



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE



PARISH NEWSLETTER

**ADVENT IV (c)
22nd Dec 2024**



22 December: O Rex

*“O King
whom all the people’s desire,
you are the cornerstone
which makes all one.
O come and save man,
whom you made from clay.”*

Blessed art thou amongst women!

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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 22nd	Advent IV 9.15 (BB) E, B & K Laidlaw (fam) 11am (HAD) Paul & Christine Ginnis RIP <i>3pm HAD regional Reconciliation service</i>	
Mon 23rd	Advent feria / St John of Kenty 9.30 (HAD) Christine Johnson's birthday blessings (JAH) <i>Noon (BB) funeral of Glynys Bailey RIP</i>	
Tues 24th	Advent feria 9.30 (HAD) for the parish	
CHRISTMASTIDE		
	<i>Christmas eve 6pm (HAD) Joan & Danny Killeen's welfare (VG)</i>	
Weds 25th	(Christmas Day) 9.15 (BB) S Bann's welfare (fam) 11am (HAD) parish priest's intention	
Thurs 26th	St Stephen (Boxing Day) 9.30 (HAD) M Robinson (fam)	
Fri 27th	ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST & APOSTLE 9.30 (BB) C Broadbent welfare (D&JW)	
Sat 28th	THE HOLY INNOCENTS 9.30 (HAD) Holy Souls	
Sun 29th	THE HOLY FAMILY 9.15 (BB) Federico Pasqua RIP (fam) 11am (HAD) for the parish	



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 David Ryan, Con Moynihan, Les Lemon, Eric Grasar; *John Walsh, Adrian McHugh, Eileen Berry, Ellen Sharkey, Patricia Porter, Margaret Asher, Carl Evans, James Pollitt, Bridget Pyke* : May they rest in peace, and let perpetual light shine on them : Amen

PARISH NOTES

THIS SUNDAY is the fourth and last Sunday in the season of Advent. It is the season within the pre-Christmas octave. Mary and her cousin Elizabeth come into focus as we light the fourth Advent-wreath candle, and listen again to Mary's canticle the Magnificat.

On this Sunday we are asked to pray especially for expectant mothers everywhere.

THE GOSPEL Luke's account of the birth and infancy of Jesus is built on the comparison and contrast of the two stories of John the Baptist and Jesus: the annunciation to the parents, the birth of each, the joy on earth and in heaven, the circumcision, the growth of the child. In each incident John is shown to be great, but Jesus greater still. Only in this incident do the two families meet, the two stories cross. The two mothers meet each other to marvel at the destiny of their children. The journey from Nazareth to even the nearest of the towns in the hill country of Judah (traditionally Elizabeth's home is located at Ain Karim, now on the outskirts of Jerusalem) would have been arduous, a week's walk for a fit young woman. This special exertion and generosity shows her love and care for her elderly relative, as well as the natural excitement of the two in sharing their motherhood. Luke has already told us that Mary was filled with the Holy Spirit. Now Elizabeth too is filled with the Holy Spirit as they share and exchange the praise of God for the gift of their child.

MAY HE REST IN PEACE We heard this week of the death on **Peter Fish (94)**, late of Hollingworth. He died in Leicester where he stayed latterly with his daughter. God grant him eternal rest.

SAINTS ALIVE **St Stephen** is the first martyr. He was one of the deacons appointed by the Apostles to organize the distribution of food to the poor. He performed many miracles and confounded the Jews in disputation. They fabricated false charges against him. At his trial he preached the risen Christ to them, so they stoned him to death. He prayed for his persecutors as he was dying. One of them, Saul of Tarsus, who was looking after the cloaks of the stone-throwers, was later converted and became the great missionary St Paul. James and **John**, the sons of Zebedee, were nicknamed by Jesus "the sons of thunder." John is involved in many of the central events of Jesus' life, including the Transfiguration, the Crucifixion, and the discovery of the Resurrection. He is "the disciple whom Jesus loved" and the one to whom he confided the care of his mother Mary. He is mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles; later he was exiled to the island of Patmos. He is said to have died at Ephesus. He wrote a Gospel, three Epistles, and the Apocalypse. **The Holy Innocents** are the children who were slaughtered at the orders of King Herod, in the hope that by killing every boy born in Bethlehem at the same time as Jesus, he would succeed in killing the new-born King of the Jews.

