



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE



PARISH NEWSLETTER

**ADVENT IV (a)
Dec 18th 2022**



Rorate Caeli desuper,

Et nubes pluant justum!

The maiden is with child

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DATE	MASS	OTHER
Sun 18th	FOURTH ADVENT 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) M Bowler's welfare (AB)	
Mon 19th	Advent feria 9.30 (HAD) the Bagnall family (AH) 12.30 parish Christmas dinner 7.30pm (BB) Nine Lessons & Carols	
Tues 20th	Advent feria 9.30 (HAD) Fr Rufus & comm. (EF) 2pm (HAD) school carols in church	
Weds 21st	Advent feria / St Peter Canisius 9.30 (HAD) (school Mass in church) B Farnsworth RIP (fam) noon (HAD) funeral service for Nella Lewyckj RIP	
Thurs 22nd	Advent feria 9.30 (HAD) Carl Evans RIP (fam)	
Fri 23rd	Advent feria 9.30 (BB) DCA (visits to housebound today DV)	
Sat 24th	Advent feria / St John of Kanty 9.30 (HAD) Holy Souls CHRISTMAS EVE 6pm (HAD) first Mass of Christmas for the parish	
Sun 25th	CHRISTMAS DAY 9.15 (BB) E&B Laidlaw RIP (fam) 11am (HAD) M Tiernan (AB)	

FOURTH ADVENT (A)

Psalter Week 4

Introduction: our God comes close to us in the birth of Jesus; closer still into our hearts.

First Reading : Is 7 : Here come our deliverance and king - and best of all - our Saviour.

Resp : **LET THE LORD ENTER! HE IS THE KING OF GLORY**

Second Reading : Rom 1 : Paul proclaims his faith in Jesus Son of God, Son of David!

Gospel : Mt 1 : The Messiah is with us in Mary`s son, Jesus.

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 Paddy Balfe, David Ryan, Con Moynihan, Les Lemon; *Joan Delaney, John Burkinshaw, Bernard Farnsworth, John Walsh, Adrian McHugh, Eileen Berry:* **Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them: may they rest in peace. Amen**

PARISH NOTES

THIS SUNDAY we celebrate the Fourth & last Sunday in Advent during which we are invited to pray for expectant mother everywhere. This is appropriate since on this Sunday the focus of the Gospel reading is on Mary, the mother of Jesus, man and God.

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE A much-treasured parishioner of many a year at St Charles was **Nella Lewyckyj**. She spent many recent years in Regency Care Home, before transferring to a care setting in S Manchester, nearer her son Stephen. She died recently aged 82. Her funeral rites are indicated for Weds 21st December at noon at St Charles.

MANY THANKS TO Monsignor Moore who has kindly come to the oratory to the benefit of many penitents these last two Saturdays.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS Heartiest thanks to all who give their time to make our churches look wonderful for the Christmas season.

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 : 7.30pm
- 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

PARISH TOTE Last Sunday's winners: **St Charles** : 1st : £40 - D Wilson; 2nd £20 : M Cowden. This weekend at St Charles - the Big Draw – with £300 of prizes ready for claiming! Congrats to worthy winners; huge thanks to those dedicated parishioners who administer the totes

CRIB DONATIONS When you visit our cribs here and there, please note that donations will be sent to the Holy Childhood mission charity, to help needy children in Catholic parishes in the developing world.

COMBINED PARISHES CHRISTMAS RAFFLE The draw will be made after Mass at St Charles this Sunday. There is a massive prize list, with wonderful gifts brought in by generous parishioners. Hope you remembered to bring in your counterfoils! You've got to be in it to win it!

CHRISTMAS POSTERS are available from the back of church. Take one and proclaim the Good News from your front window!

THE NINE LESSONS & CAROLS On Monday evening we gather at Immaculate Conception church at 7.30 to anticipate the holy season with this traditional celebration of word and carols. Our thanks to the

devoted choir folk who have gathered to practise under John Miles' benign direction.

PUBLICATIONS The January 2023 edition of *'My Day by Day'* is now available, free-of-charge from the back of church. Also the latest edition of the **Diocesan Newspaper** has arrived, and is also freely available.

PRE-CHRISTMAS VISITS I hope to visit the sick & housebound on Friday 23rd.

THE O ANTIPHONS refer to the seven antiphons that are recited (or chanted) before each day's gospel, and also preceding the Magnificat during Vespers of the Liturgy of the Hours. They cover the special period of Advent preparation known as the pre-Christmas Octave, Dec. 17-23, with Dec. 24 being Christmas Eve and Vespers for that evening being for the Christmas Vigil. The importance of O Antiphons is twofold: Each one highlights a title for the Messiah, and each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah of the coming of the Messiah.

The beautiful pillar-banners in St Charles indicate and illustrate them.

1. **O Sapientia: O Wisdom**, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.
2. **O Adonai: O sacred Lord** of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Mt Sinai: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free
3. **O Radix Jesse: O Flower of Jesse's stem**, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.
4. **O Clavis David: O Key of David**, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of Heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.
5. **O Oriens: O Radiant Dawn**, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.
6. **O Rex Gentium: O King of all the nations**, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.
7. **O Emmanuel: O God-with-us**, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Saviour of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God.

If one starts with the last title and takes the first letter of each one -

Emmanuel, Rex, Oriens, Clavis, Radix, Adonai, Sapientia - the Latin phrase **ero cras** is formed, meaning **Tomorrow, I will come**. Therefore, the Lord Jesus, whose coming we have prepared for in Advent and whom we have addressed in these seven Messianic titles, now speaks to us in renewed hope. So, the O Antiphons not only bring intensity to our Advent preparation, but bring it to a joyful conclusion.

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.
ANOTHER LIGHTENING A saving of ink in the Diocesan Yearbook and elsewhere, as the initials VF disappear after my listing. VF rather grandiosely means Vicar Forane, which in the Anglican tradition represents Rural Dean. Most of the Peak Deanery is truly rural, and for the better part of 25 years I was honoured to serve my fellow-clergy and diocese as dean. The deanery has been extended to reach as far as Alfreton, and includes Matlock & Hassop parishes. I am delighted to hand over to Fr Robbie O'Callaghan, the parish priest of St Joseph's, Matlock.

AND FINALLY I hope that on Wednesday at 21.47 you join me in pausing for a split second as the planet begins its tilt Northwards at the moment of the Winter Solstice. Spring and summer are in prospect as the shortest day of the year begins the journey to the longest in mid-June. Come Lord Jesus, the light of the world! Come Son of God, and the sun of God! Return, Sol Invicta!

