



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

**ADVENT III (c) (Gaudete)
15th Dec 2024**



**Gaudete, gaudete
Christus est natus
Ex Maria virginæ,
gaudete.**

**Rejoice, rejoice
Christ is born
Of the Virgin Mary
Rejoice!**

(Pie Cantiones 1592)

I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap

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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

DATE	MASS	OTHER
Sun 15th	Advent III (Gaudete) 9.15 (BB) Susan Bann's welfare (<i>Cass fam</i>) 11am (HAD) for the parish	
Mon 16th	Advent feria 9.30 (HAD) Holy Souls	
Tues 17th	Advent feria 9.30 (HAD) Dead list 2.15 (HAD) school carol concert in church	
Weds 18th	Advent feria 2pm (HAD) (<i>end-of-term school Mass in church</i>) C Bernard RIP (fam)	
Thurs 19th	Advent feria 9.30 (HAD) K Laidlaw RIP (fam) 7.30 (BB) <i>Nine Lessons & Carols</i>	
Fri 20th	Advent feria 9.30 (BB) Fr TJ Keogh's welfare (D&JW)	
Sat 21st	Advent feria / St Peter Canisius 9.30 (HAD) Holy Souls <i>Mgr Moore : oratory Confessions from 10.30</i>	
Sun 22nd	Advent IV 9.15 (BB) E, B & K Laidlaw (fam) 11am (HAD) M&G Ginnis ints <i>3pm HAD regional Reconciliation service</i>	

Advent III (C)

Psalter wk 3

Introduction to the Readings : Today we sing and shout for joy with Christ, the Lord of the Dance who brings us the good news.

First Reading: Zephaniah 3 : The Lord will dance with shouts of joy as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm: Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4 : The Lord is very near.

Gospel : Luke 3 : What must we do?

Comm ant: **SAY TO THE FAINT OF HEART, DO NOT FEAR:
BEHOLD OUR GOD WILL COME, AND HE WILL SAVE US**

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, Maura Farrell, 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 Martin Finneran, Paddy Balfe; Sheila Goodwin, Frederick Jones, Christine Bernard, Kevin Laidlaw, John Burkinshaw, James Burns, Bernard Farnsworth: May they rest in peace, and let perpetual light shine on them : Amen

PARISH NOTES

THIS SUNDAY "Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Saviour means for us. The Third Sunday of Advent is known as **Gaudete Sunday**. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice." Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

THE GOSPEL In this second of the two Sunday gospels about John the Baptist we first hear details about how to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Luke is always aware of the dangers of wealth and money, so he concentrates on avoiding its misuse. First he teaches equal sharing with the needy, no hoarding but generosity. Then he turns to financial exploitation; tax-collectors had to pay for the right to collect taxes, and would be tempted to extort a nice margin to cover their own needs. In the same way soldiers could be tempted to abuse their power of intimidation by bullying those they were meant to protect. The second half of John's task is to point away from himself towards Jesus, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Luke's gospel and the Acts of the Apostles are full of the Holy Spirit. Luke must have been vividly aware of the working of the Spirit in the Church, in its ministers of all kinds and in the life of the Christian communities. He warns also of the fierce fire which will purge away impurities; for John the Messiah is a stern figure who will burn away the rubbish in human hearts to make room for the Spirit.

SAINTS ALIVE St. Peter Canisius (1521-1597), who was born at Nijmegen, Holland, at the very time that Luther began to rebel against the Church and St. Ignatius Loyola was laying the foundations of the Jesuit Order. After studying the arts, civil law and theology, St. Peter joined the Jesuit Order and was ordained a priest in 1546. He is noted especially for the following services to the Church: he defended the Catholic faith against the Reformers; by preaching, writing, founding colleges and seminaries, he caused Catholic life to flourish; he rendered invaluable services to the ecumenical Council of Trent; he wrote many catechisms which were translated into twelve languages in his own life time. He died in Fribourg, Switzerland..

