

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

ADVENT II (B)
Dec 6th 2020



During Advent

Good St Nicholas,

Help us prepare for the miracle of the coming of Jesus.

Help us not to be blind to the gifts of getting ready.

Help us be sincere in the greetings we send and receive, with love and prayer.

Kind St. Nicholas, protect us from shoppers' fatigue, stress, overspending, yet help us to be kind and generous of heart to all, especially those who are alone,

financially poor and fearful.

May our celebration of your feast lead others to see the true meaning of giving and receiving and to guide all people to the greatest of all gifts, even Jesus Christ, prince of peace and child of Mary, Our Lord and only saviour.

Amen

Behold the Lamb of God!

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DATE**MASS INTENTION**

Sun 6th	ADVENT II (B) 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) May Gorman RIP (fam)
Mon 7th	St Ambrose, bishop & doctor 9.30 (HAD) DCA
Tues 8th	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR BLESSED LADY 9.30 (BB) DCA Noon (HAD) May Gorman RIP (fam)
Weds 9th	St Juan Diego 9.30 (HAD) DCA
Thurs 10th	Our Lady of Loreto 9.30 (HAD) Betty Ledwich RIP (BB)
Fri 11th	St Damasus 9.30 (BB) Edmund Ashton RIP (fam)
Sat 12th	Our Lady of Guadalupe 9.30 (HAD) Eileen McGarry RIP (MR)
Sun 13th	ADVENT III (Gaudete) (B) 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) Joan Killeen's int

SECOND ADVENT (B)

Psalter week 2

INTRODUCTION John the Baptist tells us to be ready and prepared for the Lord.

FIRST READING : Is 40 : Console my people; the Lord our God is coming with power.

RESPONSE : LET US SEE O LORD YOUR MERCY

SECOND READING : 2 Pet 3 : We await the new heavens and the new earth.

GOSPEL : Mk 1 : Mark begins his gospel by warning "Make his paths straight!"

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND and ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Please remember to support and pray for those listed as sick and housebound in our parish:

Mary Perry, Peter James, Adrian McHugh, Fr John Cairns, Cn Michael Moore, Pauline Anderson, Eileen Berry, Isabella Phillips, Monica Krommendijk, Una Wilkinson, Nella Lewykyj, Evelyn Matthewman, Neil Appleton, Alice Canning, Mary Mycio, Dorothy Yarwood.

Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time: Revv Charles Dunn, Joe Murdock, George Newton, James Coyne, Bernard George, Ray Mendel, Thomas Breslin, John Pauline, Charles Coleman, Gerard Collins, Thomas Sing & Trevor Clarke; Bernard Walsh, Joan Cavanagh, Sheila Berry, Ronald Bradley, Bob Durman, Edmund Ashton, Ron Baines, Doreen Callon, Thomas Redmond:

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, may they rest in peace. Amen

PARISH NOTES

THIS WEEKEND we find ourselves celebrating the second Advent Sunday. After Lockdown2 we are open again for public Mass. This Sunday is also celebrated across Christendom as Bible Sunday.

NEXT SUNDAY will be Gaudete Sunday. I hint at that ominously: its Lenten equivalent was Laetare Sunday which this year was the first Sunday of Lockdown1.

Next Sunday there will be a second basket at the back of churches for "The Poor Parishes" of the diocese.

MASS BOOKING SYSTEM Thanks to Angie (BB) (07977202639) and Sophie (HAD) (07907 884 105) who administer this system. Please ring them to book a place at BB or Friday or Sunday, or St Charles on Sunday.

THE SUNDAY READINGS offer much enlightenment as ever. Deacon Owen has offered these guiding thoughts:

'Today we hear the beginning of Mark's Gospel, which quotes from Isaiah, a quote contained in today's first reading. Isaiah, John the Baptist, and Christ all come with good news. Isaiah says that the exile is ending; God will bring us home and care for us as our shepherd. John teaches that God's Kingdom is near, and that we need to prepare by repenting and trying to put things right; God will forgive us if we do that. Jesus comes and is baptised by John, and we begin to learn who he is; just a few after this passage, the Father says to Jesus, "You are my beloved Son; I am well pleased with you." The readings today call us to live in the expectation of the coming of the Son of God: living to please God, and trying to put right the wrong we do.'

