

The Parish of the Good Samaritan

NEWSLETTER

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

15TH DECEMBER 2024 YEAR C



Churches of

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

On this third Sunday of Advent we again have John the Baptist as our companion. In answering the question "What must I do?" To those who approach him for Baptism, John tells them to share their food and clothes with those who lack them, to be more content with what they have, to not exert power unjustly. All of these weaknesses are part of the human condition and so should resonate with us because we can still be selfish, we can still be greedy, and we still abuse power. How can we say we are ready to welcome the Prince of peace and really be filled with joy if our behaviour has a detrimental effect on others.

We are to look at our lives and to see what the sources of joy are in our lives that we sometimes take for granted. We should perhaps also strive to be more appreciative and grateful for all the blessings in



our lives. We are also to forget ourselves and our own problems which can in themselves bring us some joy as well as peace of mind.

As our Advent Companion, John is also preparing us for the coming of Jesus. He gets us to think about our lives and to think about where God is in our lives. He is asking us to think how faithful we are being to God? We should be more appreciative of the things we have and not thinking about having more; We should be appreciative of the people in our lives and less critical of them. We should strive to be more content and less dissatisfied with our lives and with ourselves and all the blessings we enjoy. On this Gaudete Sunday, as we contemplate the sources of joy in our own lives, we can ask ourselves how much joy we bring to those that we encounter.

DIOCESAN SYNOD NEWS - PARISH MEETINGS

Thanks to those who came to the fourth session on 5th December, and for all that was shared.

THEO'S ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE

Before he can become a priest, Theo needs to be ordained as a Deacon and serve in this ministry for at least 6 months. We are really looking forward to Theo being ordained as a Deacon at St Mary's church, Burnley at 12noon on Saturday 28th December. We hope anyone who would like to attend this wonderful occasion for our parish and the Diocese, will be able to come to this Diaconate Ordination Mass which will be led by Bishop John. Pie and peas and other refreshments will be served after the Ordination in St Mary's RC Primary School, Holcombe Drive, Burnley BB10 4BH. Limited parking will be available at the church (during the Ordination) and the school yard (afterwards). There will be a hymn practise at 4pm on Thursday 19th Dec in St Mary's Parish Rooms for anyone from across the parish wishing to be part of the singing group at the Ordination. Please 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 12.00Midnight 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 DINNER— ST. MARY'S PARISH ROOMS

Once again this year we are able to offer a Christmas Day dinner for those who would otherwise be on their own, as well as couples who would otherwise also be alone.



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 website@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

As the late morning dawns in this winter month, I pray: "May I live this day in your light and spread the light which enlightens all, to those I meet..."



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 third Sunday of Advent is Joy:

Come, Lord, source of joy. In times of despair, we seek comfort in your presence. We wait in hope for you. Move us to be good news in our World and to stand alongside our sisters and brothers in need. Lead us in your ways as together we make a change so all people may rejoice and be glad.

KSC CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT AT ST MARY'S PARISH ROOMS

Our next quiz in St Mary's parish Rooms will be held at 8pm on Monday 16th Dec. Admission is £2 per person which includes free tea/coffee/biscuits. There will be a festive feel to this quiz, which will include extra refreshments. 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 **tonight 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.



Maranatha, maranatha, maranatha, come, Lord Jesus, come.

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.

Home baking requested



If anyone would like to make some home made cakes for the Reception after Theo's Diaconate Ordination on 28th Dec please contact Lynne tel 07850 048538

MASS INTENTIONS

Lately Dead: Jennie Wood, Barbara Backhouse, Jean McAulay, Richard Preston, Margaret Conroy, Michael Prunty,

Other Intentions: Deceased members of the Cunnie family, Deceased members of the Reynolds family, Donor's intentions, Christmas Mass, Donor's intentions. Dan Gaughan, Sarah Gaughan, Mary Durkin and Eddie Durkan, Paul and Darren Towey,

Anniversaries: John Duerden, Frederick Aloysius Pickles, Philip

Guilfoyle, Mary Atkinson, Stephen Gleeson, Daniel Gaughan, Patsy Green, Monica Burrow,

Birthday Memoriam: Paula Giltrow Helm, John and Mary Coupe, Michael Gill.

In Memoriam: Tressa Byrom, Catherine Kilday.

Christmas Masses: Patrick and Ann Canning, Oldham family, Alan Oldham, Bill Sammon, Martin Canning. Shaun Gaughan, John Cavanagh, deceased family and friends.

Towneley Chapel candle: Jean McAulay

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!

PARISH BONUS BALL GAME—WINNERS!



Thanks to all who have supported the bonus Ball game and it will continue each week. The winning Bonus ball number for Wednesday 11th December was number 19

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

St John's ~ Damian

St Mary's ~ T Clegg

Christ the King ~ rolover

Please claim your prize from the appropriate sacristy.

PARISH BONUS BALL— CHRISTMAS SPECIAL!

The Christmas Bonus Ball Draw will be on 24th December and thanks to the generosity of one of our parishioners, there will be an extra £50 bonus prize available for each of the three churches that day.

OLD MOBILE PHONES WANTED

Father Emmanuel, who was a 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 all three churches where they can be dropped off.

BURNLEY MUNICIPAL CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Burnley Municipal Choir's Christmas Concert will take place at St Catherine's Church, Todmorden Road, Burnley, this coming Wednesday 18th December, starting at 7.00pm.

Admission is free and all are welcome.



Jesus is good, Jesus is tender, Jesus is humble. This is the true Christmas! Do not forget this. May it be thus for you and for your families — Pope Francis

Only if people change will the world change; and in order to change, people need the light that comes from God, the light which so unexpectedly entered into our night — Pope Benedict XVI

DATE FOR THE DIARY

Next year's parish Mass of thanksgiving for all those who have a role or a ministry in the parish will be celebrated at 12.00 Noon at St Mary's on Saturday 18th January followed by a lunch in the parish rooms for all present.

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 16TH DECEMBER TO SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER 2024

Please note the changes this week

- Monday** *Advent Weekday*
9.30am St. Mary's
- Tuesday** *Advent Weekday*
9.30am St. John's
12.00 noon Funeral Mass at St. Mary's for Jean McAulay RIP
- Wednesday** *Advent Weekday*
9.30am Christ the King 7.00pm St John's
- Thursday** *Advent Weekday*
9.30am St. John's
10.15am Funeral Mass at Christ the King for Margaret Conroy RIP
- Friday** *Advent Weekday*
10.00am Funeral Mass at St. John's
12.00 noon St. Mary's preceded by Exposition and Reconciliation 11.30 to 11.55am
- Saturday** *Advent Weekday*
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** ***Fourth Sunday of Advent***
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)

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. Steve, who organises this, has this week presented the parish with over £500 from what has already been raised through your generosity. 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 7th/8th Dec was £1598.97, 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

website email: website@goodsamaritanparish.org.uk

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