INTER-PARISH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE this raffle is drawn this Sunday after Mass at St Charles. I hope you have bought your tickets to take part in this major fund-raising enterprise, and to have the chance to win splendid prizes once again.

MISSIO CALENDARS for 2025 are free of charge and are liberally available from the back of the church. Many of them are individually labelled for parishioners.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 The year 2024 is designated the year of prayer ahead of next year's

Jubilee Year of Hope. Jubilee is an extraordinary event in the life of the universal church. We will hear much more about it as we draw to the end of the year. Pope Francis will push open the Holy Door at Peter's basilica on Christmas Eve, officially to open that year of Jubilee, ending in January 2026. Bishop Patrick will designate the holy door of St Barnabas cathedral in Nottingham on the 29th of December. A prayer has been prepared for use throughout the church during the jubilee year, copies of this prayer are now published and freely available from the back of church. Please take one home for your own use, or to pass on to a friend or family. Above all please try to remember to pray the prayer daily during the jubilee year. More details of the jubilee are found lavishly on the Internet and we will do our best to highlight the main events as they occur.

WELCOME INTO THE FAMILY OF THE CHURCH Georgia-Rose Reason baptised at Immaculate Conception church this weekend.

USED STAMPS Used stamps are being collected in supported Reuben's Retreat, a local charity. Doubtless many people are receiving Christmas messages by post these days. Please remember to keep those used stamps to church.

NEXT FRIDAY I hope to make pre-Christmas visits to the sick & housebound.

PREPARE HIS WAY This Sunday and this week our trees will be decorated and doubtless our churches too. All are welcome to give a hand to begin this celebration after Sunday Mass.

TIME TO MEET THE MONSIGNOR next Saturday 21st at 10:30 Mgr Moore is planning to come to St Charles oratory to hear confessions for the second time, and absolve.

THE BIG ONES The Christmas tote special draws happen next Sunday. The prizes is on offer for this special event are generous and eagerly-awaited. But you have to be in it to win it make sure your tote payments are up to date please.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS I hope that you will be generous in supporting request for cash to buy flowers to decorate our churches at Christmastide.

DECEMBER 17 marks the beginning of the pre-Christmas Octave with the **O Antiphons**, recited or sung before each day's Gospel reading, and repeated as the Magnificat antiphon at Vespers. The seven jewels of our liturgy, dating back to the fourth century, one for each day until Christmas Eve. These antiphons address Christ with seven magnificent Messianic titles, based on the Old Testament prophecies and types of Christ. The Church in these following Golden Nights travels through the centuries recalling the longing for the Redeemer. The series begins with **O Wisdom (O Sapientia)**. Huge thanks to the caring hands that have "bannered" St Charles with the O Antiphon hangings.

BEST THANKS to the *younger classes at St Charles who put on a wonderfully-engaging Nativity Play; *to the organisers of Friday's parish pre-Christmas dinner at the Waggon & Horses - a most fulfilling event! *To the St Charles parishioners who made Joe Hopkins welcome as they looked into future plans for the parish; *and to those who came to analyse to suggestions from the recent parish questionnaire. May God guide our faith-filled footsteps!

THE NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS service is planned for Thurs 19th Dec at Immaculate Conception church at 7.30. The second rehearsal is held this Monday 16th, 7.30pm at church.

NEXT SUNDAY (22nd) there will be at 3pm a regional reconciliation service at St Charles. A number of confessors will be available for Confessions.

RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles : D Clough (£40); Fr Don (£20).

THE WINTER SOLSTICE occurs next Sat 21st Dec 2023 at 9.20am - the rebirth of the sun's light as it begins again its northwards transit from the tropic of Capricorn to the midsummer tropic of Cancer. The contiguity of this event with the imminent celebration of the birth of the Son of God, the light of the world is more than a coincidence. Our Christian ancestors determined the timing of the season of the Lord's Nativity very exactly! Grace building on nature.

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.

