



***“Are you the one
who is to come?”***

The desert shall rejoice, and blossom abundantly

*The readings of this **Gaudete** (**‘rejoice’**) **Sunday** are full of hopeful joy in anticipation of Christ’s arrival.*

Rejoice the Lord is coming soon!

This will bring an end to all sorrow and mourning (**First Reading**), because through Christ will come salvation and new life (**Psalms**).

In the **Second Reading**, St James calls us to be ready for this arrival. The Lord is near, but to perceive the signs of his coming requires from us both patience and openness of eyes and ears (**Gospel**).

On this third Sunday of Advent and during this coming week, let us imitate the desert coming to bloom. By eagerly receiving the Lord’s life-giving and transformational grace, we will have the strength and courage to blossom abundantly in all the areas of our life.

Priest in Charge: Fr John Mark Agulefo. **Deacon:** Rev. Fred Sanderson (retired)

Presbytery: Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9HH

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Church is open daily from 8am until 6pm for private prayer.

MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass book – Sunday 88

Office Psalter Week: 3 Sundays: Year A: Weekdays of Advent.

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)	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Gaudete Sunday	Martin Banks RIP
	7:15 (Vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 14 th Dec.	9:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		James Daly RIP
Monday	9.15am		Mary & Roger Furey RIP
	5.30pm RPH		Patients and Staff
Tuesday	7pm	Amanda Harlow (for intentions)	
Wednesday	9.15am	Holy Souls	
Thursday	9.15am	Ashlesha Gurung RIP	
Friday	12noon	Michael & Teresa Yates RIP	
Saturday	10am	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Margaret Lepcha RIP
	6pm (Vigil)		Balasamy & Jacob RIP
	7:15 (Vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 21 st Dec.	9:30am		People of the Parish
	6pm		Rose Metcalf RIP

ROSARY: Is prayed after the 9:15am Mass, and before the 12noon Mass on Friday.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Sat. 10.30am-11.30pm and by request.

PLEASE PRAY

For those in our parish and our families who are sick or have died recently. We remember especially Ruth Cebrero and Pauline Almond who have died recently.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

Margaret Magee, Mary Holland, Iqbal Cecilia Gill, Gillian Melling, Gerald Murray, Fr. John Donlan, Catherine Livesey, Teresa Melling, Margaret Mary Blackburn, Edward Riley, Thomas Lowe, May Alice Foy, Frank Gahan, Samuel Teehan, Barbara Todd.
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine up them, may they rest in peace. Amen

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.

THE HOMELESS DROP-IN, run by Metanoia Project out of St. Wilfrid's in Preston City Centre, is looking for **more help in the kitchen on Tuesday afternoons to work with the team preparing for the Food Drop-In.** This runs every Tuesday evening from 6.00-7.30pm when a sit-down hot meal is provided in the Parish Centre. **Whether you think could you help weekly, monthly or once a year** we would love to chat with you. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Jen 07957 566741 or email jen@metanoiaproject.co.uk

FOOD BANK COLLECTION

Next weekend 20th/21st Dec. The Food Bank is **currently low on:** tinned pasta, tomatoes, potatoes, rice pudding, vegetables and fruit. Also, long life milk, sugar, coffee (preferably sachets), crisps and custard. **Toiletry items** are always welcome. **Not needed** at the moment... dried pasta, cereals and tinned meat.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to donate towards the Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one

Please put the name(s) in an envelope with your donation and hand to Janet, Fr. John Mark or post through the presbytery door.

A list of prayer intentions will be displayed at Christmas. All donations gratefully received.

A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL of MUSIC

**An Ecumenical Gathering at Our Lady and St Edwards
on Sunday 21st December at 1.30pm with seasonal refreshments**
There is a small charge for a charity chosen by Churches Together.

A BROUGHTON CHRISTMAS: An evening of festive choral favourites sung by the choir of St. John the Baptist, Broughton, on Thursday 18th December at 7.30pm.

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

WALK WITH ME: Advent booklets and children's Advent Calendars, one per family, are available in the Narthex.

LAST WEEK: At Mass 6th/7th December 386 (76/154/92 NCW 64). Collections - Last weekend: £628.06. Collections via Bank and card payment terminal in November £2005. Thank you for your generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sunday 14 th Dec.	10:30am	After Mass Tea /Coffee	Parish Hall
	6:45pm	Anointed and Sent groups (Age 11-18)	Parish Hall
Monday	8-8:45am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
	6pm	Cubs	Parish Hall
	7pm	RCIA	Side Chapel
	8pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
Tuesday	5:30 - 6:30pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
	6pm	Seekers (age 8-11)	Parish Hall
	7.45pm	NCW Liturgy (2 nd Community)	Side Chapel
Wednesday	8-8:45am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
	9:45am	Parish Coffee morning	Parish Hall
Thursday	8-8:45am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
	7pm	NCW Liturgy (3 rd Community)	Side Chapel
Friday	8-8:45am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
	7pm	Lectio Divina	Church
Saturday 20 th Dec	10:30- 11:30am	Sacrament of Reconciliation with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church

BAPTISM PREPARATION: If you have a child who requires the **Sacrament of Baptism**, please speak to Fr. John Mark. or contact the parish office.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED: Christmas cards, calendars and gifts will be on sale after Masses this weekend. Please support our ACN project for Nigeria.

USED STAMPS: Please put in the box in the Narthex, St. Gregory's Church are collecting these for charity.

As **Pilgrims of Hope** towards the close of this Jubilee Year, we pray to be bringers of joy, life and consolation to those who are feeling bowed down by the burdens of life.