



Let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour!

***Advent, a time of waiting, and of patience,
is drawing to a close, and the readings reveal our excitement.
The time to welcome our Saviour is drawing near.***

In our **First Reading** we have the prophecy of Isaiah. Weary of the kings of Israel, Isaiah foretells the child who is to be born of a virgin and named 'God with us'.

In the **Second Reading**, St. Paul proclaims Jesus, descended from David in the flesh, but Son of God in the power of the Spirit and the resurrection.

In the **Gospel**, we hear Isaiah's prophecy again. It is through Joseph's trust in God, and his obedience, that God's plan is fulfilled with the birth of Jesus, Son of Mary, Son of God.

Priest in Charge: Fr John Mark Agulefo. **Deacon:** Rev. Fred Sanderson (retired)
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Lancaster RC Diocesan Trustees Registered – Charity No. 234331
St Clare's Primary School – Headteacher: Mrs R. Wroblewski
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Church is open daily from 8am until 6pm for private prayer.

**MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass book – Sunday page 90, Christmas Day from page 95
Office Psalter week 4: Sundays: Year A: Weekdays: Advent Week 4.**

Sunday morning Mass is livestreamed and will be available for viewing later on our parish YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday	6pm(vigil)	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Day of prayer for expectant mothers)	Balasamy & Jacob RIP
	7pm		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 21 st Dec	9:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Rose Metcalf RIP
Monday	9:15am		Elsy & Lalu John RIP
	5:30pm RPH		Patients & Staff
Tuesday	7pm		John & Kevin Embery RIP
Wednesday	9.15am	THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST	Harry, Freda & Martyn Burgess RIP
	6pm Vigil		Thomas & Jenny Wilson RIP
Christmas Day	Midnight		Peace in our World
	10am		Sick and housebound
Friday 26 th	10am	ST. STEPHEN	Jean Rawlinson RIP
Saturday	10am	ST. JOHN	Ruth Cebrero RIP
	6pm (vigil)	THE HOLY FAMILY	Deceased members of the Whelan Family
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 28 th Dec	9:30am		Doreen Barker Sick
	6pm		People of the Parish

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES at St. Gregory's

**First Mass of Christmas - Christmas Eve - 6.00 p.m. with Carols from 5.30 p.m.
Christmas Day Family Mass - 11.15 a.m.**

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES at Our Lady and St. Edward's

Christmas Eve 24th December 7.30pm- Christmas Day 25th December 8.45am

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK: Rose Metcalf, Jim Donnelly, Catherine Walker, Philip Salthouse, Susan O'Brien. Bishop Brian Foley, Yolande Schofield, Richard Burkhardt, Jean Rawlinson, Michael Frost. **PLEASE PRAY** at this special time for those in our parish and our families who are sick, and especially for **Ruth Cebrero, Pauline Almond and Joyce Cooper** who have died recently.

URGENTLY NEEDED on CHRISTMAS EVE from 2pm: If you can spare some time please come along and help us prepare the church for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS: Please put donation in an envelope marked **Christmas Flowers**, with the names of those you wish to be remembered and hand to Janet, Fr John Mark or post through the presbytery letterbox. Thank you.

**Week beginning
SUNDAY 28th DECEMBER
THE HOLY FAMILY**



MASSES FOR WEEK 28th December 2025. – Mass book – Sunday page 106, January 1st 2026, page 109. Sundays: Year A. Christmas Octave

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday	6pm (vigil)	THE HOLY FAMILY	Deceased members of the Whelan Family
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 28 th Dec	9:30am		Doreen Barker Sick
	6pm		People of the Parish
Monday	10am	ST. THOMAS BECKET	Holy Souls Nov. list
	5.30pm		NO HOSPITAL MASS
Tuesday	7pm		Gerard Allen RIP
Wednesday	10am		NO MASS
January 1st	12noon	MARY MOTHER OF GOD	Esther Naylor RIP
Friday 2 nd Jan	12noon	St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen	Joan Ogden RIP
Saturday 3 rd Jan	10am		Michael & Teresa Yates RIP
	6pm (vigil)	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY	The Bradley Family Intentions
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 4 th Jan	9:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm	James Daly RIP	

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK: Reginald Brown, Tom Gill, Mary Bernadette Judge, Sheila Borrill, Jean Andrew, Fr Peter Chappell, Annie Rawcliffe, Michael Swift, Lois Swarbrick, Jean Hull, Mark Cartmell, Madge Collard, Joseph Greenhalgh, Margaret Brown. **May they rest in peace.**

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: For Christians in areas of Conflict

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

HOSPITAL VISITS: During Fr. John Mark's holiday or if you are in hospital and would like to see a priest, please ask the **Hospital Staff to contact the Catholic Chaplaincy.**

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2026: On sale in the Narthex priced at £6.50. Please leave your payment in the "books" wall box or use the card payment terminal.

ENVELOPES for MASS INTENTIONS are in the Narthex. Please add your contact details and offering and post through the presbytery door or hand to Fr. John Mark.

NEXT NEWSLETTER: Will be published for Sunday 4th January 2026.

LAST WEEK: At Mass 13th/14th December 393 (63/166/98 NCW 66). Collections - Last weekend: £583.68. Thank you for your generosity.

Events for the week beginning Sunday 21st December:

Monday 22 nd Dec. 8am -8.45 am Tuesday 23 rd Dec 5.30pm -6.30pm Wednesday 24 th Dec. 8am -8.45 am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 27 th Dec 10:30am-11:30am	Sacrament of Reconciliation with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Events for the week beginning Sunday 28th December:

Tuesday 30 th Dec	5.30-6.30pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Wednesday 31 st	8pm Mass in Hall	<i>NeoCatechumenal Community</i>
Friday 2 nd Jan		NO FIRST FRIDAY HOLY HOUR
Saturday 3 rd Jan	10:30-11:30am	Sacrament of Reconciliation with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

As **Pilgrims of Hope**, we rejoice in this season of hope and the coming of the Light of the World. As the Jubilee year draws to a close, we might consider how, despite the often tragic state of our world, we can still place our trust in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM FR. JOHN MARK

Christmas is here again! I take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely for your wonderful support throughout the past year. Thank you for your prayers, Christmas cards and gifts. May Christ our true God, who was born in a manger for the salvation of the whole world, grant to you and your families his abundant mercy.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a joyful New Year.