

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 ADVENT

7TH DECEMBER 2025 YEAR A



Our companion on our journey for the second Sunday of Advent is St John the Baptist. He is the voice in the wilderness calling us to prepare a way for the Lord. Jesus is the eternal Word of God, but the Word needs a voice and John willingly provides that voice. John is like a bridge between the Old Testament and the New Testament. Matthew presents John as the fulfilment of the Old Testament promises. His message is clear and simple, he calls us to repent because the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand. Through his baptism he calls the people of his day to be baptised to show their desire to change in preparation for the coming of the Messiah "who is mightier than I, and whose sandals I am not worthy to carry".



John is not the easiest of travelling companions for us to have, but it is good for us to listen to him. He is calling us to ask questions of ourselves and ask us what changes do we need to make in our lives in order to get our lives on track for the

coming of Christ at Christmas and for the rest of our lives. He also teaches us humility, which he invites us to imitate. Let us strive for more honesty, humility and simplicity in our dealings with God and each other. May we welcome the challenging but life-giving words of St John the Baptist in this beautiful season of the Church's year. May we find the time for silence and reflection in the coming days so we can become more confident in the person God is calling us to become.

PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2025

Masses for Christmas in the parish will be as follows:

First Mass of Christmas

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December

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

All of these Masses will be preceded with a Service of Carols and Readings starting 30 minutes before the start of Mass.

Christmas Day Masses Thursday 25th December

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



MASS INTENTIONS

Lately Dead: Susan Ellis, Kath Braithwaite, Christopher McKnight, Fr John McClusky MHM, Patricia Bradley John Foley, Francisco Fernandez,

Anniversaries: Monica Burrow, Kathleen Atkinson, Frank Donnelly, Peter Francis Shackleton, Ouseph Mathew, Jennie Wood,

Other intentions: Private intention, Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart, For the Legion of Mary special-

intention,

In Memoriam: David Rubin, Lisa, Eddy Napaul, Jurek Woznicki,

Christmas Memoriam: Alan Oldham, the Canning family, Bill Sammon,



THE ADVENT HOUSEBOUND MASS AT ST JOHN'S—NEXT SATURDAY

The Mass will take place next Saturday, December 13th commencing at 12 15pm in St John's Parish Hall followed by our usual Christmas party and raffle. Should anyone require transport please contact Maria on 07929256406 or Klaus on 07977913092.

OUR PARISH SCHOOLS' CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT ST MARY'S CHURCH—THIS TUESDAY

Come and enjoy the delightful sound of children's voices as the three primary schools in the parish are taking part in the Salford Diocese Schools' Singing Programme this year. It will be **on the December 9th, at 6.30pm at St Mary's church.** Members of the parish are invited to this free concert. The concert starts at 6.30pm.

Come and show your support for our children and their teachers—as well as having the joy of children's delight as they show their Christmas excitement and enthusiasm.



POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

For Christians living in areas of war or conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope



EVENTS AT ST JOHN'S

- ◆ Thank You" to all who supported the **"Big" Coffee Morning** last Sunday £140 raised.
- ◆ This Sunday, at St Johns after the 10.45am Mass, it's **'First of the Month'** in the Parish Hall with refreshments and games - giant snakes and ladders proving popular with the adults!
- ◆ **The Christmas Raffle** continues with 1st prize of a hamper to be drawn on Sunday 21st - be in it to win it!



A PRAYER FOR THE SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT—PEACE

As we enter the second week of Advent, we come to you seeking the peace that only you can give. Lord, the world offers temporary calm, but you offer lasting peace that reaches into the deepest places of our hearts. Please send that peace to us today.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

Thank you for your continued support and dedication! We are reaching out to all volunteers! 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, kindly take a form, fill it out, and place it in the designated box at the back of the church.



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.



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 **1**. Congratulations to this week's winners:

St John's ~ Mary St Mary's ~ Christine Christ the King ~ Rollover

Please claim your prize from the appropriate sacristy.

SOCIAL GROUP AT ST MARY'S PARISH ROOMS

Our next gathering for darts, table tennis, cards, a quiz and a chat over a cuppa is on Thursday 11th Dec from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. All are welcome.

ST JOHN'S SCHOOL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY AND CONCERT



On Wednesday 17th December, St John the Baptist Primary School will hold its annual Parish Christmas Tea Party. Tickets are available from the school office or from Michael Mulrooney. The concert starts at 1.30pm and includes an afternoon tea.

