

The Parish of the Good Samaritan

NEWSLETTER

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

3RD DECEMBER 2023

YEAR B



Churches of

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

FR DAVID'S REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

Today is the beginning of the season of Advent, the start of the Church's liturgical year. It's a bit of a wake-up call to think about what really matters in life.



Throughout the year we can get lethargic and into a routine. Advent is a time for a fresh start and it's a time to reflect and look back on our lives as we reassess our priorities in preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. It is also a time of waiting but waiting patiently and using the time of waiting wisely and constructively. It is also a chance to get our lives back on track and more centred on Christ.

Advent is also a time for opening afresh our hearts to God's love. There should be an excitement about our waiting for the Lord's coming. However, this excitement needs to be tempered with pa-

tience. We are not to squander these sacred Advent days by wishing our lives away or filling them with unnecessary activity. We are instead to listen to the Lord who invites us to slow down, reflect and pray.

In inviting us to stay awake as he does in today's Gospel, Jesus is simply asking us to pay attention to the things that are eternal; and are of importance. Therefore, let us reflect on our friendship with God and how much energy we invest in this important relationship. We also ponder God's unconditional love for us that we are asked to share with all especially the needy. We should also respond generously to the invitation to grow in holiness and nearness to the Lord. That's what waiting for him should be like, that is what he is calling us to stay awake for.

GOOD SAMARITAN SVP HOUSEBOUND MASS - NEXT SATURDAY

The Advent Housebound Mass will be held in St John's Parish Hall on Saturday 9th December at 12.00 noon. As previously it is an open invitation across the parish for all who are housebound or with limited mobility to attend. The SVP will provide transport if needed. Call Maria on 07929256406 . Following the Mass we will have our usual Christmas party and raffle.

PARISH OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN: MASS OF THANKSGIVING AND LUNCH



Our annual Mass of thanksgiving will next take place on Saturday 6th January 2024 at 12 Noon at St John's church. This is an opportunity to give thanks for all those who have a voluntary role or ministry through all three churches within the parish. It will be followed by a lunch for all present in St John's Parish rooms. For catering purposes, **if you intend to come to the lunch please put your name on the sheet at the back of each of the three churches.**

DIOCESAN CAROL SERVICE AT ST MARY'S—WITH PARISH SCHOOLCHILDREN SINGING

The concert will be on Tuesday 12th December at 6.30pm. It is presented by the Diocesan School Singing Programme and involves our own children from St John's school, as well as other local schools. Admission is free, with a retiring collection. It's a delightful prospect! Please support it if you can.



MASS INTENTIONS

Lately Dead: Pauline Martland, Keith Hargreaves, Grzegorz Puciato, Margaret Demain, Peter Jennings,

Anniversaries: Clifford Gregson, Elsie Pegg, Kathleen Kinsella, Frank Donnelly

Other Intentions: In thanksgiving for safe

journeys, For a successful operation, For a sick friend, Audrey and Peter Morris,

Birthday Memoriam: Anthony Moore, George Andrea Vincent

Towneley Chapel Lamp: Ann Cunningham RIP



KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA CHRISTMAS CRACKER - THIS FRIDAY

The Knights support two local charities – Holly Grove School and the Catholic Handicapped Fellowship. To help with this they present their annual Christmas Cracker **at the KSC Club on Friday 8th December** starting at 8.00pm featuring top vocalist Reece Thomas. An evening of entertainment amongst friends – come and join the fun for good causes. Tickets are £6 including light refreshment, available from Bernard (07800 867 554 or Pat (07947 151 931).



PARISH BONUS BALLGAME—WINNERS!



Thanks to all who have supported the bonus Ball game and it will continue each week. The winning Bonus ball number for Wednesday 29th November was number **13**

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

St John's ~ Carol

St Mary's ~ Claire

Christ the King ~ Mike

Please claim your prize from the appropriate sacristy.

AVAILABLE IN CHURCH

Walk With Me Advent booklets and calendars to support us on our journey through Advent.

2024 Diocesan Almanac (priced £3.50)

Both of these are now available at the back of each church.

MONDAY MORNING MASS AT ST. MARY'S

Tea and toast will be served in the parish rooms after 9.30am Mass on Mondays. This will be organised by the Legion of Mary who will commence their weekly meeting at 10.30am in the Newman Room. All are welcome.



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH BURNLEY CATENIANS

Burnley Catenians are holding their Christmas meal, followed by Carols, at 8pm on Wednesday 13th December at Nelson House, Nelson Sq. Burnley and would like to extend an invitation to any Parishioner who would like to join us on the night.

