



**St. Wilfrid's Parish, Preston**

# Newsletter

**24<sup>th</sup> December, 2023**

**4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

## **THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND DWELT AMONGST US**



The Gospel for the fourth Sunday of Advent, tells us the story of the Angel Gabriel announcing to Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus. At this moment Christ comes into our world. As we say in the Angelus "The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary and she conceived by the Holy Spirit". At the First Mass of Christmas, as we move into our celebration of Christmas, we shall hear the story of the birth of Mary's child. On the Sunday after Christmas

the Feast of the Holy Family shows Jesus beginning to live out his mission in the story of the finding in the temple.

When St. Ignatius of Loyola is setting the scene for someone to contemplate this scene of the Annunciation he paints a picture of the Trinity looking down at the world and seeing all the people in it going about their lives, living and dying. It is our world, a world of riches and poverty, a world with suffering and violence but it is a world without hope. The Trinity's reaction is that the Second Person of the Trinity should be part of that world, should be come one like us, God-with-us. God, in love, shares our experience and turns our world into a world of hope.

This is a time to contemplate that love of the God who comes into our world and shares our life. As we look at the scene in the crib so we can wonder at the depth of that love. All the sounds and sights of Christmas are there to bring home to us that fundamental reality which makes all the difference to our world and which we hear proclaimed in the Christmas Daytime Gospel, "The Word was made flesh and dwelt amongst us".

**A Happy Christmas**

**& Happy New Year to you all.**

**Fr. Chris Pedley SJ**



## Sanctuary Gift and Card shop

Open Mon & Fri 11.15-1.15 and during refreshments after 10.15 Mass on Sunday. We offer a large selection of cards for most occasions  
Limited number of 2024 Diocesan directories £6

**PLEASE NOTE THE SHOP WILL CLOSE FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR & REOPEN ON JANUARY 8TH**

### A very Happy Christmas to all our parishioners

*A special word of thanks to all those parishioners who have kindly given the Jesuit community here so many gifts and cards. It is much appreciated. Let us all pray for each other that Christmas will be a time of joyful celebration for all of us and that the Prince of Peace will continue to bestow his many blessings on us in the coming year.*

*Fr. Hugh Duffy SJ Superior, Preston Jesuit Community*

### Sunday 24 December Christmas Eve

*Church opens 6.45am*

**Mass 7am**

**Mass 10.15am**

There is no 4.30pm Mass

**Carol service 7.30pm**

**First Mass of Christmas 8pm**

*Church closes at the end of Mass*

### Monday 25 December Christmas Day

*Church opens 6.45am*

**Mass 7am**

There is no 4.30pm Mass



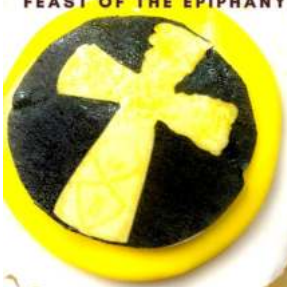
We are truly grateful for every prayer, every donation and every signature in support of our campaigns. It has been a difficult year for many, not least for those caught up in the devastating conflict in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory and other conflicts throughout the world. But together, we continue on our Advent journey to the manger to welcome Christ once again. We wish you and your parishioners a happy and holy journey to the manger and a peaceful and joyful Christmas. Patrick & Emma  
*Community Participation Coordinators – Lancaster Diocese*

### Chaplaincy Services for Students and Young Adults

Metanoia Project are now officially offering Chaplaincy Services for Students and Young Adults on behalf of the Diocese of Lancaster and St. Wilfrid's Parish. Further info about groups and events please contact [jo@metanoiaproject.co.uk](mailto:jo@metanoiaproject.co.uk)

**METANOIA PROJECT'S**  
 Birthday Celebrations  
 and Community Commitments

SUNDAY  
 7TH JANUARY  
 FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY



*"The Light shines in the  
 darkness, and the darkness  
 has not overcome it."  
 John 1: 5-6*

