JESUITS IN BRITAIN

Newsletter

21st December 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Wilfrid's Parish, Preston

THE VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME EMMANUEL

In today's Gospel we have the beginning of St Matthew's version of the story of the birth of Jesus. Having shown how Jesus is descended from Abraham and David through Joseph, Matthew focuses on the angel coming to Joseph in a dream to explain how God is at work through Mary. Joseph takes on his role in God's plan.

It is the working out of this plan which we celebrate this week as we arrive at Christmas. Jesus is "Emmanuel", "God with us". God has come and shared our lives. He comes as a tiny baby born in difficult circumstances. Matthew will go on to tell us how the Holy Family have to go into exile to Egypt to escape Herod. Jesus identifies himself with the refugees who share that experience. There is a sculpture by Timothy Schmalz in St Peter's Square, Rome, which shows migrants through the ages, Jesus, Mary and Joseph are among that crowd.

At various points the Christmas story indicates the ways in which Christ has come to share the reality of our lives. We will keep our crib until 2nd February, the feast of the Presentation, when Simeon will tell Mary that a sword will pierce her own soul, something we see in the statue of the Pieta at the back of the church. It is by sharing our lives even to the cross that Christ enables us to share his life. This is the Good News of Christmas that points not just to the cross but to the resurrection and Christ's second coming. Let us share that Good News of the one who shared our lives "for us and for our salvation".

A happy Christmas to all of you. Chris Pedley, S.J.

Christmas Times

Wednesday 24 December Christmas Eve

Confessions 11am to 12.10pm
2pm to 4pm

Mass 12.15pm

Carol service 7.30pm

First Mass of Christmas 8pm

Thursday 25 December The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Mass 7am & 10.15am *

LITTLE CHURCH

*No session today but be sure to collect your gift after 10.15 Mass from Monica

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.

Refreshments after Sunday 10.15am Mass will continue as usual even though the Gift Shop will be closed over the holiday period.

There will not be refreshments after Mass on Christmas Day

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.

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.

Marriage support Need help?
www.retrouvaille.org.uk

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Guiding Star

Lord, the sight of the guiding star,
brought hope, courage and joy
to those who had journeyed to find you.
When our journey seems long,
when hope seems far away,
when our courage is failing
fill us with faith and trust;
shine your light on our fears,
lift our hearts with your joy.
Help us to recognise you
in our brothers and sisters
throughout the world;
show us how we can work together
so that we may all come to share in the life
promised to us by Jesus,
the Saviour of us all. Amen.

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

Image Unsplash NASA Hubble Space Telescope

Gift & Card Shop

Cash/cards taken

Sunday OPENING TIMES : After 10.15 Sunday Mass on Sunday 21 December
Following Sundays open by request only until normal Sunday opening resumes on Sunday 11 January.

MIDWEEK OPENING TIMES Mon 22 December 11.30am to 1pm
Then closed
Reopening Monday 5 January 11.30am to 1pm

Message from Fr Paul Fletcher SJ

Thanks to ALL the parish and staff for generously supporting me during last month's 60 mile walk for Prostate Cancer Research - with everyone's contribution £1,484 has been raised! Thank you one and all! (It's a pity the government refused to fund/support early detection of prostate cancer on the NHS.)
Meanwhile accept my joyful Advent good wishes, with blessings for a happy Holy Christmas and peaceful New Year... God bless you all.

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 21 December — FOURTH OF ADVENT

Isaiah 7:10-14,10 (Ps 24) Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-24

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

Mon 22 Dec — FERIA

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15
11.30-1pm Gift & Card Shop Open Tea/coffee

1 Samuel 1:24-28 1 Samuel 2:1,4-8 Luke 1:46-55

Tue 23 Dec — FERIA

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15
6-7.30pm Metanoia Hot Meal Drop In

Malachi 3;1-4,23-24 (Ps 25) Luke 1:57-66

Wed 24 Dec — FERIA

Confessions 11-12.10 & 2-4pm
Mass 12.15 7.30pm Carol Service 8pm FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS

Isaiah 62:1-5 (Ps 89) Acts 13:16-17,22-25 Matthew 1:1-25

Thu 25 Dec — NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Mass 7am
Mass 10.15 NO LITTLE CHURCH BUT CHILDREN SEE MONICA AFTER MASS

Isaiah 52:7-10 (Ps 98) Hebrews 1:1-6 John 1:1-18

Fri 26 Dec — ST STEPHEN

Confessions 11.50-12.10
Mass 12.15

Acts 6:8-10,7:54-59 (Ps 31) Matthew 10:17-22

Sat 27 Dec — ST JOHN

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

1 John 1:1-4 (Ps 97) John 20:1a,2-8

WE PRAY FOR
Those who died recently:
Anniversaries: Mary Hind, Michael Casey, Christine Aspinall, Brian Kidd, Tina Mulley, Kathleen Howarth
Those who are sick: Brendan Rawsthorn, Norman Gaskell, Doreen Flynn,