A three-course festive meal, followed by coffee and mints, along with a free raffle, and all for only £20 per person. Following the meal there will be Carols led by our own Peter Marsland. If you would like to come along please contact Mick Armfield on 07591249211 or at marmfield@hotmail.co.uk before 1st December.



BURSARIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WANT TO "HELP YOU TO HELP OTHERS"

The Catenian Association offers financial support to young Catholics (aged 16—24) who are involved in development projects which help less fortunate people, (**including Diocesan and HCPT Pilgrimages**). For more information go to catenianbursary.com.

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.



CAFOD NEWS—CHRISTMAS PRESENTS WITH A BENEFIT

Campaigns Update – Pope Francis has announced he will be attending the global UN climate conference COP28 in Dubai this month. He's called for political leaders at the COP28 talks to prevent the climate crisis from causing even greater tragedies for communities that have contributed least to causing it. We can support his message by asking our MP to act on the Pope's call. To take part just follow the link: <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/137965/action/1>

CAFOD's World Gifts – Christmas is fast approaching, but don't worry CAFOD have the best unusual presents for your friends and family that can make a real difference to people living in poverty. World Gifts are CAFOD range of gifts that help those families in most need across the world. For each gift you buy this Christmas, you will receive a beautiful gift card to pass on to your loved one. For the latest selection visit the CAFOD website or pick up a brochure at the back of our three parish churches: <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

DIOCESAN SYNOD—THE BIG LISTEN—CATCH-UP

For those who were not able to come to the recent Big Listen sessions for the Diocesan Synod, you can still take part by taking a white envelope from the back of any of our three churches. Inside you will find questions to consider and details about how the responses can be submitted, which will be either directly online or by returning the envelope and placing it in one of the boxes marked "Synod" which you will find at the back of each church over the next few weeks. Please consider taking an envelope for your family or neighbours who might appreciate being invited to take part. If you have any further questions about the Synod feel free to contact the Parish Synod reps – Sam walshst@outlook.com or Lynne lynneoliver2@hotmail.com



ROSARY FOR THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AT ST MARY'S

The Deanery group going to Lourdes next summer are organising the Rosary at St Mary's church on Friday 8th December at 6.30pm to mark the feast of the Immaculate Conception. All are welcome.

PARISH CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR THOSE ALONE



Following on from the success of providing Christmas lunch last year for those who would otherwise have been on their own, thanks to Fr David and our splendid volunteers, we're going to have another this Christmas!, starting at 2.00pm on Christmas Day in St Mary's Parish Rooms. If you – or someone you know – would otherwise be alone this Christmas but would prefer a bit of company, please get in touch with Mike Morris on 07563998334 or email him on website@goodsamaritanparish.org.uk But hurry – places are limited and we regret we have to offer them on a strictly first come, first served basis.

ANNUAL PARISH TEA PARTY AT ST JOHN'S SCHOOL—AN OPEN INVITATION

On Tuesday 19th December St John the Baptist Primary School will hold its annual Parish Christmas Tea Party . The tea party is free to any members from across the parish . It starts at 130pm and will be finished for 3pm . The children will be performing carols and songs. Tickets are available from the school office.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST MEMORIAL CORNER

Take a look at the two very interesting volumes of information regarding all those named on the war memorial at Saint John's. They can be found in the memorial corner. They have been compiled by one of our parishioners Linda. Her extensive work has involved studying a number of Internet sites, such as ancestry.com, the Commonwealth War Graves, British newspaper collection at findmypast and many more.

We thank Linda for her, thoroughly detailed research

GOOD SAMARITAN PARISH WINTER WARMER AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

It has become necessary to change the date to 10th December 2023—one week earlier



On Sunday, the 10th December after the 10.45am Mass at Saint John the Baptist you are invited to the parish rooms where we will be serving bacon and sausage butties, home made cakes, tea and coffee. All these mouth-watering treats will be provided for a small donation. Our youngsters will entertain you with popular songs and you can then try your hand at Tombola. To conclude this event Fr David and Maria Boyes will draw the winning raffle ticket for the food hamper, bottle of gin, bottle of fizz, and more.

Please come along and show your support with profits to church funds. **We would be very grateful to anyone who would like to help in any way by donating tombola prizes, cakes, or helping in any way. Please contact Margaret for further information on 07751025178**

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT



This is a grocery targeted for those people who are having difficulties in the cost of living crisis. 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>. St John's will continue to accept money gifts, in an envelope clearly marked dropped into the presbytery letterbox.

"THE BIG PICTURE" ~ A DVD COURSE

The Big Picture is the title of our new DVD course which is an Inspirational Bible Course. The course consists of 12 sessions, which will take place on the 2nd Friday of each month. This will be held in St Mary's parish rooms at 12.30pm (after the midday Mass). **The next meeting will be Friday 8th.**

