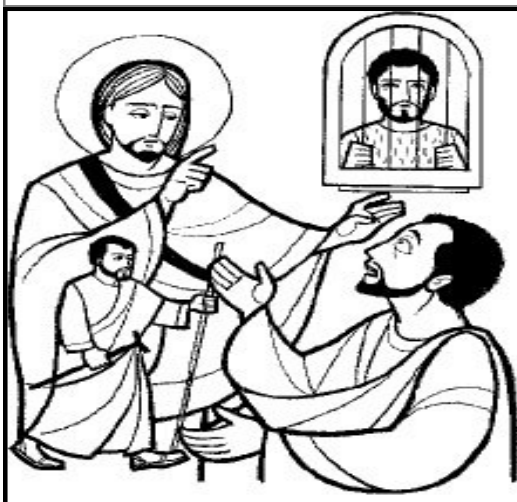




**CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE**

## **PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT (a)**  
**14th Dec 2025**



*"Rejoice in the Lord always  
Again I say 'Rejoice!'"*

# *Be patient till the Lord's coming*

**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

DATE	MASS	OTHER
Sun 14th	<b>ADVENT III    Gaudete Sunday</b> 9.15 (BB) Eileen Spurr RIP (AC) 11am (HAD) for the parish	
Mon 15th	<b>Advent feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) Mary Stott RIP	<i>Carols rehearsal, BB 7.30</i>
Tues 16th	<b>Advent feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) Chris Wild RIP (MG)	<i>2pm HAD school carol concert in church</i>
Weds 17th	<b>Advent feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) (school Mass in church) D & C Holtom RIP (anniv) D&KH	<i>parish Christmas meal, 12.20, Windy Harbour</i>
Thurs 18th	<b>Advent feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) C Bernard RIP (anniv) fam	<i>12.45pm BB funeral service, K Pledger RIP</i>
Fri 19th	<b>Advent feria</b> 9.30 (BB) Kevin Laidlaw RIP (fam)	<i>Cenotaph, Hadfield 4.30 Carols</i>
Sat 20th	<b>Advent feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) Kathleen Hall RIP (KF)	<i>2pm HAD wedding, Starkey/Wilson</i>
Sun 21st	<b>ADVENT IV</b> 9.15 (BB) V Campbell RIP (D&CN) 11am (HAD) B Farnsworth RIP (fam)	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SECOND ADVENT (A)</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Psalter Week 2</b></p> <p><b>Introduction:</b> Baptism is our pact of unity with Christ our Lord.</p> <p><b>First Reading :</b> Is 11 : The Spirit`s gifts are named for the coming redeemer.</p> <p><b>Resp.Ps.</b> IN HIS DAYS JUSTICE SHALL FLOURISH &amp; PEACE TILL THE MOON FAILS.</p> <p><b>Second Reading :</b> Rom 15 : Christ is the saviour of all mankind.</p> <p><b>Gospel :</b> Mt 3 : Repent, for the Kingdom of God is close at hand!</p> <p><b>Comm. Ant.</b> SAY TO THE FAINT OF HEART: BE STRONG AND DO NOT FEAR. BEHOLD, OUR GOD WILL COME, AND HE WILL SAVE US.</p>		

## **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, Arthur King, Maura Farrell, Joan Killeen, Rita Dwyer, Mike Lally, Jacob Ibbotson, Diane Wilson, Gordon Handley, Jean Ashton, Keith Winston.

**And our deceased clergy & parishioners whose anniversaries occur about**

**this time;** Revv Martin Finneran; Mary McKeown, Eva Whittam, Sheila Goodwin, Fred Jones, Christine Bernard, Kevin Laidlaw, John Burkinshaw :

**May they rest in peace, and let perpetual light shine on them : Amen**

## **PARISH NOTES**

**THIS SUNDAY** Today is known as **Gaudete Sunday**. The term *Gaudete* refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice." The celebrants have an option to wear rose-coloured vestments to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose-coloured candle on our Advent wreath. "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 great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The oft-repeated *Veni* ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament.

