



# Newsletter

22<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

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

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

**BLESSED ARE YOU AMONG WOMEN AND**

**BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF YOUR WOMB**



These words of Elizabeth to Mary are very familiar to us as they form part of the Hail Mary. This is the first time the Good News that Christ has come into the world is shared. It is shared between the two people,

Mary and Elizabeth, who can understand what this means. Indeed, John the Baptist leaps in the womb of Elizabeth for joy at the presence of the Messiah.

There is another familiar prayer in today's liturgy. The Collect is the prayer used during the Angelus.

The coming of Christ has been announced to us in the angel's words to Mary at the Annunciation, the scene which immediately precedes today's Gospel.

Christmas is at hand. On Wednesday we will rejoice with angels and shepherds at Christ's birth. May we experience that same joy as Mary, Elizabeth and John the Baptist. Christ's coming into the world transforms the relationship between God and his creation, it transforms our own lives and our relationship with those around us. May we be ready as they were to follow God's call in our lives, saying with Mary, "I am the servant of the Lord, let it be to me according to your word." Let us also be ready, like Mary, to share the joy of Christmas with those around us.

**Let me wish you all a very happy Christmas.**



Philippe de Champaigne

Chris Pedley, S.J.

## Message from Fr Chris

Thank you very much to all those who contributed to making the events of last Sunday such a great success: the Little Church Christingles, the Bambinelli blessing, the Joy of Advent BBQ and cakes etc and the Carol Service.

A great deal of work went into those and it was a great day for the parish. It was good to remember Geoff Thompson by commissioning the new BBQ.



Thanks to all the choirs, readers and children who took part in the Carol Service - a joyful occasion.

Christine would like to thank all the BBQ catering team.

Special thanks to Julie who ran the cake stall, the lady who made craft items and Tino who runs the Contented Sole fish & chip shop who donated all the plates etc.

We feel we have done Geoff Thompson proud.

**Appeal - Does anyone have an unwanted laptop or small computer which they would be willing to donate to a refugee please.  
Contact Parish Administrator 01772 554396**

Bishop Paul will be proclaiming the Holy Year at the 11.15am Mass at St Joseph's, Skeffington Road next Sunday, 22nd December. All invited.

If any family would like their child (Y3 or older) to make their **First Holy Communion & Reconciliation at St Wilfrid's Church in 2025**

please contact Fr Chris Pedley [cpedleysj@jesuit.org.uk](mailto:cpedleysj@jesuit.org.uk) or Monica Holdsworth [holdsworthmonica@gmail.com](mailto:holdsworthmonica@gmail.com) by email.

Lessons will usually be on Saturdays in the Parish Centre. Dates to be advised.



**Christmas services leaflet in the Narthex & on the website  
Also see the back page of this Newsletter**

**DO NOT LEAVE YOUR BAGS AND VALUABLES UNATTENDED IN CHURCH**

The Preston Jesuit Community  
wish you all a peaceful and joyous  
Christmastide with many blessings  
for this special season.



Designed by Freepik

Fr Chris will be away on retreat from 27 Dec to 4 Jan.

## GIFT & CARD SHOP

Open Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Dec & then closed till Monday 6<sup>th</sup> Jan

Can anyone offer accommodation (a room) in Preston to a young man studying for a PhD at UCLan and working part time for the BBC. Please contact Ken Vance SJ 07703 163295.

## Prayer for the 4th Sunday of Advent

Christ Jesus, as we celebrate your birth in a stable we remember all those among us who are left out, who live in poverty, who are homeless and who long to go home. Make room in our hearts for our sisters and brothers, so that we may reach out to them in love. Amen.



Pope's intention  
for December

*For pilgrims of  
hope.*

Let us pray that  
the coming Church jubilee  
year strengthens us in faith,  
helping us to recognise the  
Risen Christ in the midst of  
our lives, transforming us into  
pilgrims of hope.

## Thank You

The Parish wishes to thank the volunteers of LuvPreston charity who have run a Food Drop In every Tuesday, for the homeless and those in need, for the last several years from St Wilfrid's Parish Centre. Tuesday 17 December was their last session as LuvPreston have now withdrawn from this ministry due to the retirement of their founder. Metanoia will be taking over the project from mid January.



Groups and events for students and young adults  
provided by The Metanoia Project. Please see Joe White  
UCLan Chaplain [joe@metanoiaproject.co.uk](mailto:joe@metanoiaproject.co.uk) 07481188102



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## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

**Sunday 22 Dec** *Micah 5:1-4a (Ps 79) Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45*

**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

**Monday 23 Dec** **Confessions 11.50-12.10**

FERIA

**Mass 12.15**

*Malachy 3:1-4,23-24 (Ps 24) Luke 1: 57-66*

**Tuesday 24 Dec** **Confessions 11.00-12.10**

Feria

**Mass 12.15**

**Confessions 2.00-4.00**

*Zephaniah 3:1-2,13 (Ps 33) Matthew 21:28-32*

**Tuesday 24 Dec** **Carol Service 7.30pm**

**First Mass of Christmas 8pm**

*Isaiah 62:1-5 (Ps 88) Acts 13:16-17,22-25 Matthew 1:1-25*

**Wednesday 25 Dec** **Christmas Day Masses 7am & 10.15am** (Church closes after 10.15 Mass)

*Isaiah 52:7-10 (Ps 97) Hebrews 1:1-6 John 1:1-18*

**Thursday 26 Dec** **Confessions 11.50-12.10**

ST STEPHEN

**Mass 12.15**

*Acts 6 :8-10;7:54-59 (Ps 30) Matthew 10:17-22*

**Friday 27 Dec** **Confessions 11.50-12.10**

ST JOHN

**Mass 12.15**

*1 John 1:1-1 (Ps 96) John 20:1a,2-8*

**Saturday 28 Dec** **Confessions 11-12.10** **Mass 12.15**

THE HOLY INNOCENTS

**Confessions 5-5.30** **VIGIL MASS 5.35pm**

*1 John 1: 5-2:2 (Ps 123) Matthew 2:13-18*

**WE PRAY FOR** **Anniversaries at this time:** Michael Casey, Christine Aspinall, Brian Kidd, Tina Mulley, Kathleen Howarth, Roy Macuras

**Those who are sick:** Brendan Rawsthorn, Norman Gaskell, Doreen Flynn, Deacon Jim Maguire, Deacon Bill Adams