



**CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE**



## **PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT (c)**

**Dec 4th 2022**



*Immaculate Mary!  
Our hearts are on fire,  
that title so wondrous  
fills all our desire.  
Ave, ave, ave Maria!  
Ave, ave, ave Maria!*

*For poor, sick, afflicted  
thy mercy we crave;  
and comfort the dying,  
thou light of the grave:  
Ave, ave, ave Maria!  
Ave, ave, ave Maria!*

# Prepare a way for the Lord

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<b>DATE</b>	<b>MASS</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
Sun 4th	<b>SECOND ADVENT</b> 9.15 (BB) S Gerrard RIP 11am (HAD) for the parish	
Mon 5th	<b>Advent feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) Margaret Clough RIP (Weds Gp)	
Tues 6th	<b>Advent feria / St Nicholas</b> 9.30 (HAD) Holy Souls	
Weds 7th	<b>St Ambrose, bishop &amp; doctor</b> 9.30 (HAD) DCA	
Thurs 8th	<b>SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</b> 9.30 (BB) Holy Souls noon (HAD) DCA	
Fri 9th	<b>Advent feria / St Juan Diego</b> 9.30 (BB) David Bone RIP (fam)	
Sat 10th	<b>Advent feria / Our Lady of Loreto</b> 9.30 (HAD) Chapter ints <i>(Mgr Moore : Oratory confessions from 10.30)</i>	
Sun 11th	<b>THIRD ADVENT (Gaudete)</b> 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) Edmund Ashton RIP (fam)	

  

<p><b>SECOND ADVENT (A)</b></p> <p><b>Psalter Week 2</b></p> <p><b>Introduction:</b> Baptism is our pact of unity with Christ our Lord.</p> <p><b>First Reading :</b> Is 11 : The Spirit`s gifts are named for the coming redeemer.</p> <p><b>Resp.Ps.</b> IN HIS DAYS JUSTICE SHALL FLOURISH &amp; PEACE TILL THE MOON FAILS.</p> <p><b>Second Reading :</b> Rom 15 : Christ is the saviour of all mankind.</p> <p><b>Gospel :</b> Mt 3 : Repent, for the Kingdom of God is close at hand!</p>
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## **SICK AND HOUSEBOUND and ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH**

**Please remember to support and pray for those listed as sick and housebound in our parish:** Peter James, Pauline Anderson, Isabella Phillips, Joe Singleton, Joan Killeen, Una Wilkinson, Dennis Brady, Christine Wild, David Healey, Dennis Brady, Jacob Ibbotson, Alice Canning.

**Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time:** Revv Con Dolan, Joe Murdock, James Coyne, Bernard George, Ray Mendel, Tom Breslin, Charles Coleman, Gerry Collins; *Joan Cavanagh, Bernard Walsh, Sheila Berry, Bob Durman, Edmund Ashton, Ronnie Baines, Doreen Callon, Thomas Redmond: Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them: may they rest in peace. Amen*

## **PARISH NOTES**

**THIS SUNDAY** introduces us to St John the Baptist, the great forerunner of Christ, the last of the great prophets 'preparing the way of the Lord'.

"As the journey of Advent continues, as we prepare to celebrate the nativity of Christ, John the Baptist's call to conversion sounds out in our communities. It is a pressing invitation to open our hearts and to welcome the Son of God Who comes among us to make divine judgement manifest. The Father, writes St. John the Evangelist, does not judge anyone, but has entrusted the power of judgement to the Son, because He is the Son of man. "And it is today, in the present, that we decide our future destiny. It is with our concrete everyday behaviour in this life that we determine our eternal fate. At the end of our days on earth, at the moment of death, we will be evaluated on the basis of our likeness or otherwise to the Baby Who is about to be born in the poor grotto of Bethlehem, because He is the measure God has given humanity. Through the Gospel John the Baptist continues to speak down the centuries to each generation. His hard clear words bring health to us, the men and women of this day in which even the experience and perception of Christmas often, unfortunately, reflects materialist attitudes. The 'voice' of the great prophet asks us to prepare the way for the coming Lord in the deserts of today, internal and external deserts, thirsting for the water of life which is Christ." — Benedict XVI

**LECTIONARY READINGS** for this liturgical year: Sundays :Year A (St Matthew); weekdays :Year II.

**SAINTS ALIVE** Among the saints we honour this week : **St Nicholas** was bishop of Myra, in Lycia (now part of Turkey) and died about the middle of the fourth century. He has been venerated throughout the Church, especially since the 10th century. Because of his help to the poor he is the patron saint of pawnbrokers, whose insignia of three golden balls represent the three purses of gold he is said to have given secretly to a poor man who could not afford dowries for his three daughters. And of course St Nicholas is 'Santa Claus'. Quite how he got confused with the ruddy-cheeked, white-bearded, reindeer-driven, sleigh-mounted, North-Pole domiciled chimney-down-climbing jolly gent is another mystery . . .

**The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception** : The doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is the doctrine that the Virgin Mary was conceived without original sin, that twist in our nature that makes our will tend not to follow what it knows to be right. It was this grace that enabled Mary to give a true and considered "Yes" to the request, conveyed by the Angel Gabriel, that she should consent to be the mother of the incarnate God.

