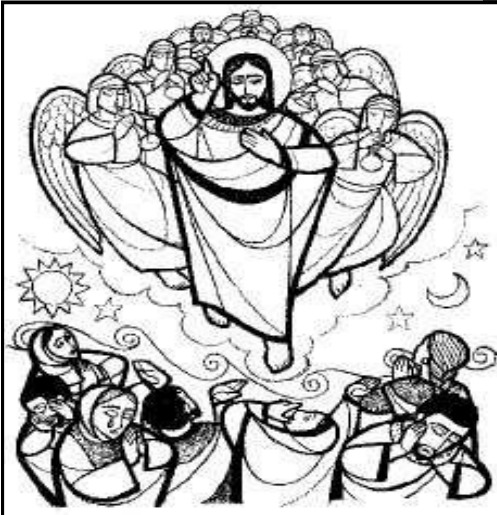




**CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE**

## **PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**ADVENT I (c)  
1 Dec 2024**



### **ADVENT**

*has a two-fold character: for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered; and likewise when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time.*

*For these two reasons, Advent is a period for devout and expectant delight.'*

*from "The General Instruction of the Roman Missal"*

# *Stay awake, praying at all times!*

### **Canon Don Bowdren**

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### **OUR SCHOOLS**

**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 : Mr J Kayes  
Tel : 853611/861022

<b>DATE</b>	<b>MASS</b>	<b>OTHER</b>
Sun 1st Dec	<b>Advent I</b> 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) Louis F Ghibaut RIP (MD) Baptism of Poppy Agatha	
Mon 2nd	<b>Advent feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) Noreen Thomson RIP	
Tues 3rd	<b>St Francis Xavier</b> 9.30 (HAD) for the parish	
Weds 4th	<b>Advent feria /St John Damscene</b> 9.30 (HAD) Pat McGlacken's welfare	
Thurs 5th	<b>Advent feria</b> 9.15 (HAD) Maura Finley's welfare	
Fri 6th	<b>Advent feria / St Nicholas (First Friday visits today DV)</b> 9.30 (BB) Geraldine & Tara's welfare	
Sat 7th	<b>St Ambrose</b> 9.30 (HAD) Margaret Walsh's welfare	
Sun 8th	<b>Advent II</b> 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) Dec'd of Kelly & Brierley fams RIP	

**FIRST ADVENT (C)**

Psalter Week 1

**Intro to the Readings** : Today we lift up our souls to Christ who comes to deliver us from fear.

**First Reading** : Jer 33: I will make a virtuous branch grow for David.

**Responsorial Psalm** : **TO YOU, O LORD, I LIFT UP MY SOUL**

**Second Reading** : 1 Thess 3 : May the Lord confirm your hearts in holiness when Christ comes.

**Gospel** : Lk 21 : Your liberation is near at hand.

**Comm ant:** **THE LORD WILL BESTOW HIS BOUNTY,  
AND OUR EARTH SHALL YIELD ITS INCREASE**

### **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, Joe Singleton, Joan Killeen, Winifred Cook, Rita Dwyer, Una Wilkinson, Christine Wild, Mike Lally, Jacob Ibbotson, Jean Ashton, Bro Philip Revell, Beatrice Eaton, Keith Winston.

**Please recall in prayer our deceased priests and parishioners whose**

**anniversaries occur about this time;** Revv Joe Murdock, Con Dolan, Ted Neary, Joe Degen; Jenny Cooney, Susan Mattimore, Sheila Berry : May they rest in peace, and let perpetual light shine on them : Amen

## **PARISH NOTES**

**THIS SUNDAY** a New Year in the life of the church begins today. We light the candles of our Advent wreaths to mark our increasingly Great Expectations ahead of the celebration of the birth of our redeemer. Happy New Year & Safe Journey to Bethlehem!

**The Sunday readings** are from Year C and feature the Gospel of St Luke.

**The weekday readings** are from cycle 1.

**THE GOSPEL READING** With this reading we begin the Year of Luke, for his gospel provides the readings for almost all the Sundays of the liturgical year which begins today. We begin at the end, for Luke sees the destruction of Jerusalem as the symbol and foretaste of final liberation at the coming of Christ. The Sack of Jerusalem by the Romans was certainly a decisive moment in the history of the Church, when the possibility vanished for ever of the Church remaining a branch of Judaism. In this sense it was a liberation for the gentile Churches for which Luke was writing his gospel. It is also a symbol of the final liberation from the toils of evil in which humanity is embroiled, and so of the final triumph of Christ.

**THE NEW TRANSLATION OF THE LECTIONARY** comes into use from this Sunday. Renewed thanks to those who contributed to the cost of these volumes.

