00am Mass on Sunday 22nd December. If anyone is able to volunteer a few hours to assist in this it would be appreciated—many hands make light work!

LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH STRING QUARTET

The Salford Diocese String Quartet (including our very own seminarian Theo) will lead a service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday 15th December at 6:30pm at St Joseph's Church, Accrington, BB5 6AH. Mulled wine and mince pies to follow, accompanied with more festive music from the string quartet. All are welcome.



WINTER FUEL ALLOWANCE

If you are likely to be effected by the withdrawal of the Winter Fuel Allowance, please check if you might qualify for Pension Credit, which would mean you can get the Allowance. It isn't simple to check but Age UK (0800 678 1602) and Citizens' Advice (0808 278 7975) will help you check it out. Do remember it is your entitlement, paid for by your lifetime taxes, not a charitable donation.

KSC QUIZ NIGHT AT ST MARY'S PARISH ROOMS

The KSC will hold a quiz every Monday starting at 8.00pm, in St Mary's parish Rooms. Entrance fee of £2 which includes free tea/coffee and biscuits. All are welcome.



HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

If you, or someone you know cannot get to Mass but would like to receive Holy Communion in their home, please ask their permission, then talk with Fr David to arrange things.

MASS INTENTIONS

Lately Dead: Jenny Woods, Barbara Backhouse, Jean McAulay, Richard Preston, Margaret Conroy, Richard Preston,

Other Intentions: In thanksgiving for prayers answered for a sick relative, Jenny Dacey, 100th

Birthday, Nora Smith, 90th Birthday

Anniversaries: Evelyn Towey, Shaun Gaughan, John Duerden.



BRASS BAND CONCERT

Thanks to all who supported the Brass Band concert at St Mary's on Sunday afternoon and who gave generously in donations as well as supporting the raffle. All raffle prizes have now been claimed.

COFFEE MORNING

Our Parish Youth Group will put on another Coffee Morning in the Parish Rooms at St Mary's on Saturday 14th December after 9.30am Mass. There will be tea, coffee, home made cake, and a raffle. Proceeds to parish funds. All are welcome.



CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

A super "Hamper for Christmas" has been created and donated to the Parish for a raffle with all proceeds going to parish funds. The Hamper is currently on display at St Johns, tickets are £1 each with the draw taking place on Sunday December 22nd - so you'll have it in time for Christmas!! If anyone would like to sell tickets at any of the three churches please contact Margaret P 07751 025178 - tickets will be provided!

OLD MOBILE PHONES WANTED

Father Emmanuel, who was a parish priest at St John's a few years ago, is asking for mobile phones (even if not in working condition) for a charity in his home country of Nigeria.

There will be a box at the entrance of St. John's church where they can be dropped off.

Today too, amid so much darkness, we need to see the light of hope and to be men and women who bring hope to others.

To protect creation, to protect every man and every woman, to look upon them with tenderness and love, is to open up a horizon of hope; it is to let a shaft of light break through the heavy clouds; it is to bring the warmth of hope!

ADVENT RETREAT (AGE 15 TO YOUNG ADULTS) AT CASTLERIGG MANOR KESWICK

Bookings will close for the Advent Retreat at Castlerigg on December 11th at Midday. The open retreats at Castlerigg give teens and young adults a great way to make friends, deepen their faith, and have some fun and they usually prove very popular. The weekend costs £65 but anyone who might struggle with this is invited to get in touch. Further details – director@castleriggmanor.co.uk. Sign up at castleriggmanor.com

PARISH BONUS BALL —WINNERS!



Thanks to all who have supported the bonus Ball game and it will continue each week. The winning Bonus ball number for Wednesday 4th December was number 3

Congratulations to this week's winners who are as follows:

St John's ~ George St Mary's ~ Muriel

Christ the King ~ rollover

Please claim your prize from the appropriate sacristy.

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT



There are two sources of help for people and families who need support.

You pay a registration fee of £5 for the year, and can then shop weekly (or more often if need be) for £4 per visit — the usual 'shop' is equal to about £20/£30 in any other supermarket. The two shops are 1) in the shopping centre square above New Look, and 2) Valley St near the cemetery. They're open Monday to Friday 9.30am to

4.30pm. Just drop in, see and buy!



The people of the parish have given donations and goods, through and in addition to the excellent work of Blessed Trinity College, who have raised **over £14,000** since they started. You are asked to continue to put food into the collection point in many supermarkets, as well as using the Blessed Trinity site for financial donations at <https://tinyurl.com/BlessedTrinityJustGiving>. **Thank you all!**

MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER TO SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2024

Please note the changes this week

Monday	<i>Immaculate Conception</i> 9.30am St. Mary's	
Tuesday	<i>Our Lady of Loreto</i> 9.30am St. Mary's	12 Noon St John's,
Wednesday	<i>St Damasus</i> 9.30am Christ the King	7.00pm St John's
Thursday	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> 9.15am Advent Mass in Christ the King School 6.30pm St. Mary's - Salford Diocese schools Carol Service	
Friday	<i>St Lucy</i> 9.30am St. Mary's - School Retirement Mass NB Only one Mass today Followed by Exposition and Reconciliation 11.00 to 11.30am	
Saturday	<i>St John of the Cross</i> 9.30am St. Mary's followed at 10.30 to 11.30am Exposition and Reconciliation.	
	Vigil Masses: 6.00pm St John's preceded at 5.15pm until 5.55pm with Reconciliation and Exposition 6.30pm St Mary's	
Sunday	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> Christ the King: 9.15am and 5.00pm St Mary's: 10.00am (This Mass will be live-streamed on the parish website* St John's: 10.45am (*A recording of the Mass should be available later from Sunday afternoon)	

Exposition

There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament starting 30 minutes before each weekday Mass, Monday to Friday (Except before Funerals)

Stay with us Lord on our journey.

CHRISTMAS CARDS IN OUR CHURCHES

Each of our churches has now got a beautiful selection of Christmas cards for sale. They're religiously themed, at good prices, and of course, contribute to parish funds.

FOREIGN CURRENCIES, PENNIES, MEDALS AND GOLD

If you have any of these items please bring them to church and place them at a box at the back of each church. A parishioner will take these and turn them into cash for the parish. Please support this fundraiser if you can. Thank you.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PARISH

WEEKLY COLLECTION The offertory collection, not including standing orders, from the three churches in the parish for weekend of 30th Nov/1st Dec was £ 1155.64 for which many thanks.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PARISH BY STANDING ORDER:

You can make your contributions to the parish online by Standing Order; Please contact your bank and inform them that payment should now be made as follows: Name: The Salford Diocesan Trust: The Good Samaritan Parish. Sort Code: 205558 Account number: 50404640

Thank you.



Clergy Team

Parish Priest: Fr David Featherstone St Mary of the Assumption 01282 422007

Assistant Priest Fr Job Zirra

Parish email: djfeatherstone@outlook.com

Newsletter email: itemsforfrank@gmail.com

Parish website: www.goodsamaritanparish.org.uk

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Christ the King

Healey Mount
BURNLEY BB11 2QJ

St Mary of the Assumption

3 Todmorden Road
Burnley BB10 4AU

St John the Baptist

Bracewell St
Burnley BB10 1TB