There is no charge for this event.

Everyone Welcome

CHRISTMAS DECORATION VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED AT ST MARY'S

The annual Christmas Decorating of St. Mary's Church will be carried out from 11.45am on Sunday 21st December 2025 and volunteers are required to assist with this effort. Due to health reasons the group responsible for this in previous years have limited ability to do the same again this year. **Meet up in the parish rooms at 11.45am.** Further information from John Edmondson via email: teeta1958@gmail.com



"ALL CHANGE" MORNING AT ST JOHN'S— NEXT SUNDAY

It's all change from Sunday December 14th expanding our regular Sunday mornings after the 10.45 Mass, into the "Upper Room" of the parish hall. Our set up is run on donations and help yourself to whatever you like. There's tea, coffee, soft drinks, cakes, smiles, chat and all out of the wind and rain - marvellous!!

CAFOD NEWS NOVEMBER 2025



Our CAFOD group wish to express thanks to all those parishioners who organised, helped with or took part in the enjoyable quiz on 21st November. The evening raised **a wonderful £550.** Thanks also to the quizmasters for giving their time freely. CAFOD will use this wisely. Through partners CAFOD is still active in today's greatest conflicts, providing aid in the Holy Land, Sudan and Ukraine together with development aid in many other countries. **World Gifts:** World Gift for Christmas catalogues are available at the back of each church. Please take a catalogue and consider treating someone to a gift that makes a difference to people's lives. Or check out the full range of gifts at cafod.org.uk/worldgifts. **Please pray for the work of CAFOD and for our sisters and brothers in need.**

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 CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH



Thanks to all those who have agreed to help as part of the team putting on this now annual event and also to all those who have booked to come as our guests for Christmas day lunch. Sorry but we are now full booked so we are unable to accept any more guests. We are delighted at the response we have received this year and we are confident it will turn out to be a very enjoyable celebration. Thank you so much for the tremendous support.

ADVENT TALKS: REFLECTING ON DILEXI TE

During Advent, we are pleased to present a series of talks reflecting on Pope Leo's Apostolic Exhortation Dilexi Te. Join us every Tuesday between 25 November and 16 December. The venue will be Our Lady and Lancashire Martyrs Church Hall, M38 0DL, (Little Hulton) between 10:30am - 12:30pm. Please email joankfmsj@gmail.com or phone 07934 816796 to register your interest.

SALFORD DIOCESAN YEAR BOOK

This is now available from each of the three churches price £5 This incorporates the Ordo as well as what was previously included in the Almamac.



KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA :WEEKLY QUIZ: Our next quiz night will be on Monday 8th December at 8pm in St Mary's parish rooms. Come and join the fun and evening with friends!

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.



MASSES AND OTHER SERVICES: MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER TO SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2025

Please note the changes this week

Monday	<i>The Immaculate Conception</i> 11am Funeral Mass at St Mary's for Christopher McKnight RIP	
Tuesday	<i>St Juan Diego</i> 9.30am St Mary's	NB: Only one Mass today
Wednesday	<i>Advent Weekday</i> 9.30am Christ the King	7.00pm St John's
Thursday	<i>Advent Weekday</i> 9.30am St Mary's	10.00am St John's
Friday	<i>Advent Weekday</i> 12.00 noon St Mary's preceded Exposition with Reconciliation	11.30am to 11.55am
Saturday	<i>St Lucy</i> 9.30am St. Mary's, Exposition with Reconciliation from 10.30am to 11.30am 12.15pm SVP Advent Mass for Housebound in St John's Parish Hall.	
	Vigil Masses 6.00pm St. John's preceded by Reconciliation with Exposition from 5.15 to 5.55pm 6.30m 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 (except before Funerals)

Stay with us Lord on our journey.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS AND CALENDARS FOR ADVENT

These are now available at the back of all three churches.

STRING QUARTET JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Thanks to Fr Theo, Fr Chris, Holly and Hannah as well as all those who organised and supported this enjoyable event in church and in the parish rooms, which raised £194.00 for the parish SVP.

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 29/30 November was £1410.01, for which, many thanks.

Clergy Team

Parish Priest: Fr David Featherstone

St Mary of the Assumption 01282 422007

Assistant Priest Fr Theo Sharrock

St Mary of the Assumption 01282 422007

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

St Mary of the Assumption

3 Todmorden Road Burnley BB10 4AU

St John the Baptist

Bracewell St Burnley