SAINTS ALIVE

Monday : we honour St Ambrose, one of St Charles' early predecessors as Archbishop of Milan. In the late 4th century he was prevailed upon to become Bishop, even though he was not a Christian. Within a week he was Baptised, shriven and absolved, Holy Communicated

and ordained . . . ! He presence and preaching was so renowned that St Augustine converted after hearing him.

Tuesday is the matronal feastday of the church of the Immaculate Conception.

Wednesday is the feastday of St Juan Diego, upon whose tilma Our Lady impressed an image of herself as Our Lady of Guadalupe—who is honoured on Saturday.

Thursday finds us paying our prayerful respects to Our Lady of Loreto. Pope Francis caused this new feastday to be instituted. In Loreto you will find what is considered to be the Holy House of Nazareth.

MISSING SAINT Sunday overshadows St Nicholas of Myra, the first ‘Santa Claus’. How he morphed into Lapland / reindeer / flying through the sky / red & white outfit and huge girth beneath a snowy beard - I don’t know! An amalgamation of Nordic and Christian legends somehow.

“**CRUSADER**” magazine is available free-of-charge from the back of churches.

HAD TOTE Congratulations to latest winners Lynn Hockey (£30) and Dennis Jordan (£20).

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS We normally have a collection to help buy floral delights for our churches at Christmastide. That basket be left at the back of church over the next three weekends. Please be generous.

ON TUESDAY Please note the Mass-times carefully. It is the matronal feastday for BB, and an additional Mass will celebrated at 9.30. At St Charles there will be a midday Mass.

ANOTHER COVID CASUALTY is the delightful pre-Christmas treat of the Nine Lessons & Carols, cancelled this year at BB. Maybe Nine Easter Anthems and Readings next year?

THE NATIVITY TRAIL Dedicated local Christians have organised this ‘put Christ back into Christmas’ delight. Many shops on Station Rd Hadfield have agreed from Monday 7th to display posters of Nativity figures, painted by local schoolchildren recently. These are labelled with a letter. Children / families collect a Trail Booklet from St Charles church porch, and collect letters & stickers - all leading to goody-bags from Carmel church later in Advent. Please join in!

PRE-CHRISTMAS DECORATION Although most of our neighbours are ahead of the season, I encourage our dedicated parishioner-decorators to erect cribs, install Christmas trees and lavishly decorate our church on or after Thurs 17th December. The timing of our Christmas Masses is being discussed this weekend and publicised thereafter.

RENEWED THANKS to those parishioners who continue to support parish life financially. Especial thanks to those who have set up standing orders for collection or tote, and those who journey to get their planned-giving envelopes and cash support through the letterbox.

FURTHER THANKS to parishioners who get Mass Intentions to me by some means. This kindness I greatly appreciate.

CARDINAL NICHOLS our metropolitan archbishop turned 75 recently and offered his resignation to Pope Francis, who invited him to carry on for a bit longer!

AND FINALLY

Bishop Patrick has echoed a favourite theme of mine—that the Christmas Octave stops all the clocks and extends Christmas Day to eight days. He wants good folk who can’t attend our much restricted-numbers Christmas Eve & Day Masses to attend during then Octave. I heartily endorse his request. He also gave us this encouraging writing of St Anselm, archbishop of Canterbury in early Norman times:

“Put aside now your weighty cares and leave your wearisome toils. Abandon yourself for a little to God and rest for a while in him...”

Look upon us, Lord, hear us, enlighten us, show yourself to us. Give yourself to us that it may be well with us, for without you it goes so ill for us...

Teach me to seek you, and reveal yourself to me as I seek, because I can neither seek you if you do not teach me how, nor find you in desiring you; let me desire you in seeking you; let me find you in loving you; let me love you in finding you.”