INTER-PARISH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE this raffle was drawn last Sunday after Mass at St Charles. The list of prize-winners is displayed at the back of church. A few prizes remain to be collected.

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.

THE BIG ONE The St Charles Christmas tote special draws happen This Sunday.

RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles : J Pasiiecznik (£40); (£20).

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS huge thanks to John Miles and the choir members who practised over a couple of weeks for the celebration which took place last Thursday night at Immaculate Conception church. There was a good congregation present to join in this wonderful scene-setting service of song and readings. Additionally a huge feast of festive food and drink was on the tables at the back for people to enjoy after the event. Best thanks to those who organised and supported this event, which for so many betokens the immediate preparations for Christmas.

BUSY TIMES these days before Christmas are busy for sacristans, florists, church cleaners and those who prepare cribs and the festive features which bring so much joy to so many hearts in our churches. They bring joy not only to worshippers, but also glory to God in the elaboration of the decoration and preparation. This preparation often means working in cold churches when everybody else is warm at home. Our best thanks to all those loving hands who gave of their talent and time to God's and our delight.

NATURAL, OR MAYBE SUPERNATURAL DELIGHTS travelling back to the rectory on Thursday night after the service at Immaculate Conception church invited a surprising spectacle of huge delight. The gibbous moon which was rising over Bleaklow was utterly spectacular. It seemed to have a divine aura surrounding it. And the tapestry of stars added to this mystic moment. Another delight in nature day by day is the early call of the robins around the rectory. They seemed to delight to sing in the darkness in anticipation of the dawning day. I wonder if they know what joy they bring on these dark mornings.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS at both Masses in our churches on Christmas Day the church collection is to the benefit of your priest in the Christmas offering. My thanks to you for this kindness and so many others that have come my way in anticipation of the festive season.

HOSPICE COLLECTION the Bishop recently asked us to have a second collection to support the hospices throughout the diocese. I told him I told him of our local Hospice at Willow Wood. I explained that I have ministered in that place on many an occasion, and many of our parishioners have found comfort in being cared for in that setting. He gladly agreed that we should send our contribution to the support of that hospice, albeit in the Diocese of Salford.

NEW BOUNDARIES? Much kerfuffle over discussions about the High Peak area being incorporated into Tameside and therefore Greater Manchester. I hope that news of these proposals don't reach Bishop's house. Of course we honour and respect our fellow Catholics in adjacent dioceses of Salford and Shrewsbury. The incorporation of our Deanery parishes into a new dioceses would be a mighty event, which not everyone would appreciate.

SPARE ROSARIES I've had a request from a Catholic charity for the provision of spare rosaries to be sent to faraway places. If you have a rosary or indeed a few rosaries which you aren't using and want them to go to holy hands elsewhere, bring them to church and I'll send them off.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE this regional event is being conducted at St Charles church this Sunday afternoon at 3pm and confessors will be available from priests around the area. You are welcome to come and be part of that service and indeed the celebration of the sacrament of confession.

Additionally, my thanks and yours go to Mgr Moore who on these last two Saturday mornings as welcomed to penitents, heard their confessions and given absolution in the oratory. Thank you, Mgr Jonathan.

GO TELL IT ON THE WINDOW you will find posters inviting 'keeping Christ in Christmas' at the back of the church. Please take one and display it for passersby to know that you honour the true Lord of Christmas and encourage others to discover the Manger.

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS Begins with the first Mass of Christmas on Christmas Eve. Many will remember when midnight Mass was a familiar celebration. I'm sorry that it's not part of my timetable. But I'm sure you understand 'the years, the years'. But when does Christmas die end? Certainly not on Boxing Day when I have been asked 'did you have a nice Christmas father?', and scowl an answer! The immediate celebration of the Lord's birth last for an octave which brings us up of course to New Year's Day. But the season of Christmastide continues, certainly till 12th night at Epiphany on Jan 6th. But many folk continue to celebrate Christmas way beyond and indeed for 40 days up to February 2nd, the celebration of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple. Please don't be in a hurry to take your decorations, cards or Christmas posters down. Try to give people the message this joyful season is more than a few days.

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.