



St John Southworth's RC Parish

at Christ Church, Carr Road, BB9 7JS
and St John Southworth Church, Vaughan St
Nelson

Parish House: 5 Park Drive,
Nelson, BB9 0JY

Parish Priest: Rev Gerard Kelly

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1st Sunday of Advent



28th November, 2021



Click the box to make a secure
online donation to the parish!

[St John Southworth's Facebook Page](#)

Click link for live-streamed and recorded Masses.

NIGHT FEVER

FRIDAY 3rd DECEMBER, 6.00—8.00pm

The Night Fever event is a Deanery initiative that we have been asked to host at Christ Church. It is an evening of prayer, reconciliation and outreach. The prayer element is the prayer of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the monstrance. The reconciliation element will be fulfilled by the offering of the sacrament of Confession by the priests who will be attending. The outreach aspect of the evening will be expressed by those who go out into the streets to invite people to come into the church to light a candle and to maybe say a prayer for any particular need or for peace in the world. All this takes place within the context of a candle-lit church in which prayerful music will be playing in the background. The format of the evening is not so much a formal service but provides an opportunity for people to drop in for five or ten minutes, or to stay for a longer time.

We already have a few apostles—those who are willing to literally step out and to take the risk of doing something a little different! But when we meet the saints in heaven who risked their lives to take the Gospel to Africa, South America, and China, we will not want to admit that stepping outside the door of the church was just too scary for us... and apart from that it was too cold! So if you feel this is something you might be able to do, then please let me know. Instructions will be given on the night and we will go out in two's (like Jesus said that we should!). The more apostles we have, the shorter time we will have to spend outside, maybe doing 30 minutes each.

Please do try to come along. Our contribution to the prayer life of the Church is ultimately far more crucial than any other contribution that we might make. In prayer we receive the power to live the Christian life, and to keep the Church alive.

With every blessing for a week fruitful in every way! Fr Gerard.



Are you doing something different for Advent?
C.A.F.O.D soup lunch after the 12.00noon Friday
Masses in Advent.

BISHOP'S LETTER: Please see pages three and
four of this newsletter.

Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Anointing of the Sick.

On the final Saturday of each month, I am offering the opportunity to receive either or both of two sacraments which provide remedies for our spiritual and physical ailments. These are the sacrament of Reconciliation and the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

This Saturday, 27th Nov from 11.00am—12 noon.

Mass schedule for week beginning Monday 29th November, 2021

Monday 29th November	Tuesday 30th November	Wednesday 1st December	Thursday 2nd December	Friday 3rd December	Saturday 4th December	Sunday 5th December
For times of Masses at Sacred Heart, Colne, click here.						Holy Saviour's 11.15am
CC 10.00am	CC 10.00am	CC 10.00am	CC 10.00am Exposition until 12.00	CC 12.00 noon followed by Soup Lunch	No Mass	CC 9.30am

Date	Reader 1	Reader 2
This week: 28th November	Leroy Philbrook	Carol Hartley
Next week: 5th December	Zachariah	Jeremiah

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: This weekend, 28th November

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve: 5.00pm (Children's Mass)
7.30pm
Christmas Day: 9.30am

Rev Rick Ormrod, the new Methodist Superintendent who has overall responsibility for the 16 Methodist Churches in Burnley and Pendle will be sharing some words with us at the Catholic Mass on 19th December. Let's give him as warm a welcome as I received when I led the Methodist Service at Christ Church a couple of weeks ago.

Becoming a Catholic

In Advent, we will begin a formal process of introduction to the life of the Church, and instruction in the ways of Faith.

If you know of anyone who might be interested, then do invite them to think about taking up this invitation, and let me know.

POUND DRAW WINNERS

£10.00 Tyrone McLaughin
£10.00 Sarah Southworth
£10.00 Angela Starkie



£66 .00 towards Parish Funds, thank you!

CHRISTMAS POUND DRAW

We are invited to put entries into the special Christmas Pound Draw with £100 being first prize and other prizes of £50, £25 and £15. The box will be near the usual Weekly Pound Draw box at the back of church.

The special Draw will take place after Mass on the 19th December in the cafe area - a good reason to stop for a cup of tea! Once again, thanks for your support, and for making this year's Pound Draw a resounding success. Good Luck! Regards - Jack, Wilf, and Ian (The Last of the Summer Wine gang!)

