

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT (c)

Nov 27th 2022



Beloved, now is the great season of Advent. In his infinite love for us, though we were sinners, he sent his only Son to free us from the tyranny of Satan, to summon us to heaven.

The Church asks us to understand that Christ, who came once in the flesh, is prepared to come again. When we remove all obstacles to his presence he will come, at any hour and moment, to dwell spiritually in our hearts, bringing with him the riches of his grace.

*From an Advent Pastoral letter  
of St Charles Borromeo*

Stand ready!

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| <b>DATE</b>   | <b>MASS</b>   | <b>OTHER</b> |
|---------------|---|--------------|
| Sun 27th      | <b>FIRST ADVENT</b><br>9.15 (BB) for the parish<br>11am (HAD) James Keane RIP (D&KH)<br><i>(enrolment of First Holy Communion candidates)</i> |              |
| Mon 28th      | <b>Advent feria</b><br>9.30 (HAD) Helena Rachicka RIP (pers)  |              |
| Tues 29th     | <b>Advent feria</b><br>9.30 (HAD) C Reece RIP (J&CB)  |              |
| Weds 30th     | <b>ST ANDREW, apostle</b><br>9.30 (HAD) Bert Fish RIP (D&KH)  |              |
| Thurs 1st Dec | <b>St Ralph Sherwin &amp; all the Derbyshire martyrs</b><br><b>(no parish Mass today; elsewhere for J Davies (J&amp;CB))</b>                  |              |
| Fri 2nd       | <b>Advent feria (first Friday visits planned for today)</b><br>9.30 (BB) Tibor Nemeth RIP (AC)  |              |
| Sat 3rd       | <b>St Francis Xavier</b><br><b>no parish Mass today (EMins council meeting, Nottingham)</b>   |              |
| Sun 4th       | <b>SECOND ADVENT</b><br>9.15 (BB) S Gerrard RIP<br>11am (HAD) for the parish  |              |

## **FIRST ADVENT (A)**

### **Psalter Week 1**

**Introduction:** The day of the Lord is close at hand! Stand ready!

**First Reading : Is 2 :** The Lord will gather all the nations into his peace.

**Resp.Ps. I REJOICED WHEN I HEARD THEM SAY: 'LET US GO TO GOD`S HOUSE.'**

**Second Reading : Rom 13 :** Our salvation is near at hand. Time to mend our ways.

**Gospel : Mt 24 :** Stay awake and stand ready! You know neither the day nor the hour!

## **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 Michael Lynch, Joseph Degen & Ted Neary; *Barbara Burwood, Lucy Cox, Nick Harding, Jenny Cooney* : *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine on them: may they rest in peace. Amen*

## **PARISH NOTES**

***THIS SUNDAY*** marks the beginning of a new year in the life of the church, in the life of God's grace within us. A month before the civic world celebrates new year, in our church we start our preparations to celebrate the great event of the Incarnation. The season of Advent begins this Sunday. This year Advent is longer than usual. Advent comes to an end when we celebrate Christmas Day. That celebration can be any day of the week, depending upon the solar (or is it lunar?) calendar. This year Christmas Day will be on a Sunday. So, this means that Advent will be the full 4 weeks of 28 days, giving us more time to prepare for his coming into our lives and our hearts. Through the prayers and readings of our liturgy, we become day by day more eager and more ready to meet our Lord.

***Advent comes in two halves.*** The first two weeks are looking far forward towards the second coming of Christ, when he will come as judge to bring time and the world to an end. And the second two weeks of Advent we prepare for his coming among us in the nativity. It is a time of waiting, of praying, repenting, and being patient. All around us we see signs of an impatient world that longs to gloss over today's troubles with premature tinsel. We however wait patiently and prayerfully, and for us his birth amongst us, and will have a deeper joy & hopefulness for that reason.

***LECTIONARY READINGS*** change this weekend: Sundays :Year A (St Matthew); weekdays :Year II.

***FLORAL THANKS*** During Advent we give a time of rest to our dedicated florists. As in the season of Lent, we do not decorate our churches with flowers. Our best thanks to those dedicated folk who offer floral delights during the remaining 41 weeks! Equal thanks to those who installed our November Memorials, which this week are put aside to be replaced the Advent Wreath.

And thanks to our musicians who lead our singing. We will be 'Gloria-less' till Christmastide.

***SAINTS ALIVE*** Among the saints we honour this week : ***St Andrew the Apostle*** was born in Bethsaida, in Galilee, and worked as a fisherman. He may have been a disciple of St John the Baptist. He became one of the first to follow Jesus and introduced his brother, Simon Peter, to him. As one of the twelve Apostles he was widely venerated in ancient times, and became patron saint of Scotland because according to legend some of his bones were brought there and buried at the place where the town of St Andrew's now stands.

