



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE



PARISH NEWSLETTER

**CHRISTMAS (a)
Dec 25th 2022**



Mary's Lullaby

'When the angel's message came to me,
the Lord put a song in my heart.
I suddenly saw that cleverness and wealth were
nothing to God.
No one is ever too lowly to be his friend;
I am humbly born yet still the power of God
came upon me.
Very foolish and unlearned am I,
yet I received the Word of God.
I was in distress, when my Child filled my life
with love.
I know now that wisdom power and sorrow can
live with love.
For suddenly riddles of life were solved
by the child in my arms.
So sleep my baby, sleep,
your good work is about to begin.'

(T.T.)

And the Word was made flesh

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SK13 8DR
Head : Mrs L Morris
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DATE	MASS	OTHER
Sun 25th	CHRISTMAS DAY 9.15 (BB) E&B and Kevin Laidlaw RIP (fam) 11am (HAD) for the parish	
Mon 26th	ST STEPHEN (protomartyr) Boxing Day 9.30 (HAD) Carl Evans RIP (fam)	
Tues 27th	ST JOHN THE APOSTLE & EVANGELIST 9.30 (HAD) Teresa Mangan (MG)	
Weds 28th	HOLY INNOCENTS 9.30 (HAD) M&J Gavan RIP (SL)	
Thurs 29th	ST THOMAS a BECKET (martyr) 9.30 (HAD) PP's welfare (CF)	
Fri 30th	HOLY FAMILY 9.30 (BB) J&D Killeen's welfare (AH)	
Sat 31st	Seventh day in the Christmas Octave 9.30 (HAD) Derek Fitzsimmons RIP (fam)	
Sun 1st Jan 2023	MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD 9.15 (BB) Margaret Robinson RIP (fam) 11am (HAD) for the parish	

<p>CHRISTMAS (Mass during the day)</p> <p>Psalter Week 1</p> <p>Introduction: The Word was made flesh, and lived amongst us.</p> <p>First Reading : <i>Is 52</i> : "Our God Reigns!"</p> <p>Resp.Ps ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH HAVE SEEN THE SALVATION OF OUR GOD</p> <p>Second Reading : <i>Hebr 1</i> : God speaks to us now through His Word, His Son.</p> <p>Gospel : <i>Jn 1</i> : A Light shines in the dark.</p>

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: Rev Bishop E Grasar; Ellen Sharkey, Patricia Porter, Margaret Asher, Carl Evans, James Pollitt, Bridget Pyke, Edward Boyle, Dennis Clayton: *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 beginning of the Christmas Season. It has been an unusually long wait, with Advent stretching the full 27 days. It's not so easy to be counter-cultural and wait with patient anticipation for the season that was announced back in October in our shops. This week is celebrated as the Christmas Octave. Just as the eight days leading to Christmas Day were of special intensity, with the glorious 'O Antiphons', so we stop the clocks and extend our Christmas Day into eight. The following week brings us to the celebration of the visit of the Magi at Epiphany and Twelfth Night, and culminates in the Baptism of Jesus. However our more subdued celebration can stretch to the Fortieth Day after his birth, bringing us to February 2nd, and the 'Presentation in The Temple', when Simeon proclaimed the Christ-child as the Light of the World. The more days you can stretch your celebration the better! You are welcome to ask me 'did you have a nice Christmas?' in early February!

MAY HE REST IN PEACE We heard during the week of the sudden death of **Kevin Laidlaw** (73), Southbrook Close, Hadfield). Whilst we lament his passing, and pray for his eternal rest, we also offer sympathy & prayerful support to Sheila and Kevin's family. His funeral is indicated for Immaculate Conception church. Arrangements are still in plan.

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

COME TO THE MANGER It was a pleasure to welcome St Charles' school, both staff and pupils to the church at the end of their busy term. The carol concert on Tuesday was a delight of excitement, carol-singing, and the telling of the story of the Lord's birth. The school community returned on Wednesday for the end-of-term school Mass, and brought with them a host of cribs. These delights had been made by each of the classes in the school, and now bring additional attraction to our Christmas-decorated windows in the church. Our schools have broken up for the Christmas break. It has been a busy term and I hope that both staff and pupils have a restful time during the holiday.

THE BIG RAFFLE was drawn last Sunday, all 37 prizes being carefully listed and labelled. The list of winners and their prizes can be found at the back of church. I hope that you will take note of that list and claim the prizes that are sitting on an adjacent table.

ALSO at the end of last Sunday's Mass, we had the grand Christmas tote draws. At the Immaculate Conception the worthy winners were M & J Hambleton (£100) & Anne Urquhart (£50); and at St Charles the lucky winners were Catherine Pease (£100), Fr Don (£100), David Holtom (£50) & Judith Martin (£50). Renewed thanks to all who support the totes, and heartfelt thanks to the organisers.

A MINOR HIATUS Those attending Sunday Mass at St Charles last weekend will remember the unexpected confusions at the end of Mass. The ever-helpful Phil Anderson was stricken with a mystery complaint. He had come to Mass ready thereafter to construct the elaborate crib in the Holy Family chapel, a job he has undertaken diligently these many years. Instead of that, he was treated by parishioners

and later by extraordinarily-helpful ambulance staff, and found himself in hospital soon after. However his crib-construction talents were taken over by three or four helpful gentlemen. Imagine my surprise on Monday mid-morning when coming into the church to find Phil busy putting the finishing touches to the crib. Thanks be to God for His healing touch. God Bless the NHS! How blessed we are with helpful hands serving churches in so many ways.

***A TWO-YEAR WAIT** for the pleasure taking part again in the service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Monday at Immaculate Conception church. This traditional anticipator to the Christmas season was very well attended. Huge thanks go to conductor & accompanist John Miles, the ad-hoc choir, and those who provided the refreshments at the end. One of the items amongst the nine carols was a new piece called 'Mary's Lullaby'. This was a new addition to the programme and sounded delightful, and the text inspiring. The composer and author of the piece is a dearly-regarded parishioner of Immaculate Conception church. How blessed we are with the talents which richly enhance our parish families.*

***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.*

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

***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. Still waiting for 'Magnificat', doubtless delayed by postal strikes.*

***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.*

And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.

(extract from 'Christmas' by John Betjeman)

*Wishing you every Blessing at Christmastide
and during the New Year*