JESUITS IN BRITAIN

Newsletter

14th December 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Wilfrid's Parish, Preston

REJOICE THE LORD IS NEAR

Today is known as "Gaudete Sunday", after the first word of the Latin version of the Entrance Antiphon at Mass. In English, this quotation from St Paul's letter to the Philippians reads, "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near". The other readings reflect this same theme. The first reading from Isaiah begins, "The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and bloom like the crocus". In the Gospel, John the Baptist questions whether Jesus is really the one who was to come or if they have to wait for another. Jesus' response is to point to how what he is doing fulfils the prophecy of Isaiah, "the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the good news preached to them". We are about to celebrate that God has indeed come to us.

Manfred Richter Pixabay

This theme of rejoicing in the middle of Advent is reflected in the way we use rose coloured vestments and a rose coloured candle on our Advent wreath. It is also reflected in the things we will be doing during the main Sunday Masses and after the 10.15am Mass. During Mass we will be blessing the baby Jesus figures to go into our cribs and after the 10.15am Mass we will be joining together for our Advent celebration with food and companionship. In the evening there will be the Carol Service, again looking forward to celebrating the coming of Christ.

However, the second reading calls for patience, not just because we have not yet reached Christmas but also patience for the second coming of Christ, to which we look forward.

Chris Pedley, S.J.

Prayer for Gaudete Sunday, 14th December – The Third Sunday of Advent

Light two purple candles and the pink candle on your Advent wreath this week.

Gaudete means Rejoice! Say this Prayer for Joy ...

God of joy, be with all the people in the world who are sad, bringing your presence and light.

Hear our prayers of joy.

(Mention your intentions)

Help us to bring joy to others.

Amen

Adapted from CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Photo by KaLisa Veer on Unsplash

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 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.

Gift & Card Shop

Open : After 10.15 Sunday Mass

Mon & Fri 11.30am to 1pm

Cash/cards taken

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.

There are 3 events at St Wilfrid's for Gaudete Sunday

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.

Nick Stafford from Pixabay

Here at St Wilfrid's we will be celebrating

Bambinelli Sunday

Bring your baby Jesus to our **10.15AM OR 4.30PM 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.

JOY OF ADVENT *Rejoice* and join the celebration in the Parish Centre after 10.15am Mass. *Food Companionship Laughter*

Carol Service

14 December 6.30pm in Church

All welcome!

pixabay.neelam279

TEA, MINCE PIE AND UNDERWEAR!

I offered tea and a mince pie in exchange for donations of underwear for the needy, on Saturday 29th November at my house.
It was a great success and fun.
Well worth doing!
If anyone would like to donate a packet of boxer shorts please hand them in to any member of the Metanoia Project.
Thank you, Chris Murray

DO NOT LEAVE YOUR BAGS UNATTENDED IN CHURCH

PARISH PRIEST: FR. CHRIS PEDLEY SJ 01772 555244 cpedleysj@jesuit.org.uk
Parish Administrator: 01772 554396 stwilfridspa@gmail.com
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 14 December — THIRD OF ADVENT — GAUDETE SUNDAY

Isaiah 35:1-6a,10 (Ps 146) James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

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 15 Dec
FERIA

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

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

Numbers 24:2-7,15-17a (Ps 25) Matthew 21:23-27

Tue 16 Dec
FERIA

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

6-7.30pm Metanoia Hot Meal Drop In

Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13 (Ps 34) Matthew 21:28-32

Wed 17 Dec
FERIA

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15 incl. **Baptism**

5.15-5.45 Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

6.30pm Metanoia Clothes Drop In

Genesis 49:2,8-10 (Ps 72) Matthew 1:1-17

Thu 18 Dec
FERIA

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

11am Life Ascending

Jeremiah 23:5-8 (Ps 72) Matthew 1:18-25

Fri 19 Dec
FERIA

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

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

Judges 13:2-7,24-25a (Ps 71) Luke 1:5-25

Sat 20 Dec
FERIA

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

Isaiah 7:10-14 (Ps 24) Luke 1:26-38

WE PRAY FOR
Those who died recently:
Anniversaries: Frances Platt, Maria Ammer
Those who are sick: Brendan Rawsthorn, Norman Gaskell, Doreen Flynn, Agnes Partington, Janet Hadfield.