

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

ADVENT IV (B)
Dec 20th 2020



*May the almighty and merciful Lord
grant us joy with peace,
amendment of life,
room for true repentance,
the grace and consolation
of the Holy Spirit,
and perseverance in good works.*

Amen

Hail Mary, full of grace

Canon Don Bowdren
St Charles Rectory
Woolley Bridge Rd
Hadfield SK13 1PQ 852351

daniel.bowdren@gmail.com

Deacon: Rev Dr Owen Le Blanc

longdendale-catholics.co.uk [Facebook@stcharleshadfield](https://www.facebook.com/stcharleshadfield)

St Charles Primary Hadfield SK13 7PQ
Head : Mrs B Quirke
Tel : 852692

St Margaret's & All Saints Federation
Gamesley SK13 6HB

Head : Mrs G Beaumont
Tel : 855818

St Philip Howard Secondary
SK13 8DR
Head : Mrs L Morris
Tel : 853611/861022

DATE**PARISH MASS****OTHER**

Sun 20th

ADVENT IV (B)

9.15 (BB) for the parish

11am (HAD) J&P Cowden (WG)

Mon 21st

Advent feria / St Peter Canisius

9.30 (HAD) Bernard Farnsworth RIP (fam)

Tues 22nd

Advent feria

9.30 (HAD) for the welfare of Mt St Bernard's abbey (EF)

Weds 23rd

Advent feria / St John of Kanty

9.30 (HAD) Gertrude McSherry RIP (JM)

Thurs 24th

Advent feria

9.30 (HAD) Elizabeth Heffron RIP (JM)

CHRISTMASTIDE**Christmas Eve**

6pm (HAD) for the parish

8pm (BB) D&J Smith (D&CN)

Fri 25th **Christmas Day : BANK HOLIDAY**

9.15 (BB) E & B Laidlaw RIP (fam)

11am (HAD) Derek Orr's welfare

Sat 26th

St Stephen, martyr

9.30 (HAD) Carl Evans RIP (NE)

Sun 27th

HOLY FAMILY (B)

9.15 (BB) D Bone RIP (SMH)

11am (HAD) M&J Gavan RIP (SL)

FOURTH ADVENT (B)**Psalter Week 4****Introduction:** Our God comes close to us in his covenant of love, made flesh in Jesus.**First Reading : 2 Sam 7 :** David's kingdom foreshadows the reign of Christ.**Resp.Ps. I WILL SING FOREVER OF YOUR LOVE O LORD****Second Reading : Rom 16 :** God's mystery for our salvation is made clear.**Gospel : Lk 1 :** Listen! You are to conceive & bear a son.

THE NATIVITY TRAIL A large selection of the school-children's imagery produced for this initiative festoons St Charles church. Come and admire! Our thanks to Caroline Phillips and the local team of worthy Christians who coordinated this Advent enterprise.

PRE-CHRISTMAS DECORATION Huge thanks to the many willing hands who gave time & talent to decorate our churches. The cribs, the window-decorations, the banners and wonderful imagery have all helped to engender the mood of Hopefulness which is the key to the season—especially this viral year.

MASS INTENTIONS Whilst I am grateful for your intentions, which have been regularly generous, sometimes there is a build-up or a back-log. This may mean missing a preferred date / church, or waiting a while for your intention to appear in the newsletter. Please let me know at once if you think an intention has been overlooked or lost.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN "CAROLS ON THE DOORSTEP" During the run up to Christmas many of us like to go to a Carol Service or Community Carol Singing event. This year we cannot do that but that does not have to stop us having a good sing with our neighbours and our community. On **Sunday 20th December at 5:30pm** the whole country has the chance to join in Carols on your Doorstep. All you need to do is have a radio at hand. That can be a DAB radio, Freeview on your TV (725) or the Premier Radio phone app. Premier Radio will play 3 or 4 carols for everyone to sing along to. A carol sheet will be available from Premier Radio.

A SEASON WITHIN A SEASON While still in Advent for another five days, we are into the fourth day of the pre-Christmas Octave - a unique and special time, marked not least by the Great O Antiphons".

These Antiphons, from the last to the first, acquire a familiar ring to speakers of English. We sing them, in that reverse order, in the hymn "O come, O come, Emmanuel".

In Latin, the more cryptically-minded can take the first letter of each of the titles given to Jesus, again from last to first, to get E R O C R A S. That is, *ero cras*, "I will be tomorrow". It is possible to believe that this is a coincidence or even that there is something undignified about playing with letters in the face of God. On the other hand, in the Eastern Church, acrostics are used as a vital part of the liturgy: they are characteristic in particular of the form of hymn called a *kontakion*. Perhaps this civilised habit rubbed off, many centuries ago, on the muddy, half-barbarian West. In any case, even the Jews did it: there are several psalms which are a sequence of meditations strung together in alphabetical order. If the earth and stars, the sun and moon, are singing the praises of the Lord, there is surely nothing wrong in making the letters of the alphabet do the same.

The Antiphons end on the 23rd, seemingly a day early. But this is a reminder that on truly important days we are still Jews, and the day starts at nightfall of the evening before. The 24th of December has no Vespers. The Vespers of that evening are the First Vespers of Christmas. And in many Christian countries children will be sitting staring out of the window waiting for the first star to appear so that the celebrations can begin.

ODDMENTS

- *The prayer in the box on p.1 is part of the priest's prayers when preparing to say Mass. It's a lovely prayer; I don't want to keep it to myself!*
- *Looking forward to 10.02 on Monday, the moment when the winter solstice occurs, and we rejoice that the sun is beginning all over again its journey north from Capricorn to Cancer. How much we long for the light again!*
- *However, how thoughtful of God to arrange for the trees to shed their leaves during the darker months, to allow the light to reach us as generously as maybe; and see the naked branches uplifted as if in prayer.*
- *Noticed the birds' nests revealed by the leafless branches, the same nests I marvelled at being constructed and homed during Lockdown1, with its spring sunshine;*
- *Also during Lockdown1 I recall marvelling at the emergence of the Magnolia flowers. And my afternoon Rosary Rambles this week I've delighted in seeing those same Magnolias in vibrant bud. "Come Lord Jesus";*
- *More than a few parishioners reporting being invited to receive the vaccination, and accepting the invitation with a cheerful heart. There is helpful advice on the vaccination on the CBEW website.*
This is an extract:

'Each of us has a duty to protect others from infection with its danger of serious illness, and for some, death. A vaccine is the most effective way to achieve this unless one decides to self-isolate. Each Catholic must educate his or her conscience on this matter and decide what to do, also bearing in mind that a vaccine must be safe, effective, and universally available, especially to the poor of the world.

Catholics may in good conscience receive any of the vaccines developed for the good of others and themselves. Also in good conscience, one may refuse a particular vaccine but continues to have a duty to protect others from infection.'

AND FINALLY Curious note in the diocesan Ordo for next Friday, Christmas Day: 'No Friday abstinence today'. Bet no one consulted the turkeys . . .