

# ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent

December Monthly Devotion: The Immaculate Conception



**THEME:** Planning and preparation

Christian people have a deep-seated joyfulness and an attitude of constant thankfulness, since their hope and security is based on unflinching love. We know we are ultimately safe in the arms of our God; that the beautiful world he has made is part of a great plan in which Goodness has the victory. So we should try to make sure that minor irritations do not cloud the profound joy that is our heritage.

Date	Celebration	Service Time & Location	Intention
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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. Gavin Slate
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Ferial	6:15pm St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 7:00pm	Father Oliver's intention
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Ferial	St. Paul's School Mass 9:00am	Parents, teachers, and children
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Ferial	8:30am St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass 9:00am	VC Duru (RIP)
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Ferial	St Paul's school carol service 9:30am St. Paul's church. All are welcome	No Mass
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Ferial	9:00am St Paul's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 9:30am	Giacomo & Raffaella Pancaro RIP
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Ferial	9:45am Holy Rosary 10:00am Mass St Mary's	Sick and Housebound
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent	Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:30am St Mary's Mass 11:00am St Mary's	Day of special prayer for Expectant Mothers

**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
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec 7pm	RCIA Teaching	St Mary's Meeting Room
Date	Christmas Services	Location
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup> / Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Advent – Normal Mass times	St Paul's & St Mary's
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec 5pm	Nativity of the Lord - Vigil Mass	St Mary's Church
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup> Dec 6:30pm	Nativity of the Lord - Vigil Mass	St Paul's Church
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec 9:30am	Nativity of the Lord – Dawn Mass	St Mary's Church
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> Dec 11:00am	Nativity of the Lord – Mass during the day	St Mary's Church

**RECENTLY BAPTISED:** Adam Romek, Patryk Romek, and Geoff Anthony Chew were welcomed into the family of God last weekend. Please pray for them and their families.

**RECENT DEATH:** John Bergin, may he rest in peace. Please pray for him, his family, and friends.

**JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28** In this account of John the Baptist's witness we see the heralding of the long-awaited Messiah, in images the people – with their sound knowledge of the prophets – would be likely to understand.

John was fulfilling a role that was essential in preparing the way for Israel's Saviour. It would alert many to look for signs of God visiting his people. And guide them to see his presence where they may not have been expecting to find it.

If we join the crowds around John and whole-heartedly repent of all that is evil, ugly, and damaging in our characters, we too shall be alerted to recognise Christ and see him more clearly.

**GAUDETE SUNDAY:** Today is the third Sunday of Advent, which is celebrated in the Christian tradition as Gaudete Sunday. The word "Gaudete" means "rejoice" in Latin. It is a day of joy and anticipation as it marks the nearness of Christmas. The Catholic Church uses the colour rose to indicate a joyful feast day or holiday, and a priest will usually wear rose vestments on this day. During Advent, we prepare our hearts for Christmas in penitential reflection, but in the middle of the season, Gaudete Sunday calls us to rejoice in hope. In the Christian tradition, Advent wreaths are as beautiful as they are symbolic. These evergreen wreaths are shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. Advent wreaths have four candles that remind us that Christ is the light of the world. One of these candles is rose or pink. We light it on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday in Advent, to represent joy and anticipation of Christmas.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS:** On Sunday, at 3pm, 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. There will also be a retiring collection for Caritas.

**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:** Thanks to everyone who has helped prepare our churches for Christmas, they are looking beautiful to greet the newborn King.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:** Next Sunday is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and is also Christmas Eve. The vigil mass on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> and the morning masses on the 24<sup>th</sup> fulfil the Sunday obligation. The evening masses on the 24<sup>th</sup>, are the vigil masses for Christmas, and fulfil the Christmas obligation. Please bring the Christ Child from your crib to be blessed at the masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** We will pause Eucharistic Adoration after 22<sup>nd</sup> December until after Christmas.

#### **AN ADVENT POEM:**

*Advent is here, the time of hope,  
When we prepare our hearts to cope,  
With the coming of the Lord,  
And the joy that He has stored.*

*We light the candles one by one,  
As we wait for God's only Son,  
To be born in a manger low,  
And bring us peace and love to know.*

*The first candle is for hope,  
The second for peace to cope,  
The third for joy that we find,  
The fourth for love that's so kind.*

*So let us wait with hearts so true,  
For the coming of the Lord anew,  
And let us pray and sing with glee,  
For the birth of our Saviour to be.*

**LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY:** £500.60, including donations through the portal. Thank you for your generosity.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** Christmas Flowers



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

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***Please consider remembering the parish in your will.***  
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