

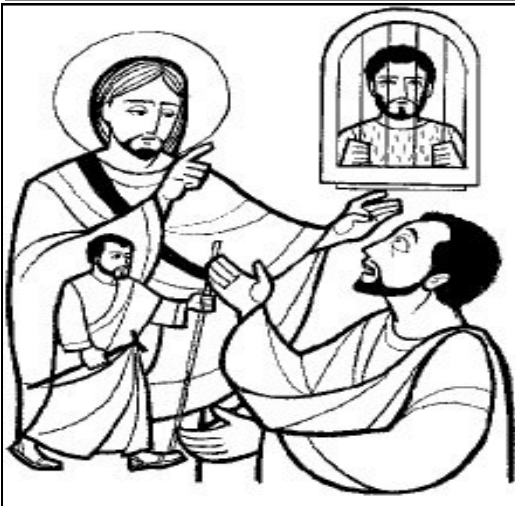


CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE



PARISH NEWSLETTER

**THIRD SUNDAY (Gaudete) IN ADVENT (c)
Dec 11th 2022**



*"Silence
is God's first language."*

St John of the Cross

Be patient till the Lord's coming

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DATE	MASS	OTHER
Sun 11th	THIRD ADVENT (Gaudete) 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) Edmund Ashton RIP (fam)	
Mon 12th	Advent feria / Our Lady of Guadalupe 9.30 (HAD) Kath Hoyle RIP (D&KH)	
Tues 13th	Advent feria / St Lucy 9.30 (HAD) Teresa Philips welfare (D&KH)	
Weds 14th	St John of the Cross 9.30 (HAD) Holy Souls	
Thurs 15th	Advent feria 9.00 (HAD) Maria Wong (DW)	
Fri 16th	Advent feria : no parish Mass today	
Sat 17th	Advent feria 9.30 (HAD) Holy Souls <i>(Mgr Moore : Oratory confessions from 10.30)</i>	
Sun 18th	FOURTH ADVENT 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) DCA	

THIRD ADVENT (Gaudete) (a)	
Psalter Week 3	
Introduction: With the Messiah`s coming, the desert blooms: Hope still blossoms.	
First Reading : Is 35 : The prophet`s joy : exile is over; the promised Land is in sight.	
Resp.Ps.	COME, LORD, AND SAVE US.
Second Reading : Jas 5 : Be patient in suffering, bright in hope!	
Gospel : Mt 11 : John the Baptist, a prisoner, is assured that Christ is the expected Messiah.	

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, Jacob Ibbotson, Alice Canning.

Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time: Revv Trevor Clarke, Jack Newsham, Martin Finneran; *Mary McKeown, Lilian Dunn, Margaret Connor, Eva Whittam, Sheila Goodwin, Frederick Jones : Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them: may they rest in peace.*
Amen

PARISH NOTES

THIS SUNDAY Today is known as **Gaudete Sunday**. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice." The celebrants have an option to wear rose-coloured vestments to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose-coloured candle on our Advent wreath.

"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Saviour means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated Veni ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament.

SAINTS ALIVE Among the saints we honour this week : **Our Lady of Guadalupe** The shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, near Mexico City, is one of the most celebrated places of pilgrimage in North America. On December 9, 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to an Indian convert, Juan Diego, and left with him a picture of herself impressed upon his cloak. Devotion to Mary under this title has continually increased, and today she is the Patroness of the Americas.

Saint Lucy, Virgin, whose name can mean "light" or "lucid," is the patron saint of the blind. She is often seen with the emblem of eyes on a cup or plate. (We have a statue of her at BB church). She was martyred in Syracuse, probably during the persecution of Diocletian (which started in 303). Devotion to her spread rapidly across practically the whole Church and her name is included in the Roman Canon of the Mass.

St John of the Cross (1542 - 1591) was born in Fontiveros, in Spain, in about 1542. He spent some time as a Carmelite friar before, in 1568, Saint Teresa of Avila persuaded him to pioneer the reform of the Carmelite order. This was a difficult task and a dangerous one: he suffered imprisonment and severe punishment at the hands of the Church authorities. He died at the monastery of Ubeda in Andalusia on 14 December 1591: the monks there had initially treated him as the worst of sinners, but by the time he died they had recognised his sanctity and his funeral was the occasion of a great outburst of enthusiasm. His works include two major mystical poems – he is considered one of the great poets of the Spanish language – and detailed commentaries on them and the spiritual truths they convey. He was canonized in 1726 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1926.

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 in time for the Big Draw which takes place next Sunday!

SYCAMORE COURSE continues in the oratory this Thursday 15th December 7pm. After this

gathering, there is a time of abeyance till mid-January.

REHEARSALS for the forthcoming **9 Lessons and Carols** are timetabled continue this Monday the 12th December at 7pm at Immaculate Conception church. The actual celebration will be on Monday the 19th December.

MANY THANKS TO Monsignor Moore who has kindly agreed to come to the oratory at St Charles again next Saturday 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 this 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.

FORTHCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Sat/Sun 17/18th : church decoration for Christmas / Christmas raffle & tote draw
- Mon 19th Dec : 12.30 for 1pm : parish Christmas Dinner at the Golf Club;
- Mon 19th : BB church : Nine Lessons & Carols : 7pm
- Tues 20th : 2pm in St Charles church—St Charles' school carol concert
- Weds 21st : 9.30 (HAD) School end-of-term Mass
- Sat 24th : Christmas Eve : 6pm (HAD) family Mass for Christmas
- Sun 25th Dec : Christmas Day : usual Sunday Mass times

CAROLS IN NORFOLK SQUARE is arranged for 6.30pm next 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 - C Pease; 2nd £20 : J Midwood.

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.

NEXT SUNDAY will be the final Sunday before Christmas Day (which this year is on the following Sunday.) I hope that our parish youngsters will come to help decorate the Christmas tree, and help with the installation of the crib.

"RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISIS: A message from Rob Cranston: 'Would you like to add you name to those who have already generously offered to help the most vulnerable in the Hadfield community during the current economic crisis? 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) who 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. Please check the 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 is holding a **Christmas gift-stall** this 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.

A BITTERSWEET EVENT On Wednesday 7th journeyed—reluctantly by car—to Nottingham cathedral to celebrate First Vespers for the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the principal patroness of the diocese. This event was preceded by my last Chapter meeting.

I was privileged to be invited to be installed as a Chapter canon by Bishop Malcolm in 2006. I have much enjoyed my occasions as a member of the chapter, albeit at gatherings 70 plus miles from here. I got to know every click of the rail from Hadfield to Nottingham stations and back. I made this train journey countless times.

At the chapter meeting that afternoon I also ended my service as chapter secretary. After the Chapter meeting we enjoyed a pleasant tea time in Cathedral house. Then, during the Solemn Vespers two new honorary canons were confirmed, one of whom was Fr Stanley Ofoegbu, who was priest in the Glossop area for half a dozen years recently.

At the same service four new Chapter Canons were installed with solemn ceremony. Amongst those was Fr Andrew Cole who had accepted to take over from me as chapter secretary.

This being my valedictory chapter event, I am Canon-emeritus which suggests something of virtue. Not so! In fact etymologically it describes a veteran soldier!

Good friends had recently gifted me with a magnificent icon of my Guardian Angel. I was so thankful for that Guardianship during the night-time return car journey in sub-zero temperatures. I am gradually handing over my diocesan commitments to focus my remaining energies on being your parish priest.