

St Clare's Catholic Church

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gaudete Sunday, 17th December 2017



Listen! A year of favour from the Lord...

Today's first reading – as so often in Advent, from the prophet Isaiah, speaks of how the Messiah is sent to 'proclaim a year of favour' from the Lord. At the start of His public ministry, Jesus quoted those words and said, "This text is being fulfilled today, even as you listen" (Luke 4:21). This 'year' of the Lord's favour is granted to us whenever we listen to Christ, because His message is always one of love and salvation. As we come towards the end of this calendar year, let's pray for the grace to listen to God's Word in the year ahead, so that 2018 may truly be for us all a year of favour from the Lord.



FOCUS ON... Joy

This third Sunday of Advent is often called 'Gaudete Sunday', from a Latin word meaning, 'rejoice'. The origin is a line in St Paul's letter to the Philippians: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice... the Lord is at hand." The cause of our joy, therefore, is simply this: that Jesus is near to us. As Christians we are to be people of joy, because – whatever life throws at us – Jesus is close to us. He is near, in times of happiness and in times of sorrow.



Advent is a joyful season – a season of hope and expectation, a season in which we are called to grow in joy, because we sense the coming of Christ. If only we really knew the extent of this gift, our hearts would never be short of joy!

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MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass Book Page 87

Office: Psalter week 3; Sundays: Year B; Weekdays: Year 2, Advent week 3

| Date | Time | Occasion | Intention/Details |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Saturday 16 th | 6pm (vigil) | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | People of the Parish |
| | 7pm (vigil) | | <i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i> |
| Sunday 17 th | 9:30am | | Baby Fiona RIP |
| | 6pm | | John Holden RIP |
| Monday | 9:15am | | Josie & William Wilson RIP |
| | 5:15pm | | <i>Mass in hospital chapel</i> |
| Tuesday | 7pm | Anthony Noblett RIP | |
| Wednesday | 9:15am | Jack Burton RIP | |
| Thursday | 9:15am | Rose Metcalf RIP | |
| Friday | 12noon | Arthur Carden RIP | |
| Saturday 23 rd | 10am | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | Kathleen Murphy RIP |
| | 6pm (vigil) | | Gerry O'Neil RIP |
| | 7pm (vigil) | | <i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i> |
| Sunday 24 th | 9:30am | People of the Parish | |
| | 6pm | THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD | Thomas & Jenny Wilson RIP |
| Monday 25 th | Midnight | | People of the Parish |
| | 10am | | Fred Newsham RIP |

LATELY DEAD: Please remember in your prayers all who have died recently.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday-Friday 7-8am; Saturday 10:30am-12noon (for vocations).

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Monday-Friday 7:45am during Advent.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 11am-12noon, and on request.

ROSARY: Mysteries of Light prayed after 9:15am Mass, and before 12noon Mass on Fridays. These prayers are offered for the protection of life at all stages.

ANGELUS: said at 12noon on Fridays, at the start of Mass.

ANNIVERSARIES: Edward Riley, Thomas Lowe, Teresa Melling, Rose Metcalf, Jim Donnelly, Philip Salthouse.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: that the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

GET YOUR CRIB BLESSED: Bring some or all of your crib figures to Mass on Tuesday 19th December at 7pm. Immediately after Mass we will bless the crib figures in the parish hall, where there will also be refreshments. All welcome.

SUNDAY MASS NEXT WEEKEND: Masses for the fourth Sunday of Advent will be celebrated on Saturday evening (23rd) as normal, then at 9:30am on Sunday morning. The evening Mass on Sunday will be the first Mass of Christmas, so **does not** fulfil the Sunday obligation.

ADVENT CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT: This Sunday (17th) at 3:30pm, Advent readings and carols to help us prepare for the celebration of the Lord's birth. Followed by refreshments in the parish hall. All are very welcome.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR HOMELESS: In view of the very cold weather, there is a one-off retiring collection today for the homeless. Thanks for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: if you wish to make a donation in memory of a loved one, write the name on an envelope, add your donation and hand it in. Your loved ones' names will be displayed in church during the Christmas season.

DURING ADVENT we celebrate Morning Prayer in church, Monday-Friday at 7:45am. This is a great way to prepare spiritually for the Lord's coming.

CONGRATULATIONS to Evie Pickering, Theodore Marshall, Caleb Baines and Charlotte McLoughlin, who were baptised here during November.

ALTAR SERVERS' GUILD OF ST STEPHEN: all servers are encouraged to attend Mass on St Stephen's day (26th December) at 10am. New servers will be presented with their guild medals at this Mass.

ACN SYRIA APPEAL: Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the appeal so far. We have already raised £10,800 – more than enough to support five families for the year, which is an amazing achievement.

METANOIA PROJECT: see information on the back of the newsletter.

ST CLARE'S ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER: Regular parish news and pictures: to keep up-to-date, don't forget to 'like' or 'follow' us: Facebook: St Clare's Catholic Church Fulwood; Twitter: @StClareFulwood

HCPT LOURDES: the local HCPT group is looking for male helpers for the Easter Week pilgrimage to Lourdes (1st-8th April 2018), to help care for disabled and disadvantaged children. They are also seeking a nurse to help with the summer pilgrimage. If interested, please speak to Fr Andrew for more details.

CANTICLES: Advent Series of talks on Thursdays, 7:30pm at St Wilfrid's Parish Centre. This week: Fr Mark Harold – Nunc Dimittis: The Song of Simeon.

LAST WEEK: Attended: 460; Collection: £954.82; Thank you.

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

| Day | Time | What? | Where? |
|-----------|---------|--|-------------|
| Sunday | 9:30am | Children's Liturgy | At Mass |
| | 3:30pm | Advent Carol Service by Candlelight | Church |
| | 7pm | Anointed/Sent Youth Groups (yrs 7-11) | Parish Hall |
| Mon-Fri | 7:45am | Morning Prayer | Church |
| | 9am | Pre-school | Parish Hall |
| | 3:20pm | After-school club | Parish Hall |
| Monday | 7:30pm | Journey in Faith group | Chapel |
| Tuesday | 7:30pm | Blessing of Cribs for your home | Parish Hall |
| Wednesday | 7:30pm | NCW Liturgy of the Word | Parish Hall |
| Saturday | 10:30am | Spanish Class | Parish Hall |

Some Diary Dates for 2018...

1st January: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God: Mass at 12 noon.

6th January: Altar Servers' trip (afternoon)

7th January: Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

Metanoia Project

Run by Ruth and Joe White, this project works in the local area to share the Gospel. They run the 'Seekers', 'Anointed' and 'Sent' youth groups in our parish, and do a lot of other work with people of all ages. The project is currently looking to raise extra funds to expand this excellent work, and would welcome support. One of our young parishioners, Tushar Jain, is running a sponsored half-marathon on 7th January. If you can help by sponsoring him, please sign up after Mass. You can find out more, or donate, at www.metanoiaproject.co.uk

Further ahead and further afield...

"Come and See" – spiritual weekend for women and men in their 20s and 30s: at Hyning Monastery near Carnforth, 26th-28th January 2018. Contact Sister Mary Bernard: hyningbookings@yahoo.co.uk or call 01524 732684.

Appeal regarding Catholic Education

The Government is making a critical decision on whether or not to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it; now we need your help in preventing a U-turn.

Visit catholicnews.org.uk or search 'Catholic Education' to contact the government or write to the Education Secretary, Justine Greening MP.