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Nov 29th, Robert Halstead
Dec 1st, John Craig Haworth
Rev Clive Birch SM
Dec 2nd, Myles Wm Darcy
Leon Richard Emery
Dec 3rd, Harvey Maden Burnett
Dec 5th, Nellie Sharkey



May the memory of the lives of those who have gone before us, inspire us to be a people of faith and prayer; may they rest in peace, AMEN.

Mass Intentions

Joseph Pemberton, anniv, Nov 28th
McGuinness, Marsden & Thornley Families, anniv.

CHURCH COLLECTION

21st November: £161.50
Standing Orders: approx. £335 p/w.

Michael Hargreaves will be returning to Christ Church on **Saturday 11th Dec.** from 10.00am till 12.00 noon to continue working with our readers.



DIOCESE OF SALFORD

Pastoral Letter of the Right Reverend John Arnold Bishop of Salford

To be read and distributed on the weekend of 27th – 28th November

First Sunday of Advent 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ

As we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent and begin a new liturgical year, I would like to write to you about two matters, with a comment on another concern.

During the summer, there was a letter from all the bishops of England and Wales which spoke of the First Sunday of Advent as the time when it was to be hoped that we would all feel confident in returning to Sunday Mass. Given the recent history and unpredictability of the Covid pandemic, and the fact that we are still experiencing high rates of infection in some areas, it is understandable that some people, particularly those with underlying medical conditions, may still feel that they should be cautious. This is to be accepted without question. It is important that we look forward to the time when we can, with confidence, meet together for our celebration of our Faith and to receive the Eucharist as our spiritual food for our journey and mission. So, if you feel that you cannot attend Mass for the time being, please do not consider yourself in any way excluded or at fault. We look forward to welcoming you back when you judge the time is right.

The Bishops of England and Wales have written to us all again on this subject and it is available on the diocesan website. It highlights our privilege and the gift of participating together in the Eucharist.

The second matter concerns the Universal Synod which was launched by Pope Francis on 10th October and which was initiated here, and in all dioceses, on 17th October, entitled '*For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission*'. It is important that we understand its purpose and meaning. A Synod is not a debating event where people bring their arguments and opinions in order to win a discussion. A Synod is a prayerful journey of listening to what the Holy Spirit may be saying to the Church at this time so that we may live the Gospel values and continue the mission of Christ in our own times, with the present needs and opportunities. We are all invited by Pope Francis to take part. Indeed the very word Synod means on a journey TOGETHER. It is important that in our Diocese we listen to each other, we listen to the voices of those not in the church pews, and together we listen to the Word of God which has been handed down to us.

In our Diocese this can be the first step in a longer and deeper listening journey to help us shape the Diocese for the future, building on the work of *Hope in the Future* and other positive initiatives. In this journey it is important that we hear from people who have drifted from the Church and feel that the Church does not offer them the assistance that they need or is not fulfilling its mission as they understand it. We will need to listen to those on the margins of the Church or of society and those who feel excluded from either. It will be important to hear, also, from people of other traditions about how they perceive the Church.

The Universal Synod offers ten questions which will be published to us all. I wish to encourage you, either individually or in a group, to submit a response via the online form on the Diocesan website, using the paper form, or via email. Details of how to respond are on the website and in your parish newsletter. A summary of the responses will be made available to the whole Diocese. We must all pray that the whole Church may be a listening Church and that we invite the Holy Spirit to speak to us, so as to guide us on our journey. Responses need to be submitted to our Diocesan Synodal Office by 1st March 2022. After national and continental gatherings, the Synod of Bishops will gather in Rome in 2023 to reflect on what has been heard from our brothers and sisters all around the world.

Finally, although some welcome and necessary decisions were made concerning the environment at the COP26 meeting, there is still a great deal of work to be done and further urgent decisions needing to be made. Let us be generous in our prayer for all those engaged in healing the damage of climate change and for all our sisters and brothers who are already suffering in so many different ways because of our plundering of our world's resources.

We have challenging times ahead, so let us continue to pray "Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey"

With my blessing and prayers for our family in the Diocese of Salford.



+John Arnold

Bishop of Salford



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