**INCLUDES MASS AND A LIVE DRAMA  
 PERFORMANCE**  
 more details overleaf



The team who prepare and serve food at the **LuvPreston Drop-In** with the Christmas Bags for all their clients. **Re-starts 2 Jan.**



Our annual Carol Service at St. Wilfrid's was a joyful occasion. There was a mixture of traditional and modern carols performed by our four choirs to accompany the readings of the Christmas story. Thank you to everyone who took part, the singers, readers instrumentalists and the backroom volunteers who made it run smoothly.



Children from Little Church took part in a Christingle service last Sunday. They brought up their Christingles and sang a beautiful carol.

Metanoia Wednesday Evening Clothes DropIn will be as usual on Wednesday 27 Dec in the Narthex of the Church.

Ascent is taking a Christmas Break back on 11<sup>th</sup> January

**St Wilfrid's Presbytery, 1 Winckley Square, Preston, PR1 3JJ**  
**(01772) 555244**

**Parish Priest: Fr. Chris Pedley SJ (555244) [cpedleysj@jesuit.org.uk](mailto:cpedleysj@jesuit.org.uk)**

**Deacon (Retired): Rev. Bill Adams (726653) (07866104144)**

**Parish Administrator: (554396) [stwilfridspa@gmail.com](mailto:stwilfridspa@gmail.com)**

**Parish Safeguarding Rep: Barbara MacLaren (07986940883) [barbara@hornworks.co.uk](mailto:barbara@hornworks.co.uk)**

**Superior of the Jesuit Community: Fr Hugh Duffy SJ (554387)**

**Parish Website [www.stwilfridspreston.org.uk](http://www.stwilfridspreston.org.uk)**



Sun 24	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent	2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16	(Ps 88)	
		Romans 16:25-27		Luke 1:26-38
Sun	VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS	Isaiah 62:1-5	(Ps 88)	
		Acts 13:16-17,22-25		Matt 1:1-25
Mon 25	THE NATIVITY of OUR LORD	Isaiah 52:7-10	Ps 97)	
		Heb1:1-6		John 1:1-18
Tue 26	St Stephen	Acts 6:8-10,7:54-59	(Ps 30)	Matt 10:17-22
Wed 27	St John	1 John 1:1-4	(Ps 96)	John 20:2-8
Thu 28	Holy Innocents	1 John 1:5-2:2	(Ps 123)	Matt 2:13-18
Fri 29	St Thomas Becket	1 John 2:3-11	(Ps 95)	Luke 2:22-35
Sat 30	6th Day in the Octave	1 John 2:12-17	(Ps 95)	Luke2:36-40

## Mass & Confession Times

### Saturday

Confessions 11.15am to 12.15pm

**Mass 12.15pm**

Confessions 5 to 5.30pm

**Vigil 5.35pm**

Sunday Christmas Eve

**Masses 7, 10.15am**

**First Mass of Christmas 8pm**

**Christmas Day 7, 10.15am**

Tuesday to Friday

Confessions 11.50am to 12.10pm

**Mass 12.15pm**

This Sunday is a day of prayer for expectant mothers. All loving God, you created the human family as a reflection of your own divine life so that your creation might share in your happiness. Let us pray for all who are pregnant.

## YOUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR

**Anniversaries** Michael Casey, Kathleen Howarth, Brian Kidd, Roy Macuras, Fred Mapley, Tina Mulley.

**Those who are sick:** Susan Craft, Joyce Lyons, Brendan Rawsthorn, Fr Joseph D'Ambrosio CSSp,



**Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**



## December's Intention -

*For people with disabilities*

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their participation.

The Parish Newsletter is to reflect what happens in the Parish & news regarding parishioners. If you would like something to be included please send information to the Parish Administrator or email [stwilfridsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:stwilfridsnewsletter@gmail.com)