



Parish Bulletin

4th Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

Sunday Cycle A
Divine Office: Week 4

Website

nativityparish.org.uk

Our Churches

Church of St Mary the Immaculate Conception
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Youth Group

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This Week's Divine Services and Other Events

Monday December 22  1 Samuel 1:24-28; (Psalm) 1 Sam 2:1. 4-5. 6-7. 8a-d. R1a; Luke 1:46-56.

9:15AM Mass, Holy Family

Tuesday December 23  Malachi 3:1-4; 4:5-6; Ps 25(24):4-5b. 8-9. 10, 14. R 1b; Luke 1:57-66.

9:15AM Mass, St Mary's

(No Cuppa Club meeting today)

Wednesday Dec. 24  2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89(88):2-3. 4-5. 27, 29. R37a; Luke 1:67-79.

9:15AM Mass, Holy Family

Wednesday Dec. 24 (evening)  Isaiah 62:1-5; Ps 89(88):4-5. 16-17. 27, 29. R2a; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25.

The Nativity of the Lord (solemnity/vigil) **5:30-6:15PM Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession), St Mary's**

6:30PM Sung Mass, St Mary's

Thursday December 25  Isaiah 52:7-10; Ps 98(97):1. 2-3b. 3c-4. 5-6. R3cd; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18.

The Nativity of the Lord (solemnity)

9:00AM St Mary's Church open for private prayer.

9:30AM Sung Mass, St Mary's

10:45AM Holy Family Church open for private prayer.

11:15AM Sung Mass, Holy Family

Light refreshments will be served after Mass at Holy Family Church.

Friday December 26  Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31(30):3c-4. 6, 8ab. 16bc, 17. R6a; Matthew 10:17-22.

St. Stephen, the first martyr (feast)

8:55AM Rosary, St Mary's

9:30AM Mass, St Mary's

(No Bible study meeting today)

Saturday December 27  1 John 1:1-4; Ps 97(96):1-2. 5-6. 11-12. R12a; John 20:2-8.

St John, Apostle, Evangelist (feast)

12:00 noon Mass, St Mary's

(No confessions scheduled for today—see Wednesday, December 24 evening. No Adoration).

Sunday December 28  Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128(127):1-2. 3. 4-5. R1a; Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (feast)

9:00AM St Mary's Church open for private prayer.

9:30AM Sung Mass, St Mary's

10:45AM Holy Family Church open for private prayer.

11:15AM Sung Mass, Holy Family

Light refreshments will be served after both Sunday morning Masses.

6:00PM Mass, St Mary's

Confession

See above; otherwise on request.

Baptisms and Marriages

If you would like to arrange a baptism or a wedding, please speak to a priest or to Sr. Benedicta after Mass.

Please note, we require six months' notice for a wedding.

We Pray For...

Birthday

Kath Walsh.

Sick

We pray for all who are currently awaiting results, undergoing treatment or battling illnesses. In particular: Paul Vincent Rostern, Gregory Francis Rostern, Padraig Rafferty, Joe & Anne Appleton, Teddy Holt, Monica Reed, Maria-Thérèse Passenger, Karen Seinen, Geraldine Power, Kath Wilkinson, Michael Melody, Betty Brown, Joe Gallagher, Finola Bedford, Catherine Redikin, James McManus, Catherine Ardill, Cristopher McAuley, Austin Moran, Burny Maughny, Pat Snelling, John Moran, Michael Bray, Wendy Felstead, Caroline, Ann Burn, Donni Marie, Sarah O'Brien, Collette Hartwell, Immanuel Iro, Annamarie O.S. Asemota, Susan Watson, Stephanie Farrell and Anna.

Continued overleaf

Recently Deceased

We pray for the souls of: Karen Kassam, Sam McLellan and John White.

May they rest in perfect peace.

Anniversary

We pray for the souls of: Colette Maria Parnell, John Raleigh and William Woods.

May they continue to rest in the Lord.

Christmas Mass Offerings for

Sean Bridgen, Agnes & Martin Doherty, Fintan Fitzmaurice, Chai Choi, Chang Ming, Sister Paul-Marie, Liam Whittaker, Sheila Pritchard, Margaret Mclvor, George Mclvor, Terence Mclvor, Martha & John Haynes, Marion Walsh, Margaret Szoltysek and Ignatius Szoltysek.

