



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE



PARISH NEWSLETTER

ADVENT II (C)

Dec 5th 2021



Immaculate Mary!
Our hearts are on fire,
that title so wondrous
fills all our desire.

**We pray for our mother
the church upon earth,
and bless, sweetest lady,
the land of our birth.**

*Ave, ave, ave Maria!
Ave, ave, ave Maria!*

Prepare a way for the Lord!

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DATE**MASS****OTHER**

Sun 5th

ADVENT II

9.15 (BB) Mary Perry RIP (JB)

11am (HAD) Fallon & Farrell fams RIP (fam)

Mon 6th

St Nicholas

9.30 (HAD) Bernard Moran RIP (MS)

Tues 7th

St Ambrose

9.30 (HAD) Archy Armour RIP (D&KH)

Weds 8th

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**9.30 (BB)** David Bone RIP (SK)

Thurs 9th

St Juan Diego

9.30 (HAD) Bernard Moran RIP (D&KH)

2.30 (oratory) Reflection on the Readings

Fri 10th

Our Lady of Loreto**9.30 (HAD)** Joan Fleet RIP (PH)

Sat 11th

St Damasus

9.30 (HAD) Teresa Bolger RIP (D&KH)

10.30 Confessions / Monsignor Moore (confessional)**"Meeting Point" (oratory)**

Sun 12th

ADVENT SUNDAY III (Gaudete)

9.15 (BB) Liam Handley RIP (anon)

11am (HAD) V&G Cohen RIP (D&KH)

SECOND ADVENT (C)**Psalter wk 2****Introduction to the Readings** : We await with joyful hope that 'Day of the Lord' when his work in us will be complete.**First Reading**: Baruch 5 : God means to show your splendour to every nation.**Responsorial Psalm: WHAT MARVELS THE LORD WORKED FOR US!
INDEED WE WERE GLAD****Second Reading**: Philippians 1 : Be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.**Gospel** : Luke 3 : All mankind shall see the salvation of God.

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND and ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Please remember to support and pray for those listed as sick and housebound in our parish: Peter James, Pauline Anderson, Isabella Phillips, Monica Krommendijk, Joe Singleton, Una Wilkinson, David Healey, Josie & Peter Cowden, Denise Walsh, Nella Lewyckyj, Jacob Ibbotson, Evelyn Matthewman, Neil Appleton, Alice Canning, Sheila Gerrard.

Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time: Revv Con Dolan, Joe Murdock, Jim Coyne, Bernard George, Ray Mendel, Thomas Breslin, Charles Coleman, Gerry Collins; Jenny Cooney, Joan Cavanagh, Sheila Berry, Bob Durman, Edmund Ashton, Ronald Baines, Doreen Callon, Thomas Redmond : *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, may they rest in peace. Amen*

PARISH NOTES

THIS SUNDAY we celebrate the second Sunday in Advent, and listen to St John the Baptist exhorting us to prepare a path for the Lord.

NEXT SUNDAY is Gaudete Sunday; there will be a second collection for the Poor Parishes of our diocese.

SAINTS ALIVE Amongst the saints we honour this week : Santa Claus (St Nicholas), whose legendary generosity in secret gift-giving led to his association with the jolly figure who dominates Christmas eve.

ST CHARLES TOTE Recent winners: £30 : D Shepley & M Gee; £20 : A Marsden & M Revell.

BB TOTE £40 : Bob McKeown; £20 : S Cass. Thank you to all who support our parishes through the totes, and greater thanks to those who administer them.

SYNOD CONVERSATION The summary of the conversation held on 14th November is now published on the parish website and elsewhere. Paper copies (why are they called 'hard copy'?) are available at church or on the table.

The next stage of the 'conversation' is to consider a further two questions :

1. **How to reach out to people who are disaffected, lapsed or feeling excluded;**
2. **And how to make them feel welcome again in our parish family.**

If you have thoughts in this area, please use the Suggestion Box at the back of church, or let me have a sealed envelope with your ideas—even anonymously.

COFFEE AND CAKES AND COMPANY The next social gathering of the "Meeting Point" is planned for next Saturday from 10.15 in the oratory.

ADVENTUALITIES

- Thursday at 2.30 in the oratory, a time to reflect on the themes presented in the upcoming **Sunday readings**.
- **Advent Confessions** : next Saturday 11th and the following, Monsignor Moore has kindly agreed to come to the Confessional from 10.30 till 11.30 to hear Confessions and administer absolution in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

PUBLICATIONS APLENTY . You can still find the diocesan-sponsored Advent publication from Alive: 'Walk with Me'. Additionally you can find the **CAFOD 'World Gifts'** catalogue. Furthermore, **Missio calendars for 2022** are plentiful. All of these publications are free-of-charge.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS You'll find a basket at the back of church for donations that you may want to make towards floral decoration of our churches at Christmas. Our dedicated florists are keen to make our churches as beautiful as possible for the season of the Incarnation. Additionally you are asked to hunt out any unused cribs that can be used at home. If you have such cribs please bring them to the church and leave them clearly marked and we'll get them ready for sharing with crib-less households for the Christmas season.

