

The Parish of the Good Samaritan

Churches of: Christ the King St Mary of the Assumption St John the Baptist BURNLEY



NEWSLETTER

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

4TH JANUARY 2026 YEAR A



The symbol of John's Gospel is the eagle, a creature famed for its extraordinary vision. John therefore presents Jesus in a much deeper, more profound way to the reader than the other three evangelists. He starts his Gospel not at the beginning of the life of Jesus, but goes right back to the beginning of time. John reveals the true identity of Jesus by reflecting on him as the Eternal Word of God. So he begins his Gospel by saying: **"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was God"**. That lays it out clearly by saying that Jesus is God. Then he goes on to say that in Jesus coming into the world as man: **"The Word was made Flesh and lived among us"** Now that the Word becomes human, as a human being he reveals the glory of God in a way that is beyond our wildest



dreams. This is at the very heart of the Christmas message. At Christmas we marvel at how human life is given a dignity which should transform totally our way of thinking about ourselves and other people. Allowing ourselves to enter more deeply into the mystery of the Incarnation at Christmas means having a heart as Christ had, to see that everyone matters to God. We are called also to allow God's presence in us to radiate that same light of the love of Jesus by putting the needy and powerless first. We are to give priority to the offer of God's life of grace in Christ above a life of seeking pleasure and selfishness. To attain this, we need to find the courage to believe in what God has done and continues to do for us each day through his Son.

NEW YEARS'S MESSAGE

May the grace of our Lord light your path in this New Year. We pray that 2026 brings you and your loved ones abundant peace, renewed hope, and a deeper connection to His divine love. God bless you all. Fr Theo and Fr David

THANK YOU

As a parish we offer our heartfelt thanks to Fr David and Fr Theo for their caring and dedicated ministry, their friendship and thoughtfulness throughout 2025. We wish them health, fulfilment and happiness through 2026. God bless you.

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD—HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Tues 6th January is the feast of the Epiphany and a holyday of obligation; Masses in the parish are as follows
9.30am Mass at St John's, ~ 12 noon Mass at St Mary's, 7pm ~ Mass at Christ theE King.

MASS INTENTIONS

Patrick Joseph Moss ,

Other intentions: Intentions of Readers and Liturgy Group members, Sr Pat's ints, Sr Joan Kerley FMSJ

Birthday intention: Stella Burrows,

Memoriam; Bob and Kathleen Beckett,

Lately Dead: Gary Townley, Michael Walsh, Sarah Philips, David Hargreaves, Nora Elaine Scott, Eileen Seddon, Eileen Duignan, Fr Tommy Mullen, Brian Crook, Marion Pickles, Bill Nevison,

Anniversaries: David Hartley, Jacqui Williamson-Clee, Margaret Williamson, Vera Fitzpatrick , Mick Pickles, Joseph Moore, Mary and Michael Toman, Keith Kershaw, Dorothy Spencer, Chris Ternent ,



PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME 2026

We are now able to proceed with the Parish Sacramental Programme for the Baptised RC children currently in year 3 or above. The initial meeting for parents/carers only, will be held at St. Mary's Church at **6.30pm on Thursday 22nd January 2026**. During this information meeting, we will outline your child's Sacramental journey which will lead to the children being prepared to celebrate Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. This meeting will also allow Parents/Carers to book their time slots for the next meeting, which will be a one-to-one appointment for the child and their Parents/Carers with a Priest and a Catechist.

The dates set aside for these early evening appointments are as follows: 26th January St Mary's children, 3rd February St John's children, 9th & 10th February Christ the King children. Following these one-to-one appointments, Parents will then receive full details of all, further meetings and celebrations. If you have any questions, please contact Fr. David.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH IN THE PARISH—THANK YOU

The meal for people who might have been alone at Christmas was an enormous success and a wonderful example of true Christian love. Sincere thanks to everyone who helped—food donations, preparation, service, and making the Parish Rooms look so festive. You are a credit to the Parish. Thank you all.

GOOD SAMARITAN SVP CONFERENCE—MEETING THIS MONDAY



The Good Samaritan SVP Conference will hold its meeting Monday January 5th at 1.30pm **in St Mary's Parish Rooms**.

The Conference has been very busy over the past few weeks. We have bought and filled **twenty-seven large food bags** with non perishable items of food and goodies and these have been distributed around our Parish to the needy families of some of our school children. Another family who required help and are expecting a baby shortly have been given a **pram, Moses basket and stand and many other needed items** donated from St John's s school. A nearly-new **baby carrier** was donated from a parishioner and the Conference has bought the necessary items of **clothing, nappies and bedding** needed for a new baby. Well over a £1.000 has been spent on these projects. Thank you all and God bless.



FOREIGN COINS AND NOTES, OLD ENGLISH COINS AND NOTES, 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. Thank you to all those concerned which is greatly appreciated.

POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2026

For Prayer with the Word Of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary Church.



FR THEO'S JOURNEY TO PRIESTHOOD

Fr Theo has an excellent and very readable article on the Diocesan website. It's a lovely insight into how our new Assistant Priest has followed his vocation. Enjoy and share his journey at:

<https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/fr-theo-sharrock/>



PARISH BONUS BALL GAME—WINNERS!

Thanks to all who have supported the bonus Ball game in each of the three churches, which will continue each week. The winning Bonus ball for last Wednesday was number **14**. Congratulations to this week's winners:

St John's ~ Linda

St Mary's ~ Pat

Christ the King ~ Andrew

Please claim your prize from the appropriate sacristy.

