



# Newsletter

15<sup>th</sup> December 2024

3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT

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

## REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS



Today is called “Gaudete Sunday” from the Latin word for joy, which is the first word of the entrance antiphon. This comes from our second reading, where St Paul says, “Rejoice in the Lord always”. In the first reading Zephaniah says, “Rejoice and exult with all your heart”. We are invited to rejoice in the coming of Christ into the world in the feast of Christmas which we are about to celebrate. This means that this Sunday has a different feel from the other Sundays of Advent. This is marked by the wearing of rose coloured vestments which are used only here and at the similar Sunday in Lent. This year we are also marking this day by the blessing of the babies for our cribs, by a celebration after the 10.15am Mass and by our Carol Service at 6.30pm.

**Rejoice!**

Pope Francis wrote about the Joy of the Gospel, which is a guide to living as a Christian today and a call to spread that joy in our world. Pope Benedict, writing about this day, said, “As in the times of the Prophet Zephaniah, it is particularly to those being tested and to ‘life’s wounded and orphans of joy’ that God’s Word is addressed in a special way”. This is the word spoken to Mary by the angel bringing hope to the world. We especially celebrated Mary as a sign of hope for us in the feast of the Immaculate Conception on Monday.

Sometimes the joy of Christmas can get smothered by the pressure to consume and the stresses that go with that. For many, Christmas can be a difficult time because of bereavement or broken relationships. As we move through this season of Advent we ask to be filled with joy and to be signs of joy to those around us. Let us be signs of that real and lasting joy which only Christ, though his incarnation, can bring.

Chris Pedley, S.J

The 3rd Sunday in Advent is Gaudete Sunday. A day of joy and celebration. There are a number of events in the Church and Parish Centre.

## LITTLE CHURCH

### Christingle



At Sunday 10.15am Mass the children, who go to Little church, will make Christingles and then bring them into the church before the offertory.

They will also sing for the congregation.

The Christingle consists of

- an orange, its round shape representing the world
- A candle representing Jesus, the light of the world
- A red ribbon representing the blood of Christ
- Sweets or dried fruit representing the fruits of the earth.
- 4 cocktail sticks representing the 4 seasons and north, south, east & west

### Bambinelli Sunday 15th December

Over the past decades on Gaudete Sunday children and adults bring their own Baby Jesus figures to St Peter's Square where they are blessed by the Pope.

Here at St. Wilfrid's we will celebrate Bambinelli Sunday.

**Bring your Baby Jesus figure to the 10.15 Mass on Gaudete Sunday.**

No matter if your Nativity figure is tiny or large, new this year or many years old, he can be blessed. You will be given a piece of wrapping paper to wrap him in before opening him on Christmas morning and placing him your crib. A beautiful gift of the presence of Christ in your home.

### THE JOY OF ADVENT

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December, after the 10:15 Mass, in the Church Courtyard and the Parish Centre everyone is invited to come, celebrate and make time to get together as a Parish to prepare for the birth of Jesus.

We will serve you "Bratwurst", Glühwein (mulled wine) and a traditional Christmas market treat.



Christmas services leaflet in the Narthex & on the website

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

# A Christmas Carol Service

with the choirs of

St Wilfrid's, including our African choir,  
Cardinal Newman Staff & Our Lady's High School.

SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> December @ 6.30pm



## GIFT & CARD SHOP

OPENING HOURS ON  
THE BACK PAGE  
CHRISTMAS CARDS  
CALENDARS CRIBS  
NEW SUNDAY MASS BOOKS £16  
Diocesan Directories £6

**Appeal for helpers** - We urgently need more help on Sunday morning in the Parish Centre. If you can spare **an hour ONCE A MONTH** to serve refreshments after Mass please see Shelagh.

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 3rd Sunday of Advent

In times of despair  
We seek comfort in your presence.  
Move us to be good news in our world  
And to stand alongside  
Our brothers and sisters in need.  
Lead us to your ways  
As together we make a change  
So all people may  
Rejoice and be glad.



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.

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.



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 15 Dec** *Zephaniah 3:14-18a (Isaiah 12:2-6) Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:10-18*

**Mass 7am**      **Mass 10.15am** with Choir & Little Church during Mass

**BBQ in the Courtyard** Parish Centre 11.15-12.30 Tea/coffee Gift & Card Shop open

**Mass 4.30pm** with Music Group followed by Students & Young Adults Group

### A CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE 6.30PM

**Monday 16 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 24) Matthew 23-27*

**Tuesday 17 Dec**

*FERIA*

**Confessions 11.50-12.10**      **11-12** Led Adoration of Blessed Sacrament  
**Mass 12.15**

**10.30-2pm** Gift & Card Shop Open  
**6.15 FINAL LuvPreston-Food Drop In**  
**21 JANUARY Metanoia Food Drop In OPENS**

*Zephaniah 3:1-2,9-13 (Ps 33) Matthew 21:28-32*

**Wednesday 18 Dec**

*FERIA*

**Confessions 11.50-12.10**      **5-5.45** Adoration of Blessed Sacrament  
**Mass 12.15**

**6.30 Metanoia Clothes Drop In** (Narthex)

*Jeremiah 23:5-8 (Ps 71) Matthew 1:18-25*

**Thursday 19 Dec**

*FERIA*

**Confessions 11.50-12.10**      **11-12** Adoration of Blessed Sacrament  
**Mass 12.15**

**11am NO Ascent RESUMES 8 JANUARY**

*Judges 13:2-7,24-25a (Ps 70) Luke 1:5-25*

**Friday 20 Dec**

*FERIA*

**Confessions 11.50-12.10**      Following 12.15 Mass  
**Mass 12.15**      Lectio Divina with ...

**11.30-1pm** Gift & Card Shop Open Tea/coffee  
**....Soup Lunch after Lectio Divina**

*Isaiah 7:10-14 (Ps 23) Luke 1:26-38*

**Saturday 21 Dec**

*FERIA*

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

*Song of Songs 2:8-14 (Ps 32) Luke 1:39-45*

**WE PRAY FOR**

**Those who have died recently:**

**Anniversaries at this time:** Mary Hind

**Those who are sick:**

Brendan Rawsthorn, Norman Gaskell, Doreen Flynn  
 Deacon Jim Maguire, Deacon Bill Adams