

BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

Chapel Fold, Hoghton, PR5 0DE

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Third Sunday of Advent

15th December 2024

(Sunday cycle year C, weekday cycle year 1, psalter week 3)



Lord, we pray for your Church. As we keep today this Gaudete Sunday, and hear once again the command to rejoice, so we pray that all Christians will be filled with joy and hope as we await with eager hearts the coming of your Son. Amen

THIS WEEK

Sat 14 th	10.30am	Monica Chatburn	St John of the Cross (memorial)
	6.00pm	John & May Elliott (Snr)	Third Sunday of Advent
Sun 15 th	9.30am	For the Parish	
Mon 16 th	No Mass today		Monday of Advent 3
Tue 17 th	9.30am	Deceased of the Jamieson family	Tuesday of Advent 3
Wed 18 th	9.30am	James and Agnes Elliott	Wednesday of Advent 3
Thu 19 th	9.30am	Margaret Mary Cowsley	Thursday of Advent 3
Fri 20 th	11.00am	Requiem Mass: Gwladys Bullen	Friday of Advent 3
Sat 21 st	10.30am	Barbara Phelan	Saturday of Advent 3
	6.00pm	For the Parish	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sun 22 nd	9.30am	John and Margaret Thompson	

First Saturday of the month: Confessions at 10.00am, Anointing of the sick during 10.30am Mass

This week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 14 th		M Russell		P Fawcett		P Hothersall	
Sun 15 th		K Slater		J Kitchen		C Snape	
Bidding prayers	J & K Slater	Children's Liturgy	L Worswick, C Curwen		Collection counters	B Kellett & M Russell	
Next week		Reader		Eucharistic Minister		Bookshop	
Sat 21 st		C Williamson		G Hopkinson		L Lomax	
Sun 22 nd		C Snape		J Slater		B Gore	
Bidding prayers	C Snape	Children's Liturgy	F Fordyce, G Fowler		Collection counters	J & K Slater	

Last weekend: attendance: 121, collection: £366.77 – thank you!

Readings: Zephaniah 3:14-18, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

The entrance antiphon is taken from our second reading where St Paul exhorts the Philippians to rejoice at all times.

Rendered in the Latin, *Rejoice* becomes *Gaudete* hence today being *Gaudete Sunday*.

Rejoice Sunday but in what?

A 16th century hymn of praise (which we might hear later) opens with *Gaudete*, offering a reason: because Christ is born of the Virgin Mary, which it then goes on to expand upon and our readings today further enlighten us, as we would expect.

For, as St Paul says, it is because *the Lord is at hand*.

For the prophet Zephaniah, it is because *the Lord has taken away the judgements against you; he has cleared away your enemies*, but most importantly, because *the Lord, the King of Israel, is in your midst and you shall never again fear evil*.

In his divinity, the Lord to whom Zephaniah refers was already in their midst and always had been; for he is *God from God, light from Light, true God from True God*. The One *begotten not made ... and through whom all things were made ...* as together we will proclaim in the Nicene creed.

It is he who came down from heaven and, by the Holy Spirit, was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and was made man.

He is the one toward whom St John the Baptist refers in our Gospel, who will eventually come with winnowing fan, to winnow out those who wish to be gathered to himself.

But, before that, he comes among us as Jesus: *The One Who Saves* and *Emmanuel: God with us, God amidst us, God among us*.

There are many things we, his people, need saving from.

Perhaps they can be summed up in the word *fear*: the fear of what is to come in the world, in our lives and of course, the fear of death or at least, the manner by which it will inevitably visit each one of us.

But the prophet Zephaniah was already onto that many years before as we have heard *Fear not, O Sion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save... He will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing and he will gather those who mourn...*

So, on this Gaudete Sunday of rejoicing, let us join in with our Lord's song of praise – that he, born of the Virgin Mary, is very much alive and in our midst, and who is the only being in both heaven and earth who can turn our fear, especially of death, to joy, as we continue to look forward to the celebrations of his birth among us and the new life he offers to all who put their faith and trust in him.

Reflections

Be merry, really merry. The life of a true Christian should be perpetual jubilee, a prelude to the festivals of eternity. (St Theophane Vernard)

We must go out to Pure Life, Pure Truth, Pure Love, for that is the definition of God. He is the ultimate goal of life – from him we came and in him alone do we find peace. (Ven. Fulton Sheen)

With Prayers,

Fr Raphael.

MASS ON FRIDAY is at **11.00am** – Requiem Mass for Gwladys Bullen.

CHRISTMAS POSTERS are available at the back of church.

Last Sunday an idea was shared about how the people of St Joseph's could help the most vulnerable in society. The idea was to donate items to the **FOXTON CENTRE** in Preston to help with homeless and roofless people. The Foxton Centre is a charity that operates out of Avenham in Preston and has a day centre in Fox Street that supports homeless and roofless people by providing food, access to health services, mental health services, showers and washing facilities, housing advice, as well as providing clothes, toiletries, sleeping bags etc. **There will be a 'Foxton Box' at the back of church** for any donations of items such as hats, scarves, toiletries or sleeping bags. They will be taken down to the centre on a regular basis. It will make a real difference to peoples' lives and, given that the average age of people without a home or roof is 43 years, you may even begin to help change that.