VISIT TO THE PARISH OF THE FIRST CLASS RELICS OF ST CARLO ACUTIS 28TH TO 29TH JANUARY



We are very privileged as a parish to be asked to co-host the visit to the Diocese of Salford of the holy relics of the recently canonised St Carlo Acutis. These will be welcomed into **St Mary's church on Wednesday morning 28th at 10.00am** and there will be many opportunities during Wednesday for the faithful to venerate these sacred relics. **Bishop John will celebrate Mass at 7pm on the Wednesday 28th.** On Thursday 29th, school groups will be given the opportunity to book time for a group of their pupils to visit the relics through the course of the school day. At the end of the school day there will further opportunities for the faithful to visit the relics. The visit to our parish will conclude with a concelebrated Mass at 7pm on Thursday 29th. Further details about this exciting event will be communicated ASAP.

CALLING ALL GARDENERS (OR WOULD-BE) GARDENERS FOR ST MARY'S GROUNDS

We hope you all enjoy the gardens and green spaces around St Mary's. To keep them tidy and well maintained, the current team of gardeners would appreciate some help and support. This can be on a regular basis, whenever you have time or for a specific project. The work is varied and no specific knowledge is required. Tools and advice are always available. Do you enjoy outdoor activities, perhaps want to learn more about gardening, or add your current skills to the team please contact Andrew (07745491050) or Gunther (07776155230) or talk to us after Sunday Mass at St Mary's.

UNNEEDED CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Just in case you received any for Christmas - there is a box at the back of St Johns to receive them!! The monthly raffle, the potential mini auction, the odd tombola all enjoy these gifts with any funds raised supporting our parish - Thanks and Merry Christmas

CATENIANS LUNCH INVITATION

On Burnley Catenians are going to Dempsey's for lunch on Wednesday 28 January at 13:00 and would like to extend an invitation to parishioners. Food has to be pre-ordered from the lunch menu:
https://www.dineatdempseys.co.uk/_files/ugd/4145b6_fa4fd76f3077482fa70a936953a131e7.pdf

Dear Lord, in this New Year, we pray that peace and love will dominate our hearts, our families, our communities, our country and the world.

SAVE YOR STAMPS FOR CHARITY

Please remember to save the stamps. Cut them off leaving an inch of space around the stamp. The stamps support a multitude of charities including- Guide & Support Dogs, Age UK, Breast Cancer, MND to name but a few. Post them into the envelope at the back of church. Many



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS—VOLUNTEER REGISTER—ACTION REQUIRED



It has been two years since the last survey, and it is now time to update our volunteer register, for all three churches. Forms are available at the back of each church. If you are involved in any activities or Ministries, kindly take a form, fill it out, and place it in the designated box at the back of the church.

Thank you.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AT ST MARY'S

Sincere thanks to the great team that came together to decorate St Mary's church. Your help is much appreciated, and hopefully it's a group that will come back next year! Thank you all.

CAFOD NEW2026s - NEY YEAR



Our CAFOD group wish all our parishioners a Happy and Peaceful New Year. Our Group asks for your continued prayers for all aspects of CAFOD's work. In 2026 your support of CAFOD's campaigning work for Peace and Justice would be particularly welcome. Our next group meeting is on-line on 13 January 2026 at 7.30pm. If you would like to attend to get a flavour of what the group does or join with us in our work please contact Dominic on 07999 512102,

A THOUSAND KSC THANK YOU'S



The Grand Knight (Tom Wilkinson) and all Brothers of KSC Council 110 would just like to say a huge thank you to everyone of you for your amazing support over the last 12 months. Also a special thank you for your most recent support at the Christmas Cracker where we managed to raise £700 and the Christmas Draw where we raised over £550!

Without your continued support none of this could have been done, so Thank you..

MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: MONDAY 5TH JANUARY TO SUNDAY 11TH JANUARY 2026

Please note the changes this week

Monday *Christmas Weekday*
9.30am St Mary's

Tuesday **SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**
9.30am Mass St John's ~ 12 noon Mass at St Marys
7pm Mass at Christ the King.

Wednesday *St Raymond of Penyafort*
9.30am Christ the King 7pm St John's

Thursday *Christmas Weekday*
9.30am St Mary's 10.00am St John's

Friday *Christmas Weekday*
12 Noon Mass at St Mary's preceded by Reconciliation and Exposition from 11.30 to 11.55am

Saturday *Christmas Weekday*
9.30am St. Mary's, Exposition with Reconciliation from 10.30am to 11.30am

Vigil Masses

6.00pm St. John's preceded by Reconciliation with Exposition from 5.15 to 5.55pm

6.30m St. Mary's

Sunday ***The Baptism of the Lord***

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)

Stay with us Lord on our journey.



EXPOSITION:

There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament starting 30 minutes before the weekday Masses except on Tuesday.

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.



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

WEEKLY COLLECTION

The offertory collection, not including standing orders, from the three churches in the parish for weekend of 27/28 dec was £4115.63 for which, many thanks.

Clergy Team

Parish Priest: Fr David Featherstone

Assistant Priest Fr Theo Sharrock

Parish email: djfeatherstone@outlook.com

Parish website: www.goodsamaritanparish.org.uk

St Mary of the Assumption 01282 422007

St Mary of the Assumption 01282 422007

Newsletter email: itemsforfrank@gmail.com

Website email: website@goodsamaritanparish.org.uk

Christ the King

Healey Mount Burnley

St Mary of the Assumption

3 Todmorden Road Burnley BB10 4AU

St John the Baptist

Bracewell St Burnley