A WANDERING MINSTREL for many years Bluegrass star parishioner Tom T has visited Cornerstone regularly musically to accompany their liturgies. Tom has decided to step back from this delightful support, and recently gave musical accompaniment for the last time. This was the occasion also to bid farewell to Sister Lucy who has been so such a powerful presence in that place of refuge. So well good and faithful servants.

CHRISTMAS TOTE DRAW. In a couple of weeks big prizes will be available to paid-up members. Make sure your subscriptions are up to date so that you can have chance to win big prizes.

DIVINE RENOVATION is the name of a parish-renewal system. I have been in recent conversation with its promoters. I hope that before long as parishes we can discover helpful ways of being more engaged with the life of Christ personally and in our parishes. Please take a look at its website and so be one step ahead in this hopeful development.

JOINT PARISHES CHRISTMAS DRAW 2021 Not very much fundraising has been able to happen for about 20 months other than the parish 'totes'. We need to boost our funds!

Raffle Tickets - books of five cost £5 and are available at both churches for you to take away - sell/share with family/neighbours. If you want to add to the stock of prizes, bring your gifts to church. Anyone isolating for whatever reason who would like some tickets - just say and it will be sorted.

All counterfoils need to be at church by a.m. Sunday 19th December. Thank you!

WEDNESDAY THIS WEEK we celebrate the patronal feast of the Immaculate Conception church. Please note that Mass is to be celebrated on Wednesday at 9:30 in honour of Our Lady, and praying for the parish welfare. Friday's weekday month will be at Saint Charles at 9:30.

CATHEDRAL VESPERS On Tuesday at St Barnabas cathedral in Nottingham at 6:30 pm there is Solemn sung Vespers on the vigil of the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the principle patron of the diocese. This is hosted by the cathedral chapter and the Bishop. All are invited and to the refreshments the follow. Additionally this occasion gives the platform for launching 'The Friends of the Cathedral' as a new society to help our beloved cathedral. I have plenty of information and if you want to join please let me know.

'MAGNIFICAT' We got news this week that December's Magnificat has been delayed by printing problems. Once again we'll wait and see whether this helpful publication comes our way, ideally before the new year.

THE WEDNESDAY GROUP met last week and had a delightful time preparing Christmas wreaths and decorations from natural materials. This occasion was very enjoyable and the members are truly grateful to Maureen Brierley for her cheerful guidance.

ST CHARLES SCHOOL invite you to share in festive events during the later part of Advent:

Mon 13th and Tues 14th at 2pm, and 6pm on Weds 15th : the school Nativity Play;

Thursday 16th from 3.15 – the school Christmas Fair (see poster)

Mon 20th : 2pm in church – the Annual Carol Concert

Tues 21st at 9.30 – school Mass in church.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR Once again the good folk of Immaculate Conception church want to help Cornerstone. Things needed are underwear (new but not designer), hats & gloves, scarves, toiletries, hygiene items, energy bars – and so on! Please join in by providing as many goods as you can.

ROMAN REFLECTIONS We were a group of 28 diocesan priests from England and Wales who travelled to Rome recently, at the invitation of the rector of the English College (seminary) in Rome. A total of 1352 years of ministry was being recalled and celebrated by Ruby, Golden and Diamond jubilarians. The challenges of COVID precautions meant that the preliminary paperwork was demanding, but ultimately accepted. We stayed at Palazzola, the summer villa of the English College, some 20 miles south of Rome. This delightful place overlooks Lake Albano, and is directly opposite Castel Gandolfo, where the Popes used to come to escape the summer heat of Rome. It's a remote, hilly and forested area: we were often distracted by other locals : herds of wild boars and families of wild feral cats. We were able to celebrate Mass each day, either at the villa or in Rome. We were fed sumptuously at the villa and also at the Beda College and at the English College. The hospitality was outstanding. The highlight for most was the Wednesday Papal audience in the 7000-seater audience hall of St Paul VI. This was the day of sunshine amidst the rainy and cold other days. As we were frisked and scanned again and again on approaching the audience hall, we noticed the massive Christmas tree being installed in the centre of St Peter's square (24th Nov!). The progress of the Holy Father from his residence to the hall was being displayed on massive TV screens in the hall, and when he entered, a tidal wave of excited humanity rushed to the barriers lining his route to the dais. He spoke wonderfully about St Joseph, and his care of the Holy Family, and now the church. Thrice the Pope asked us to pray for him, then gave us his blessing. Fr Bernard was amongst the six Diamond jubilarians on the front row. This elite group got the Papal handshake, and word of thanks and the gift of a rosary. I'll have to hang on for another ten years for that delight!