The doctrine was almost universally believed over the centuries but was only formally defined as a doctrine of the Church by Pope Pius IX in 1854. Because it is so old, it is one of the Marian doctrines that Islam shares with the Catholic Church, though of course the theological details are very different.

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS** are still available for you to take from the back of church. Tickets are £1 each; £5 a book. This annual raffle benefits both our parishes. Please take bring counterfoils back soon—the Big Draw takes place in a fortnight!

**SYCAMORE COURSE** continues in the oratory this Thursday 8th December 7pm.

**REHEARSALS** for the forthcoming **9 Lessons and Carols** are timetabled to begin this Monday the 5th December at 7pm at Immaculate Conception church. You don't need to be a recorded superstar to join this little ad hoc choir. If you can come on that Monday and also on the 12th to practise with that delightful group you'd be most welcome. The actual celebration will be on Monday the 19th December.

**LOOKING AHEAD** Monsignor Moore has kindly agreed to come to the oratory at St Charles next Saturday 10th and the following (17th December) to hear confessions during the Advent season. A good Catholic's pre-Christmas preparations will have this chance marked in their diaries. Additionally, on Sunday afternoon the 11th Dec, at St Mary's church in Glossop, there will be a short penitential service, and chance to go to Confession to one of a number of priests.

**ST CHARLES SCHOOL** was recently inspected by OFSTED. The report is now published, The inspectors found that the school was **Good** in all areas. A great achievement! Well done!

**A PLEASURE** to go back to the Church of the Annunciation in New Mills on Thursday, along with four of the local clergy to celebrate the Mass of induction for Fr Emmanuel. A happy occasion, a holy occasion, and time to remember the 36 years ago it was me that was being inducted and the same church at the beginning of my first appointment as parish priest. I hope and pray that Fr Emmanuel will be as content and find such willing and helpful parishioners as I did.

**THURSDAY** is the maternal feast day of the Immaculate Conception church. I hope that some parishioners will be able to come to an additional Mass that morning at 9:30 to honour our blessed Lady and pray for that parish community. Hadfield parishioners may note that Mass will be offered in honour of Our Lady Immaculate at noon that day at St Charles.

**CAROLS IN NORFOLK SQUARE** is arranged for 6.30pm on Wednesday 14th December. The local churches hope families will gather for this festive sing-song of favourite Christmas carols—and delightfully, festive food and drink!

**PARISH TOTE** Last Sunday's winners: **St Charles** : 1st : £40 - A Carlton; 2nd £20 : J Brazier.

**STANDING ORDERS:** Immaculate Conception : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c "St Margaret's church/collection" 00510567 ; St Charles : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c "Charles church/collection" 00269177.

**"RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISES** "A message from Rob Cranston: 'Would you like to offer some of your time to help the most vulnerable in the Hadfield community during the current economic crises? For various reasons our Church is not in a position as yet to offer the amenities most needed, but thankfully other Churches in the Hadfield area, (along with St Charles Primary School from January 11th) are offering a place of warmth, a hot drink a chat and a bite to eat They would welcome any volunteers who would be willing to help. There is a form at the back of Church if you wish to offer any assistance. To find out more please contact Rob Cranston, Sylvia Shaw or Sue Hoolahan".

**ST CHARLES** will be holding a **Christmas gift-stall** next Sunday 11th December after Mass to raise funds for the defibrillator. If you have any unwanted items that may be suitable for sale as Christmas gifts such as toiletries, chocolates, hats and scarves, bottles (new things only please) please bring them along to church and give them to Gwyneth Collins or Sue Hoolahan. Larger items may be used as raffle prizes. Any unsold items will be donated to 'Bellies Not Bins' for distribution with their Christmas food parcels, so every donation will be put to a worthy cause.

**LORD, THAT I MIGHT HEAR!** Six or so weeks ago what is called the 'media system' in my Smart car died. It died bit by bit. At first no radio, and then no sat NAV and finally no USB gizmo. I tried to find out how to revive it. The nearest I got was the invitation to pay over £150 for an engineer to have a look at it, and hopefully end up listening to it. There would be no guarantee of success. No thanks! About a week ago and the daily liturgy we were encouraged to pray without ceasing, and with faith the good Lord would answer our prayers. A familiar biblical theme. The one feature that I was particularly missing from the media system was the rosary recited by Pope St John Paul II. So I turned to the Lord in prayer and asked, of course with limited faith, that he would somehow cause the system to revive. Days went by who is no hint of resurrection. Then, out of the darkness there was a flicker of light but nothing much more. By now Advent had started: the season of patient waiting. So I prayed again, with a tad more patience. By slow degrees more flickers of liveliness began to appear erratically. On Friday I was making my usual first Friday visits and responded to a call to keep company in the local care home. I journeyed on to my next port of call. And out of the blue the whole system revived. The Lord had listened, but said Wait! Be patient! So, from then on in my house-to-housing the Pope's rosary echoed through the car and I was able to give thanks for a small Advent miracle.