**THE GOSPEL** John the Baptist was expecting a Messiah of judgement, who would cut down the rotten tree and burn the useless chaff. When, in prison, he hears that Jesus is not doing this, he is puzzled and sends messengers to ask if Jesus is really the Messiah. Jesus sends back the message that he is fulfilling the prophet Isaiah – the passage which we heard in the first reading. Jesus' concept of the task of the Messiah was healing, not punishment. He goes and seeks out those who need healing, both physical and moral. He does not wait for sinners to repent before gathering them in; he makes the first advance. Then he turns to praising the Baptist. It is a fascinating speculation whether Jesus was himself once a disciple of John the Baptist. After all, John says he did not recognise Jesus until he saw the Spirit coming down on him. He also says that Jesus, who came after him, has passed before him. This is a typical position of a rabbi, leading his disciples, and suggests that John had been Jesus' rabbi, then became his disciple. Jesus was fully man, and even he needed to learn as all human beings do.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER CONTRIBUTION** There is a voluntary collection after Mass this Sunday for Christmas Flowers .

**CARDINAL ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN** memorial cards are available free of charge from the back of church. There are a gift from Bishop Patrick to all parishioners.

**RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles:** 1st (£40) S Tetlow; 2nd (£20) R Cranston.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

- **TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2pm** in St Charles church: school carol concert
- **WEDNESDAY 17th DECEMBER 12.30** at Windy Harbour : Annual parish Christmas dinner.
- **FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER AT 4:30PM. THE HADFIELD & PADFIELD CHURCHES** are holding a Carol Concert at the Hadfield Cenotaph. Carols outside followed inside with tasty goodies, craft stall and a visit from Santa. Everyone Welcome. We just need one more volunteer for Steward duties so If you would like to help please contact Rob Cranston.
- **SATURDAY 20TH DECEMBER, morning :** decoration of church and trees. 2pm, wedding at St Charles.

- **SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER** : 3pm at St Charles, Advent Penitential Service with additional confessors on hand.
- **MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER 7.30 PM** John Miles has agreed to present the annual service of nine lessons and carols at Immaculate Conception church. Rehearsal is scheduled for Monday 15th December.

**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 "St Charles church/collection (or tote)" 00269177.

**A PERFECT STOCKING-FILLER** A kind friend has made available - free of charge - a large number of rosary beads. These are found at the back of church. Please feel free to take, and add to your gift-giving.

**TIME AND TIDE** On Tuesday evening 16th December, we leave behind Advent part 1, and journey into the pre-Christmas Octave. This octave, full of expectant readings full of yearning anticipation, runs through to Christmas Day. Part of the liturgy each day, both in the antiphon before the Gospel, and repeated at the recitation of the Magnificat at vespers each evening, we rediscover the Great O Antiphons. The O Antiphons are seven ancient, powerful chants used in the Catholic and Anglican traditions during the last seven days of Advent. Each antiphon begins with "O," addressing Jesus with a different Messianic title from Isaiah (like Wisdom, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Emmanuel), building anticipation for His coming and connecting His birth with His Second Coming, with the first letters of their Latin names spelling "Ero Cras" ('Tomorrow, I will come').

Our thanks to the talented parishioners who 'spell out' the antiphons with the delightful banners hanging from the pillars at St Charles.

#### **CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE**

- \* **Wednesday 24th** : 5.30pm at St Charles : Carols and verses, followed by
- \* 6pm : First Mass of Christmas, with Children's nativity procession during the Gospel;
- \* **Thursday 25th** : Christmas Day : 9.15 Mass at Immaculate Conception, then 11am Mass at St Charles Hadfield.
- \* **Friday 26th : St Stephen's (or Boxing) Day** : Mass at **noon** at Immaculate Conception.

#### **SIGNS OF THE TIMES**

A 'Gaudete' when opening the church doors in the darkest morning moments to be serenaded in pitch dark by more than a few robins—oblivious of the dark or the awaited dawn, they are a chorus of joy made more joyful by its unexpectedness and sweet delight - 'a light to enlighten the world' of darkness.

Another joyful discovery - albeit in the cemetery - of the emergence of tiny snowdrop shoots above the ground, portending springtime days. I want to say - 'go back to sleep! Snow may fall!'

**SAFEGUARDING** If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact Karen our joint-parishes PSR. Email: Karen.ProctorPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk; / phone 07513 725411.

**AND FINALLY** a prayer taken from the Advent meditation preached for Pope Leo and Vatican staff:

'O God, who sent your Son in our flesh to gather all peoples into your kingdom, grant us a vigilant spirit, so that, walking in your ways of peace, we may go forth to meet the Lord when he comes in glory.

He is God, and lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.'

