



Parish Bulletin

3rd Sunday of Advent
(Gaudete Sunday)

December 14, 2025

Sunday Cycle A
Divine Office: Week 3

Website

nativityparish.org.uk

Our Churches

Church of St Mary the Immaculate Conception

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Church of the Holy Family

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This Week's Divine Services and Other Events

Monday December 15
Weekday of Advent

 Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25(24):4-5b. 6-7. 8-9. R6a; Matthew 21:23-27.

9:15AM Mass, St Mary's

9:15AM Mass, Holy Family

Tuesday December 16
Weekday of Advent

 Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34(33):2-3. 6-7. 17-18. 19, 23. Rcf.7a; Matthew 21:28-32.

9:15AM Mass, St Mary's

2:00PM-4:00PM Cuppa Club—all welcome.

Wednesday Dec. 17
Weekday of Advent

 Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72(71): 1-2. 3-4b. 7-8. 17. R cf. 7; Matthew 1:1-17.

9:15AM Mass, Holy Family

Thursday December 18
Weekday of Advent

 Jeremiah 23:5-8; Ps 72(71):1-2. 12-13. 18-19. R cf. 7; Matthew 1:18-24.

9:15AM Eucharistic Service, Holy Family

Friday December 19
Weekday of Advent

 Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71(70):3-4a. 5-6b. 16-17. R cf. 8a; Luke 1:5-25.

8:55AM Rosary, St Mary's

9:30AM Mass, St Mary's

6:30PM Bible Study Hour, St Mary's Meeting Room (via church)

Saturday December 20
Weekday of Advent

 Isaiah 7:10-14; Ps 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. R cf. 6; Luke 1:26-38.

11:00-11:45AM: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession), St Mary's.

12:00 noon Mass, St Mary's

Sunday December 21
4th Sunday of Advent

 Isaiah 7:10-14; Ps 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. R cf. 6; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24.

Divine Office Week 4

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

Saturdays (see above) or 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

Mary Gill (90 years).

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, Annamariae O.S. Asemota and Susan Watson.

Recently Deceased

We pray for the souls of Dorothy Afam-Anadu and Joan Midge.

May they rest in perfect peace.

Anniversary

We pray for the souls of: Joan Pritchard, Maria Poole and Colette Maria Parnell.

May they continue to rest in the Lord.

Sanctuary Candle at Holy Family

This week's sanctuary candle at Holy Family Church was donated in memory of Kath O'Gara and Irene Kelly.

Reminder - Changed Deadline for Bulletin Inserts

Please be reminded that, due to a change in production arrangements for the Parish Bulletin, all requests for inserts, including published Mass requests, now need to be submitted by **midday on the Thursday prior to publication.**

Catenians Raffle

Tickets for the Catenians raffle will be on sale following the 9:30am and 11:15am Masses this Sunday, December 14. The draw will take place on 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 price is just £1 per ticket.

The proceeds will be used to provide Christmas parcels for members of the Parish of the Nativity community.

Relics of St Carlo Acutis to Visit the Diocese of Salford

In January, the relics of St Carlo Acutis will be hosted at two churches in our

Diocese over five days, during which time the Diocese will welcome schools, parishioners and people from all over for veneration.

Carlo is the first millennial saint, and is celebrated for his profound faith and his use of the internet to log Eucharistic miracles from around the world. He was passionate about spreading the teachings of the Catholic Church up until his death from leukaemia at the age of 15.

The relics will be presented at St Mary's Church, Burnley on January 28 and 29 2026, before being relocated to St Patrick's Church, Collyhurst from January 30 to February 1, 2026. More information will be shared soon with parishes and on the Diocesan website and social media channels.

Christmas Masses

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

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

Christmas Flowers – Donations Requested

We would like to make a special effort to adorn our sanctuaries with flowers this coming Christmas, and donations toward flowers would be much appreciated. You can donate 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.
- Thank you in advance.

Message from Hayley Rafferty

"...I thought I'd update you all on how myself and [daughter] Caitlin did on our Secret Santa stall at the Christmas Fair...We managed to sell 200+ gifts. A BIG thank you to Monnis Mags, Elaine Fortune, Helen Jackson and Colette Thomas Reynolds for donating and dropping off gifts and gift bags.

I've transferred the proceeds made from our stall—£192.30—into St Mary's Church Building and Repairs fundraising account.

Thank you for your continued support.

Hayley x"

Yoga Breaks

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

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

Classes **will** take place as usual during this coming week—beginning December 14.

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 & Psalm for Sunday Mass

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

'God himself will come and save you.'

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Sion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and

joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 146(145):6c-7. 8-9a. 9b-10. R Matthew 5:3

Resp: Come, Lord, and save us.

- 1 It is the LORD who preserves fidelity for ever,
who does justice to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the LORD who sets prisoners free.

- 2 The LORD who opens the eyes of the blind,
the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the LORD who loves the just,
the LORD who protects the stranger.
- 3 The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The LORD will reign for ever,
your God, O Sion, from age to age.

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

‘Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.’

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience,

brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’

And Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.’

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold,

those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses.

‘What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.”

‘Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’

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