

## Aspects of Advent: Joyful hope

In a couple of weeks' time, when we celebrate Christmas, we may well hear the carol *Joy to the World*. It's the coming of Christ which brings us joy. The angel who appeared to the shepherds says as much: "I bring you news of great joy: today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you." But even now, as we await this feast, the Church invites us to rejoice. Today's readings make it clear (see below). This Sunday is called *Gaudete Sunday*, a Latin word meaning, precisely, "rejoice!" Our joy comes not from a reality already witnessed by our eyes or experienced in every aspect of our lives, but from the sure and certain hope that Christ will fulfil all His promises. He has already overcome all that causes suffering, even death itself. We await the Second Coming, in which Jesus will finally make clear His victory and free us from everything that causes us distress. This is our faith; this is the hope it brings. In Advent we recognise this, and rejoice in the hope Jesus alone can bring.



## Today's Readings

This year we will mostly hear from St Mark's Gospel at Sunday Mass, but Mark's is the shortest account of the Lord's life and work; so short, in fact, that there's not enough to fill every Sunday of the year. So on some Sundays, such as today, we dip into St John's Gospel. We are introduced to John the Baptist, a "witness to the Light", who speaks humbly of his own ministry and foretells One who is greater than he. Again, our hearts are being prepared for meeting the Lord anew. The first reading is once again taken from the writings of Isaiah, who speaks of a Messiah who has received the Spirit of the Lord (a text that Jesus later applied to Himself – see Luke 4:18-26); a gift that brings joy and exultation. St Paul also tells us to rejoice: "Be happy at all times... give thanks" and encourages us to live holy and blameless lives, sustained by the grace of God, as we await the Second Coming.

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## MASSES THIS WEEK

**Office: Psalter Week 3; Sundays: Year B; Weekdays: Year 1, week 3 of Advent**

Morning Mass is livestreamed each day and will be available for viewing later in the day on our YouTube channel. All information and links at [www.saintclares.co.uk](http://www.saintclares.co.uk)

**Public Masses have now resumed (more information on next page).**

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday	6pm (vigil)	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	Sr Claire O'Brien (Sr Virgilius) RIP
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		Margaret Curry RIP
	11:30am		Martin Malone RIP
	6pm		People of the Parish
Monday	9:30am	St John of the Cross	Connor and Golden families
Tuesday	9:30am		Ints Gerard & Marie Troy
Wednesday	9:30am		Richard Thompson RIP
Thursday	9:30am	17 <sup>th</sup> December	Janet Aughton RIP
Friday	9:30am	18 <sup>th</sup> December	Sr Philomena (90 <sup>th</sup> )
Saturday	9:30am	19 <sup>th</sup> December	Jill O'Brien RIP
	6pm (vigil)	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	Ints John Cadden
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		Gertrude Delargy and Rosaline Wright
	11:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Eileen Woodhead RIP

**LATELY DEAD:** Please pray for **Sister Patricia, Frank Higgins, Roy Rawlinson** and all who have died recently.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Saturday 11am-12noon, Friday 5-6pm.

**ROSARY:** Prayed after 9:30am Mass, Monday-Friday.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Margaret Magee, Mary Holland, Iqbal Cecilia Gill, Gerald Murray, Fr John Donlan, Catherine Livesey, Edward Riley, Thomas Lowe, Teresa Melling.

**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER:** That our personal relationship with Jesus Christ may be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

### Supporting your parish financially

If you would like to support the parish using standing order/BACS, please contact us for the details. If you don't use online banking, we can send you a mandate which you can fill in and post to your bank. Thank you for supporting our parish.

**SISTER PATRICIA RIP:** Sr Patricia died last weekend. May she rest in peace. She had lived in our parish for 15 years and worked during that time at Ladywell shrine and also at Tabor. Please remember her in your prayers.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES:** Please see information on the back of the newsletter about Christmas Mass times and arrangements. Booking is absolutely essential for all Masses on Christmas Day and the evening of Christmas Eve. There remain some spaces at Midnight and the Christmas morning Masses; vigil Masses are full. Those who have already requested a place will hear more by Wednesday at the latest.

**CRIB BLESSINGS 2020:** There will be a livestreamed service for the blessing of your home cribs on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 7:30pm. More details next week.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Confessions are available each Saturday, 11am-12noon in the side chapel; also Friday 5pm-6pm this week only. Face coverings must be worn. Extra measures will be in place to keep everyone safe.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** Donations are welcome, as usual, in memory of loved ones. Please put any donation in a marked envelope, with the name of those you are remembering. A list of prayer intentions will be displayed at Christmas.

**KS2 ADVENT SERVICE:** The Key Stage 2 children at St Clare's have put together their Advent service, which was recorded. If you'd like to watch it, please contact school, who can give you a link for download in exchange for a small donation to ACN. The recording must not be shared on social media or elsewhere.

**2021 DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES** now available in the narthex, priced £4. Please put money in wall box marked 'CTS, books etc'.

**METANOIA PROJECT** are hosting various online events with opportunities for prayer, worship and growing in faith. Visit [www.metanoiaproject.co.uk](http://www.metanoiaproject.co.uk) for more.

**RWANDA GOATS:** Rwanda is suffering greatly at present. One way to help is to buy a goat! They cost £30 and are considered extremely useful in Rwanda. They eat anything and provide milk, milk products and meat and their skins have many other uses. If you can help, contact Michael Donlan of the Rwanda Group Trust on 07864 990941 or e mail [rwandagrouptrust.org@gmail.com](mailto:rwandagrouptrust.org@gmail.com)

**CAFOD WORLD GIFTS:** World Gifts make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas. Visit [cafod.org.uk/worldgifts](http://cafod.org.uk/worldgifts) or see leaflets in the narthex.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION** next weekend for the Apostleship of the Sea, which supports seafarers and their families throughout the world.

## Events this week (occasional/one-off events in bold type)

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Every day	Anytime	Food Bank Collection	House Porch
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	3pm-4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Mon-Fri	5-6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Monday	6:50pm	<b>Baptism Preparation (3)</b>	Church
	7:30pm	<b>Fabric and Finance Committee</b>	Narthex
Saturday	11am-12noon	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions available	Church
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup>	3pm-4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church

All events marked 'YouTube' are streamed live on our channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

## A prayer of spiritual communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## Christmas Masses at St Clare's 2020

Booking is absolutely essential for all the Christmas Masses. If you are forming a 'Christmas Bubble', please attend Mass as a bubble also, if at all possible. To book, please send the following information ([enquiries@saintclares.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@saintclares.co.uk)):

1. **Your name and contact details (email, or phone number)**
2. **How many adults in your bubble**
3. **How many children in your bubble**
4. **Which Mass you would like to attend**

The vigil Masses are extremely busy and we may not be able to accommodate any more requests for these Masses. There is some space at Midnight and also space at 9:30am and 11:30am – please book for one of these Masses.

When you have submitted your request, you will not receive an immediate response, but confirmation of places will be sent out **on or before Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**.

The 5:30pm, Midnight and 9:30am Masses will also be livestreamed on YouTube.