



PARISH OF ST JOHN XXIII, PRESTON

St Joseph and English Martyrs Churches

Incorporating the districts of St Augustine, English Martyrs, St Ignatius, St Joseph & St Teresa

SUNDAY, 8th December 2024

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT [C]

Upcoming Masses & Services this week:

	Time	Church	
Sunday 8th December <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	5.30pm [Sat]	EM	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions]
	6.00pm [Sat]	EM	Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>Rachel Jones</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>St Augustine [4]</i>
Monday 9th December <i>Immaculate Conception</i>	6.00pm	EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	6.30pm	EM	Mass <i>Elsie Davies</i>
Tuesday 10th December <i>Our Lady of Loreto</i>	9.00am	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>James Cairney</i>
Wednesday 11th December <i>St Damasus</i>	11.30am	EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	12noon	EM	Mass <i>Lori, Libero, Franca & Shara</i> <i>Followed by Novena to the English Martyrs</i>
Thursday 12th December <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	9.00am	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>Winifred McStravick</i>
	11.30am	OLSE	Requiem Mass of Canon R Horn
Friday 13th December <i>St Lucy</i>	5.30pm	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	6.00pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions]
	6.30pm	SJ	Mass <i>Patricia Corless</i>
Saturday 14th December <i>St John of the Cross</i>	9.30am	SJ	Mass <i>St Augustine [5]</i>
	10-10.30am	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions]
	5.30pm	EM	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions]
	6.00pm	EM	Mass <i>Allan Brown</i>
Sunday 15th December <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Gaudete Sunday</i>	11.15am	SJ	Mass <i>Rachel France</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [Confessions]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>

ADVENT: THE SEASON OF OUR LADY

Pope Saint John Paul II once said, "In this journey of expectation and hope that is Advent, the Ecclesial Community is identified more closely than ever with the Most Holy Virgin. May it be she, the Virgin of expectation, who helps us to open our hearts to the One who, by His coming among us, brings the priceless gift of peace to all humanity."

Indeed, in this week when we keep the great solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the memorials of Our Lady's visitations at Loreto and Guadalupe, we recall this is Our Lady's season. She is the new Eve, the Mother of all the living, she is the new Ark of the Covenant containing in her the Godhead. She is the 'mould' in which our Lord is shaped, in which the whole of creation is rendered and shaped anew.

Use Advent to ponder in your heart the mysteries of God, after the pattern of Our Lady, seek the forgiveness of Christ that is so completely prepared for in her Immaculate womb. Serve others as Our Lady did in her visitation to Elizabeth. O Mary, Queen conceived without original sin, pray for us.

****In other news:** We welcome **Wulstan**, our new resident in the Presbytery, to our Parish. He is a very friendly, though young, German Pointer. Named after our first bishop, and son of the Parish, Thomas Wulstan Pearson.

OUR PRAYERS

We pray for all our sick and housebound parishioners and those who care for them.

We also pray for all the lately dead especially: Canon Robert Horn, Brian Drake, Neals Joseph, Catherine Ann Rawcliffe and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Daniel Turner, Audrey Brennan, Hugh Doherty and Elizabeth Wignall.

DIOCESE OF LANCASTER CENTENARY

Bishop Goss of Liverpool's visit to Garstang in 1858 provided an occasion for the suggestion of a new diocese. However, Bishop Goss acknowledging the expansion of the Church in those days, hoped he would never see this division of his beloved diocese himself. He remarked that he "*cherished North Lancashire as the brightest gem in his mitre.*" No contemporary views from Hexham & Newcastle are known of concerning their territories in Cumberland and Westmorland!

PROCLAMATION OF THE HOLY YEAR

Our universal Jubilee will soon commence, and more locally our Bishop will announce the Holy Year of 2025, *Pilgrims of Hope*, when he comes to celebrate Mass at St Joseph's on Sunday 22nd December at 11.15am. Do make every effort to attend this Mass and encourage fellow Catholics to join us! A Jubilee year is celebrated in the Church every 25 years, a year celebrating our faith, re-establishing our relationship with Christ and His Church - a special time for hope and reconciliation.

'GABRIEL'S MESSAGE'

You are invited to a performance of sacred music for Christmas at St Joseph's church on Monday 23rd December 2023 at 7.00pm. The concert is performed by the choir *Occento* who were with us last year. Tickets are £10.00 and are available on the night.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Tuesday 24th December | Christmas Eve
6.00pm: English Martyrs | 7.30pm: St Joseph
Wednesday 25th December | Christmas Day
10.00am: St Joseph

BLESSING OF THE 'BAMBINELLI'

Next Sunday, 15th December, please do bring the baby Jesus from your crib sets to Mass to be blessed. This beautiful, yet simple, tradition connects our celebration of Christmas in church to your nativity scenes at home.

PARISH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets are still available after weekend Masses, £1.00 a strip. Please support! The raffle will be drawn after Sunday Mass at St Joseph's, 15th December. 1st prize £75, 2nd £50, 3rd £25 and other prizes to be won!

SANCTUARY LAMPS FOR CHRISTMAS

If you would like to buy a Sanctuary Lamp in memory of a loved one that will be lit for the Christmas Masses and beside the Tabernacle throughout the year. Please place a donation of £5.00 in an envelope marked 'Sanctuary Lamps for Christmas' with the name[s] you wish to be remembered.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS FOR CHURCH

To contribute to 'Christmas Flowers' donations please use the brown envelopes in the church porch. These can be placed in the collection basket.

CLEANING OUR CHURCHES FOR CHRISTMAS

A Parish "big clean" of our churches and brasses will take place on;

- St Joseph's on Saturday 21st December after Adoration at 10.30am.
- English Martyrs on Wednesday 18th December after 12noon Mass.

Many hands make light work - Please help!

NEWS FROM ONE OF OUR SCHOOLS

Recently, St Teresa's Primary School were judged *Good* overall in an inspection about Religious Education and *Outstanding* in Catholic Life.

Congratulations!

THIS SUNDAY'S SPECIAL COLLECTION:

For *Society of St Vincent de Paul*.

Also, you can donate food goods (non-perishable) for those in need using the boxes found at the back of both churches.

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

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