A MESSAGE FROM CAFOD: 'Thanks to everyone at St Joseph's for their prayers and donation of £498. Your parish's gift will help more people like Daniel, who worked hard on a CAFOD-funded carpentry course to build a better future for himself and his community. Daniel says: "This training has helped me a lot. I can also help other young people who do not have jobs. I can help my brothers and those who are not related to me". Thanks to your parish's generosity and prayers, people around the world who face injustices of poverty, conflict, and climate change will get the support they need to learn new skills, fulfil their God-given potential and flourish'.

CHRISTMAS MASSES: The first Mass of Christmas will be on Christmas Eve at 6.00pm preceded by carols and 5.30pm and there will be Mass on Christmas morning at 9.30am.

FEEDBACK TO THE PARISH FROM THE TRANSFER GROUP – there is a new section on the Parish website called "Handover Communications" which contains the names of Transfer Group members and the information from last week's bulletin. This section will be updated with new information when we have it.

Thank you for **LAST WEEKEND'S FOODBANK COLLECTION** and for your generosity throughout the year. Early in the new year we'll organise a rota for 2025. Special thanks to those who deliver the collections.

Our Health and Safety Advisors have told us that the **HOT WATER BOILERS** in the kitchen and sacristy should be left on to reduce the risk of legionella bacteria developing.

The Parish **SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME** for Reconciliation and the Eucharist will begin after Christmas. If you have or know of someone who is in Year 4 but does not attend St Joseph's Primary School who would like to join us, please contact Fr Raphael or Frances Fordyce - 07813123855.

ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION This Sunday 15th December at 3.00pm at St Gregory's, Weld Bank.

IN THE LIVING ROOM: THE WIND BLOWS STRONGER CHRISTMAS TOUR. The now legendary 'In the Living Room' Christmas gig, **this Saturday** 14th December at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Bring your own tippie but there will be mince pies and other fripperies. Only £5 – all proceeds to UNICEF and The Foxton Centre.

The **BOOKSHOP** will be open every weekend until Christmas.

PLEASE PRAY for Ray Jackson and Gwladys Bullen who have died, for those who are sick or housebound including Fr Laurence Mayne and Bill Warbrick as well as for those who have died and whose anniversaries occur about this time.

100 CLUB: The winner for week 3 is number 30, Sue Schofield. The new year for the club has started so subs are now due. You can pay for the full year (£50) or in blocks of 10 weeks (£10, 5 times over the year). Payment can be by cash, cheque (payable to Brindle Books) or, if you prefer, by bank transfer – see Lesley or Mick for the account details. New members are always welcome – again, please see Lesley or Mick or leave your name and contact details in the bookshop with your subs.

BRINDLE ST JOSEPH'S PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY – limited places available. Open 8.30am-3.30pm. 15 & 30 hour government funding for 3 & 4 year olds accepted. All local primary schools served. Contact: 07956242409 or email nursery@st-josephs-hoghton.lancs.sch.uk.

DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE we are asked to pray for Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.

Have you got any **NEW OR NEARLY-NEW TOYS** that you can spare for families less fortunate than yourselves? The Irenaeus Centre in Liverpool are looking for some. If you have any, please contact Jenny: 0151 949 1199 or jenny@irenaeus.co.uk. Thank you.

Bidding Prayers for the 3rd Sunday of Advent, 14th/15th December 2024

Priest: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ let us turn to the Father with our prayers and petitions.

Reader: Dear God, as we faithfully await the birth of your son Jesus, let us be glad and rejoice in our families, our schools and in our lives. Help us to share the joy of Christ's love with others. Lord in your mercy...hear our prayer

Father, give rest to the souls of those who have gone from our lives to meet with you. May they now, released from pain or sorrow, find eternal rest. Lord in your mercy...

As we prepare for Christmas, help us to grow in faith and love. Encourage us not to be greedy for material possessions but to share what we have with the needy. Lord in your mercy...

For the Church: Let us pray for the Pope, for our Bishops and Priests and for all who follow Christ in our community as they too prepare for the Lord's coming. Lord in your mercy...

In this season of Advent, inspire us to pray for peace in the world; that Christ's gift of peace may settle in the hearts of all people and guide us away from wars, injustices and violence. Not just for ourselves but for the migrants and refugees who come to us fleeing persecution and looking for welcome. Lord in your mercy...

Now let us unite our prayers with the prayers of Our Lady as we say: Hail Mary...

And let us make our private petitions to God in a moment of silence.

Priest: Heavenly Father give us grace and courage to spread your joy on this Gaudete Sunday, Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Priest: As we thank God for the gift of his Son in Holy Communion, let us remember those of our Parish who are sick or housebound.

All: May the body and blood of your Son, which we now send to them through our Eucharistic Ministers, bring them consolation and peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.