

ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

Sunday 10th December 2023 – 2nd Sunday in Advent

December Monthly Devotion: The Immaculate Conception



THEME: Planning and preparation

Before anything can be built in a desert wilderness there has to be straightening out and reordering. Advent is a good time to prepare our lives for Christ to build on, by rigorously cutting out and reshaping the areas which are barren. Then, as he builds, we shall be taking part in the establishing of God's kingdom, which culminates in the new heaven and new earth, where God reigns for ever with unending love, peace and joy.

Date	Celebration	Service Time & Location	Intention
Sunday 10 th Dec	2 nd Sunday in Advent	Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:30am St Mary's Mass 11:00am St Mary's	Elizabeth Heffron (RIP) Parishioner's intention Parishioner's Intention
Mon 11 th Dec	Ferial	6:15pm St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 7:00pm	Father Oliver's intention
Tues 12 th Dec	Ferial	8:30am St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass 9:00am	World peace
Weds 13 th Dec	St Lucy	8:30am St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass 9:00am	Margaret Bowers (17 th Ann)
Thurs 14 th Dec	St John of the Cross	9:00am St Paul's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 9:30am 7:00pm St Paul's, Advent Reconciliation Service	Blind People
Friday 15 th Dec	Ferial	9:00am St Paul's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 9:30am	Parishioners' Intention
Sat 16 th Dec	Ferial	9:45am Holy Rosary 10:00am Mass St Mary's	Sick and Housebound
Sunday 17 th Dec	3 rd Sunday in Advent	Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:30am St Mary's Mass 11:00am St Mary's	George Storer (Ann) Elizabeth Heffron (BD) Ann. Parishioner's Intention

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 9am to 9:50am St Mary's; 5pm to 5:50pm St Paul's; Sunday 8:30am to 9:20am and by appointment.

Sacraments and other liturgies: Please speak to the Priest following the weekend masses.

Date	Event	Location
Tue 12 th Dec 7pm	RCIA Teaching	St Mary's Meeting Room
Date	Christmas Services	Location
Thurs 14 th Dec 7pm	Advent Day of Reconciliation Service	St Paul's Church
Sun 17 th Dec 3pm	Christmas Carol Service	St Mary's Church
Sat 23 rd / Sun 24 th Dec	4 th Sunday Advent – Normal Mass times	St Paul's & St Mary's
Sun 24 th Dec 5pm	Nativity of the Lord - Vigil Mass	St Mary's Church
Sun 24 th Dec 6:30pm	Nativity of the Lord - Vigil Mass	St Paul's Church
Mon 25 th Dec 9:30am	Nativity of the Lord – Dawn Mass	St Mary's Church
Mon 25 th Dec 11:00am	Nativity of the Lord – Mass during the day	St Mary's Church

RECENTLY WELCOMED: Teddy Parker Jesse Mulholland was welcomed into the family of God last weekend. Please pray for him and his family

MARK 1:1-8 Mark begins his Gospel with the prophecy in Isaiah being fulfilled. John the Baptist's call to repentance is exactly the kind of highway building that was necessary to prepare people for the ministry of Jesus. The excitement quickens, the sense of urgency and immediacy grows, and crowds flock to set about straightening their lives out and starting afresh. How easy it would have been for John to hang on to the glory himself instead of making it quite clear that he was only a forerunner; his humility taught as powerfully as his words. Repentance puts us right with God, but the Spirit of Jesus living in us daily is what enables us to grow and yield fruit.

VISITING THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND: Fr Isidore will be visiting the sick and housebound on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday this week. Please keep all our sick and housebound in your prayers.

BIBLE SUNDAY: Today is the Second Sunday in the great season of Advent and Bible Sunday. We are reminded of the importance of listening to the Word of God and praying with His Word. We are encouraged today to open the scriptures and to read them for ourselves. When we read the scriptures, it is God speaking directly to our hearts, when the Gospel is proclaimed to us Christ himself is speaking to us. May our reading and praying of the scriptures allow us to see the Lord's saving and merciful presence in our daily lives, especially as we prepare to welcome the Word made flesh. Please bring your bible to church with you and at the end of Mass Fr Isidore will bless them.

ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION: The penitential aspect of Advent urges us to recognize oneself as being a sinner, and therefore take the first essential step in returning to God. *"It is one's whole existence that becomes penitential, that is to say, directed toward a continuous striving for what is better. But doing penance is something authentic and effective only if it is translated into deeds and acts of penance"* -- John Paul II Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered and as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation and the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance is a means to deepen conversion to receive both comings of Christ. This year, the Advent Service of Reconciliation is being celebrated at St Paul's Church, at 7pm on this Thursday, 14th Dec.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that, institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

PREPARING ST MARY'S CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS: We will be putting up the Christmas Tree and the Crib on Friday afternoon in St Mary's Church. Chris and Sandra have done the Christmas Tree for many years and have asked that some of the younger members of the parish take it on going forward. On behalf of the Parish, I would like to thank Chris and Sandra for all their efforts over the years, the Christmas Tree has always looked lovely, and I hope we will be able to emulate what they have done so well. If you can help, please let me know, or just turn up on Friday from 2pm onwards. Mary.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS: Next Sunday we will have our Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's. Please come along to listen or to join in with singing and to enjoy a tea or coffee and some Christmas snacks in the meeting room afterwards. Bring along your favourite treat to share with the community.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Please bring the Christ Child from your crib to be blessed.

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY: £407.17, Building Fund £155.24, Caritas @ Christmas £314.42, including donations through the portal. Thank you for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK: Christmas Flowers



Scan the QR code to access the Online giving page for St Mary and St Paul, Dukinfield and Hyde

Reverend Father Isidore Madueke, 29 Zetland St, Dukinfield, Cheshire, SK16 4EJ
Tel: 0161 330 2424 **Website:** stmaryandstpaul.org
Email: stmaryandstpaulRC@gmail.com
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