**SECOND COLLECTION** Next weekend there will be a second collection for the 'Poor Parishes Fund'.

**SAINTS ALIVE St Ralph Sherwin (1550-1581)** was born at Rodsley, Derbyshire and was educated at Eton College. He was a talented classical scholar. He graduated in 1574, being then accounted "an acute philosopher and an excellent Grecian and Hebrician." The following year he became a Catholic and fled abroad to the English College at Douai, where he was ordained a priest in 1577. He left to go to the English College in Rome, where he studied for about three years. In April 1580, Sherwin and thirteen companions (including Edmund Campion and Robert Persons) left Rome for England. They lodged with St Charles Borromeo in Milan en route. He treasured their company. A few months later he was arrested while preaching in a private house in London and imprisoned in the Marshalsea prison, where he converted many fellow prisoners. After a month he was removed to the Tower of London, where he was twice tortured on the rack and then laid out in the snow. He is said to have been offered a bishopric by Queen Elizabeth if he would abandon his Catholicism but refused. After spending a year in prison he was finally brought to trial with Edmund Campion and others on a charge of treasonable conspiracy. He denied this with the comment: "The plain reason of our standing here is religion, not treason." He was convicted in Westminster Hall on 20 November 1581. Eleven days later he was taken to Tyburn on a hurdle along with Alexander Briant, where he was hanged, drawn and quartered. His last words were Jesu, Jesu, Jesu, esto mihi Jesus! He was the first member of the English College in Rome to be martyred. **St Francis Xavier (1506 - 1552)** was born in the Basque country of Spain. He met Ignatius Loyola when he was a student in Paris, and he was ordained priest in 1537. In 1541 the Pope sent him as part of a mission to India, and he spent the rest of his life in the East,

preaching the Gospel in Goa and Malacca. He made many converts and fought against the exploitation of the native population by the Europeans. He spent two years on a successful mission to Japan, laying the foundations of many Christian communities; and in 1552, after entering China secretly to preach the Gospel there, he died of fever and exhaustion on the Chinese island of Shangchwan. **St Nicholas** was bishop of Myra, in Lycia (now part of Turkey) and died about the middle of the fourth century. He has been venerated throughout the Church, especially since the 10th century. Because of his help to the poor he is the patron saint of pawnbrokers, whose insignia of three golden balls represent the three purses of gold he is said to have given secretly to a poor man who could not afford dowries for his three daughters. His charitable generosity brought about his association with Santa Claus. **St Ambrose of Milan (340? - 397)** In 374 the bishopric of Milan fell vacant and when Ambrose tried to pacify the conflict between the Catholics and Arians over the appointment of a new bishop, the people turned on him and demanded that he become the bishop himself. He was a layman and not yet baptized (at this time it was common for baptism to be delayed and for people to remain for years as catechumens), but that was no defence. Coerced by the people and by the emperor, he was baptized, ordained, and installed as bishop within a week, on 7 December 374. He died on Holy Saturday, 4 April 397.

**JOINT PARISHES GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW** tickets are still available to share with family and friends. Please support this essential fundraiser. Donations of prizes and 'small, special, luxury long life food items towards luxury hampers' will be welcome. The draw will take place on Sun 15th December 2024. Your representatives are Carole Wardle (HAD) and Sue Hickinson (BB).

**WELCOME TO THE PARISH FAMILY** Poppy Agatha baptised at St Charles this weekend.

**MAY SHE REST IN PEACE** We note the recent death of **Glynis Christina Bailey (74)(Denton)**. This lady was a dedicated parishioner at Immaculate Conception some years back. Her funeral rites are indicated for Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec at noon at BB. May God grant her eternal repose.

**WREATHED IN BLESSINGS** I'm invited to both St Margaret's and St Charles' schools on Monday & Wednesday for the traditional blessing of Advent wreaths. May the light of Christ shine in the hearts of staff and pupils. Huge thanks to those who lovingly prepared our parish & schools Advent wreaths.

**FIRST FRIDAY VISITS** I hope to make these customary visits on the sixth. Please advise if you know of someone who might welcome such a visit.

**SEASONAL FAYRE NEXT Fri 6th Dec**, St Charles school, 3.30pm. Helpers are welcome.

There is a particular need for cakes on the parish stalls. Please bring them to church ASAP.

**THE WEDNESDAY GROUP** meets in the oratory this week on 4th December. A quiz has been prepared. Pencils at the ready!

**THE CAFOD CHRISTMAS GIFT** catalogue is also available from the back of church.

**MISSIO RED BOXES** Maureen B, our Missio coordinator writes "I have just completed the Missio Annual Return for the amount banked from just the Red Boxes this year and the combined amount for both parishes is £767.00. This does not include direct payment donations or any extra that gift aid would add. Please thank all who support Missio through the Red Box or directly as their generosity helps spread the God News of Jesus and supports many communities in need throughout the world."

**PACT - THE CATHOLIC PRISONS CHARITY** - are urgently needing gifts for prisoners' children in the diocese this Christmas. Is there someone in the parish who would be a point of contact to help organise? To find out how you can help contact Julia Corcoran at [parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk](mailto:parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk)

**ADVENT CONFESSIONS** Monsignor Moore has kindly agreed to come to the oratory at St Charles on Saturdays 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> December from 10.30 to hear confessions and offer absolution ahead of the Christmas season.

**THE NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS** service is planned for Thurs 19th Dec at Immaculate Conception church at 7.30. Rehearsals are held on Mondays 9th & 16th Dec from 7.30pm at church. Huge thanks to John Miles for undertaking this enterprise once again this year

**RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles** : J Walsh (£40); P Pover (£20).

**STANDING ORDERS:** Immaculate Conception : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c "St Margaret's church/collection (or tote)" 00510567. St Charles : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c "Charles church/collection (or tote)" 00269177.

**THE PASSING OF THE BILL.** We heard on Friday afternoon that the House of Commons had voted in favour of the assisted suicide bill. As I was digesting this ill news I chanced to read the short scripture reading for afternoon prayer. It reads "Death was not God's doing. He takes no pleasure in the extinction of the living. To be - this was the purpose of God's creation." Wisdom ch. 1