Sanctuary Candle at Holy Family

This week's sanctuary candle at Holy Family Church was donated by the Morrow family in memory of Pat Morrow and other deceased members of the Morrow family.

Death

We sadly announce the death of **Samuel McLellan**. The funeral will take place at St Mary's Church on Friday, January 9 at 1:15pm.

Recesses during the Christmas Period

The Cuppa Club will be in recess on December 23 and 30, resuming on Tuesday, January 6, 2026. Pam sends her love and best wishes to all in the Cuppa Club, along with her thanks for your help and support over the last few weeks.

Bible Study will be in recess on December 26 and January 2, resuming on Friday, January 9.

Catenians Raffle

The draw for the Catenians raffle will take place this Sunday, December 21. Prizes include a champagne afternoon tea for two at Housing Units Failsworth, a bottle of Talisker Skye Single Malt Scotch Whisky, bottles of wine and boxes of chocolates.

The proceeds are being used to provide Christmas parcels for members of the Parish of the Nativity community.

Christmas Masses & Confessions

Christmas Eve (Vigil): 6:30pm, St Mary's.

Christmas Day: 9:30am, St Mary's; 11:15am, Holy Family.

Confessions will be heard on Christmas Eve, December 24, between 5:30 and 6:15pm, before the vigil Mass at St Mary's.

Please note, there are **no scheduled confessions**—and there is **no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**—on Saturday, December 27; though 12:00 noon Mass will be celebrated as usual on that day.

Thank You for the Donations

A huge thank you to all who donated towards the cost of Christmas flowers. We are grateful also to those who donate towards the cost of sanctuary flowers and after-Mass refreshments throughout the year; these are funded directly by your special donations, not from the Parish central fund. May God bless you.

You can still donate towards sanctuary flowers for Christmas, as follows:

- On Sunday mornings at the piety stall at either church.
- After 11:15 Mass on Sunday mornings at the refreshment counter in the Parish Room at Holy Family Church.
- Via the priest after any other Mass.

Bishop John's message for Caritas: Bee-ing there this Christmas

Demand for the services of our diocesan charity, *Caritas Salford*, is greater than ever as more and more people in our diocese experience poverty, homelessness and discrimination. Their 'Bee There' Advent appeal is asking if you are able to help support people locally—please visit:

www.caritassalford.org.uk/BeeThere for more information.

Bishop John has recorded a special message to tell us more about why it's so important, especially at this time of year:

www.caritassalford.org.uk/bishop-john-christmas-25/

Schoolchildren and students, enjoy your break!

We wish all our students and schoolchildren a happy Christmas recess.

Yoga Breaks

Yogis please note, there will be no Yoga classes during:

- Week beginning December 21;
- Week beginning December 28.

Bonus Ball St Mary's Bonus Ball: Previous draw: November 29. Winning no. 46 – Monica Browe. Prize: £150. To church fund: £140 (1 number unpaid). Next draw: Saturday, December 27. Prize: £300 (Christmas doublestake draw). To church fund: £290 est. Price £10 per number. Pay by Friday, December 26. **Charity Bonus Ball:** Previous draw: November 29. Charity: Royal British Legion. Winning no. 46 – Alexa Delsoldato. Prize: £150. To charity: £120 (5 numbers unsold). Next draw: Saturday, December 27. Charity: St Mary's Building & Repairs Fund. Prize: £300. To charity: £290 est. Price: £10 per number. Pay by Friday, December 26. **Late payments will not be accepted.**

Readings and Psalm for Sunday Mass

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

'Behold, the virgin shall conceive.'

In those days: The LORD spoke to Ahaz: 'Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. R cf. 6

Response:

Response



Let the LORD en-ter,
let the LORD en-ter;
he is the king of glo-ry.

1 The LORD'S is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the rivers he made it firm.

- 2** Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose soul is not set on vain things.
- 3** Blessings from the LORD shall he receive,
and right reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the people who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, descended from David, Son of God.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother

Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel' — which means, God with us.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

Psalm Text: The Abbey Psalms and Canticles by the Monks of Conception Abbey ©2010, 2018 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. Used by permission. All Rights Reserved. Administered in England and Wales by Colloquium on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Psalm musical setting (response): Parish of the Nativity.

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