***St Ralph Sherwin (1550-1581)*** was born at Rodsley, Derbyshire (19 October 1550), and was educated at Eton College. He was a talented classical scholar and was nominated by Sir William Petre from Ingatestone to one of the eight fellowships which he had founded at Exeter College, Oxford. He graduated in 1574, being then accounted "an acute philosopher and an excellent Grecian and Hebrician." The following year he became a Catholic and fled abroad to the English College at Douai, where he was ordained a priest in 1577. He left to go to the English College in Rome, where he studied for about three years. In April 1580, Sherwin and thirteen companions (including Edmund Campion and Robert Persons) left Rome for England; a few months later he was arrested while preaching in a private house in London and imprisoned in the Marshalsea prison, where he converted many fellow prisoners. After a month he

was removed to the Tower of London, where he was twice tortured on the rack and then laid out in the snow. He is said to have been offered a bishopric by Queen Elizabeth if he would abandon his Catholicism, but refused. After spending a year in prison he was finally brought to trial with Edmund Campion and others on a charge of treasonable conspiracy. He denied this with the comment: "The plain reason of our standing here is religion, not treason." He was convicted in Westminster Hall on 20 November 1581. Eleven days later he was taken to Tyburn on a hurdle along with Alexander Briant, where he was hanged, drawn and quartered. His last words were Jesu, Jesu, Jesu, esto mihi Jesu! He was the first member of the English College in Rome to be martyred.

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS** are 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. **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** The candidates hoping to journey towards First Holy Communion at St Charles (Jun 11th 2023) are presented and enrolled today. Our thanks to the dedicated catechist and school staff who are eager to help them on this journey. Equal thanks to the parents of the children. The commitment to this programme is more intense this year. Not only the commitment to help the children at home in their 'homework' and prayer life, but also to ensure the children are presented on various Sunday mornings in the oratory at 10am for their time of instruction and them Sunday Mass. We applaud their commitment not the great enterprise!

**SYCAMORE COURSE** recommences in the oratory this Thursday 1st December 7pm.

**PUBLICATIONS** Advent begins next Sunday. A feast of helpful literature has come our way:

- \* "My Day by Day" (free-of-charge)
- \* "Walk with Me" is a diocesan publication to guide us through Advent. £1.
- \* "World Gifts" is the CAFOD Christmas-gift catalogue;
- \* "Missio Calendar" for 2023 is also free-of-charge
- \* "Magnificat" for December (£5)

**FR EMMANUEL** has been amongst us for a few months now. He is parish priest of the adjacent parishes of Marple bridge and New Mills. His formal induction will take place during evening Mass at New Mills on Thursday of this week. Father Emmanuel has come from far away Ghana to serve as a priest in our diocese. His induction takes place on the feast of the Derbyshire martyrs not least St Ralph Sherwin. St Ralph gives his title to the Academy of Catholic schools in Derbyshire. Within our Deanery we have many such schools. We will surely intercede with St Ralph Sherwin for that firmness of faith to be gifted to our pupils, parents, staff and indeed all Catholics and this far-flung corner of the county.

**FIRST FRIDAY VISITS** I hope to make my customer visits on Friday this week. Please let me know of anyone who would welcome such a visit from me with the Blessed Sacrament.

**REHEARSALS** for the forthcoming **9 Lessons and Carols** are timetabled to begin on 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.

**MEDAILLE TRUST COFFEE MORNING** at St Mary's New Mills Saturday Dec 3rd From 10 till 12. There will be a talk by Sam Baxendale from Medaille Northern House. Cakes Raffle etc. All Welcome!

**THE PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH** at the Glossop golf course is timetabled for Monday the 19th December. Many people have indicated that they want to join this happy gathering. Envelopes have been prepared for you to pay in advance. Please make sure that you get hold of yours from one of the Wednesday group of from the back of church and follow the instructions printed on the front.

**MISSIO RED BOXES** If you want to consider being the parish secretary for Missio, please let me know and I'll make sure you get all the information and encouragement you need.

**LOOKING AHEAD** Monsignor Moore has kindly agreed to come to the oratory on Saturdays 10th and 17th December to hear confessions during the Advent season. A good Catholic's pre-Christmas preparations will have this chance marked in their diaries.

**PARISH TOTE** Last Sunday's winners: **St Charles** : 1st : £40 - Tom Berry; 2nd £20 : Monica Gee.

**BB** : 1st : £40 - Sheila Gerrard; 2nd £20 : Anne Urquhart. Sheila G won first prize so soon after winning first prize in the eternal tote - recalled through death to her maker. May she rest in peace. Her winnings will go toward the installation of a bronze plaque in her memory in the Garden of Remembrance at BB.

**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.

**POINTS TO PONDER** The rather oddly-named Black Friday seems to have happened recently. Its occurrence seemed to garner more publicity than the start of Advent, and its celebration seems to spread before and after The Black Day. Overlooked last Sunday, because we focussed on Christ the King, was ordinary Sunday 34, with its beautiful "Stir up . . ." collect prayer. One parishioner noted that she had vigorously 'stirred up' her Christmas pudding and cake-mixes, as demanded by custom last Sunday. Probably, like Black Friday, the stirring has gone on long before 'stir up' day, and will hopefully continue long after.