JESUITS IN BRITAIN

Newsletter

7th December 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Wilfrid's Parish, Preston

THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS CLOSE AT HAND

Over the next two weeks we hear about the mission of John the Baptist. He is the fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies about the one who would prepare the way for Jesus, the last of the line of Prophets. Matthew quotes the prophet Isaiah, "A voice cries in the wilderness, prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight". He does this by telling the people that the Kingdom of God is close a hand and about the one is to come, one who is greater than he is. He calls on people to repent of their sins and turn to God. His baptism is a sign of that repentance. He especially challenges the Pharisees and Sadducees, the religious leaders of the time, who are the ones who will come into conflict with Jesus.

John's ministry calls us to reflect on how we might need to change in order to welcome Christ, in order to be ready for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Bishop Paul wrote last week about Christ who comes to "rattle our cages", to challenge our complacency. Advent provides us with a time to examine our consciences and acknowledge our own sins. If we have not been to confession for a long time this might be a time to go. However, it is not just a time for looking back. The word for repentance in the Gospel is "metanoia", it means change. How do we need to change the way we relate to God, to our neighbour, to our world? What do we need to do to be signs of that coming Kingdom of God we are preparing to celebrate as we celebrate Christmas?

Chris Pedley, S.J.

BeverlyLloydroberts Free images

Christingle at 10.15 Mass

During Little Church on Sunday 7th December the children will make Christingles and then process with the candle lit as part of the Offertory Procession, after which the children will sing and sign for the congregation the tune they have prepared. Monica

MONDAY 8TH DECEMBER

11.30 –12NOON NO EXPOSITION

12.15pm Mass will be the Requiem for Rev Bill Adams RIP

Rt Rev Paul Swarbrick, Bishop of Lancaster, will preside.

A burial will follow for family members only.

There will be tea/coffee & biscuits in St Wilfrid's Parish Centre, for anyone, immediately after Mass.

You are invited to view the Tribute to Deacon Bill in our Holy Spirit Chapel.

5.30pm Mass will be for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

This is a Solemnity but not a Holy Day of Obligation

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ernest Ezeani, Andrew Dawson, Jen Murphy, Margaret Nelson, Lee Unsworth, Maria Hall, Ruth White, Fr Chris Pedley SJ & Fr Hugh Duffy SJ.
The Council meets approximately once a month.

Online Donations to St Wilfrid's can be made via the PARISH WEBSITE www.stwilfridspreston.org.uk Click on the DONATE button & follow the instructions. It's very easy!

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION - 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.

Sacramental Preparation for Adults

Are you interested in understanding the Catholic faith more fully, being received into the Church, or receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist or Confirmation? If so, you are invited to join the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) programme which will begin in early January. Adults are usually received into the Church at the Easter Vigil, so over the next few weeks, we would like to meet with individuals to discuss your journey and determine everyone's availability so we can form a group before Christmas.

Please contact Joe White 07481188102 joe@metanoiaproject.co.uk or speak to Fr. Chris.

Sunday 14 December is Gaudete Sunday

There are 3 events at St Wilfrid's today

Nick Stafford from Pixabay

Blessing of the Bambinelli

It is a tradition on the Third Sunday of Advent for children and adults to bring their baby Jesus figures from their homes to St Peters Square where they are blessed by the Pope.

Here at St Wilfrid's we will be celebrating

Bambinelli Sunday

Bring your baby Jesus to our 10.15 MASS ON 14TH DECEMBER and he will be blessed! After Mass, in the Narthex, there will be a wrapping table, where you can wrap your baby Jesus ready to place in your crib at home. You will receive a prayer for when you unwrap him on Christmas morning.

Manfred Richter Pixabay

JOY OF ADVENT

Rejoice **and join the celebration**

in the Parish Centre

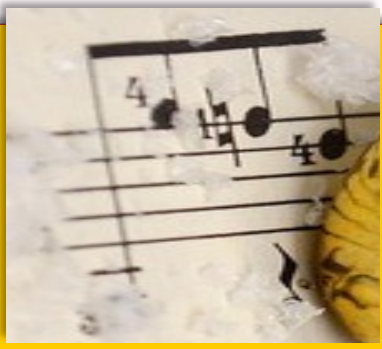
following 10.15am Mass.

Food *Companionship* *Laughter*

Carol Service

14 December 6.30pm in Church

All welcome!



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PARISH PRIEST: FR. CHRIS PEDLEY SJ 01772 555244 cpedleysj@jesuit.org.uk
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Parish Safeguarding Rep: Barbara MacLaren 07986940883 barbara@hornworks.co.uk
Superior of the Jesuit Community: Fr. Hugh Duffy SJ 01772 554387
Newsletter Items to stwilfridspa@gmail.com

CHURCH OPEN 8AM-6PM

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE stwilfridspreston.org.uk

Sunday 7 December — SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — CHRISTINGLE

Isaiah 11:1-10 (Ps 72) Romans 15:4-9 Matthew 3:1-12

Mass 7am

Mass 10.15am with Choir. **LITTLE CHURCH DURING MASS**
Parish Centre 11.15-12.30 Tea/coffee Gift & Card Shop Open

Mass 4.30pm with Music Group After Mass in the Parish Centre: **Student Group Meeting**

Mon 8 Dec — *IMMACULATE CONCEPTION*

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15 Requiem Rev Bill Adams RIP
Mass 5.30 Feast of Immaculate Conception

11.30-1pm Gift & Card Shop Open Tea/coffee

Genesis 3:9-15,20 (Ps 98) Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12 Luke 1:26-28

Tue 9 Dec — *FERIA*

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

6-7.30pm Metanoia Hot Meal Drop In

Isaiah 40:1-11 (Ps 96) Matthew 18:12-14

Wed 10 Dec — *FERIA*

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

5.15-5.45 Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

6.30pm Metanoia Clothes Drop In (Narthex)

Isaiah 40:25-31 (Ps 103) Matthew 11:28-30

Thu 11 Dec — *FERIA*

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

11am Life Ascending (Coffee 10.30am)

Isaiah 41:13-20 (Ps 145) Matthew 11:11-15

Fri 12 Dec — *FERIA*

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

After 12.15 Mass
Lectio Divina
Followed by…

11.30-1pm Gift & Card Shop Open Tea/coffee

..**Soup Lunch**

Isaiah 48:17-19 (Ps 1) Matthew 11:16-19 **7.30-9pm** Unveiled

Sat 13 Dec — *ST LUCY*

Confessions 11-12.10 **Mass 12.15**
Confessions 5-5.30 **VIGIL MASS 5.35pm**

Ecclesiicus 48:1-4,9-11 (Ps 80) Matthew 17:10-13

WE PRAY FOR

Those who died recently: Rev Bill Adams RIP Requiem 8 Dec 12.15pm
Anniversaries: Fr J Langan SJ, Ian Melling
Those who are sick: Brendan Rawsthorn, Norman Gaskell, Doreen Flynn, Agnes Partington, Janet Hadfield.