



St John Southworth's RC Parish

at Holy Saviour's Church, Vulcan St, BB9 8HE
and Christ Church, Carr Road, BB9 7JS

Nelson

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

Parish Priest: Rev Gerard Kelly

Tel: 01282 614859

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1st Sunday in Advent

Pray for Ukraine



27th November 2022



Click on the moneybox to make a
secure online donation to the parish!

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

Click link for live-streamed and recorded Masses.

Dear Parishioners & Friends,

The Advent Season tests the human spirit! Can we remain in that place of quietly waiting and watching without falling asleep? Can we hold on to a sense of expectancy in our hearts without losing hope and turning to distractions? Do we have the patience to hold on to God's promises without trying to grasp at lesser prizes? Can we remain focused and committed in our desire to meet the Lord without falling into a complacency which has no place in the spiritual life? Do we have the faith and courage to strip away the clutter from our lives in order to find the true desire of our hearts?

Unfortunately, the answer to all of these questions is a resounding, "No!" Beset, as we are, by our clumsy humanity, we are unable to maintain our spiritual fervour until God himself awakens our spirits, clears our minds, and purifies our hearts. Fortunately, however, this is exactly what the Lord wants to do in us and for us! When we acknowledge that our lives are like "a dry, weary land without water" (Psalm 63), and when we admit that, buried under the business and stresses of life, we discover an empty restlessness, we are in the Advent frame of mind—we are desperate for the coming of our Saviour!

Advent invites us to throw off a life that will lead only to regrets and missed opportunities. We are presented afresh with the possibility of living in union with God as a member of God's family in the Church. The Church is, after all, the Body of Christ, and to neglect the Church is to neglect Christ. We who have heard the Gospel will not be able to claim ignorance of what life was all about, so it's time to wake up afresh to what we have received, and to wake up to the responsibilities that faith brings to us.

May the Lord fill us with his Advent blessings,

Fr Gerard

CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME!

This weekend, we welcome Emma Sutcliffe and Zoe-Lea Fawcett who are to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. Emma will be received and confirmed, and receive her first Holy Communion at Christ Church during the 9.30am Mass; and Zoe will be baptised and confirmed and receive her first Holy Communion at the 11.15am Mass at Holy Saviour's. New members are the most precious fruit on the vine of the Church, and we are deeply grateful to the Lord for these signs of new life amongst us.

In Advent, we are all called to step out afresh into our Christian lives, and to renew our commitment to our Catholic faith. As Emma and Zoe make such a bold step, can we support them by making a positive change in how we live and practice our faith?



Mass schedule for week beginning Monday 28th November, 2022

Monday 28th Nov	Tuesday 29th Nov	Wednesday 30th Nov	Thursday 1st Dec	Friday 2nd Dec	Saturday 3rd Dec	Sunday 4th Dec
NO MASS	MASS CC 10.00am	MASS HS: 7.00pm	CC 10.00am Mass Exposition until 12.00	MASS CC 12 noon	NO MASS	CC: 9.30am HS: 11.15am

Date	Reader 1	Reader 2
This week: 27th November	Gerard King	Maggie King
Next week: 4th December	Jeremiah Javed	Zechariah Javed

Children's Liturgy: Christ Church - Siobhan & Margaret M Holy Saviour's - Monica, Annika & Catherine M

[Bishop John's
Pastoral Letter for Advent](#) (click)

MASS INTENTIONS

Desmond McGhee, died recently
Joseph Pemberton, anniv, 28th Nov
Mary Winkley, RIP
Jill Bamber, RIP
Holy Souls

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Nov 28th Hilda Dunn (2012)
Nov 29th Robert Halstead (1983)
Dec 1st John Craig Howarth (1994)
Rev Clive Birch SM (2020)
Dec 2nd Myles Wm D'Arcy (1939)
Leon Richard Emery (2015)
Dec 3rd Harvey Maden Burnett (2001)



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

We continue to remember in our prayers, Mark Almond, who has been admitted into Pendleside Hospice. May he and all his family experience the consoling presence of Jesus at this time.

CHURCH COLLECTION

20th November: £280.00
Standing Orders: approx.: £635 p/w.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL DRAW

The draw will take place on:
Sunday 18th December
1st PRIZE **£100**,
Second **£75**, Third **£50** and Fourth **£25**
Envelopes and box at back of church



C.A.F.O.D. Advent Soup-Lunch
for four Fridays after
12.00 noon Mass.

ADVENT EVENING OF PRAYER & REFLECTION

Thursday 8th December, 7.00pm at Christ Church

Sr Nuala Doherty, from Rochdale, belongs to the Franciscan Missionaries of St Joseph. She was a member of Sion Community before becoming a religious sister, and has worked in Ecuador this last fourteen years. We are delighted that she is finding time to be with us for an evening, whilst on leave, before returning to the mission.

HEAVEN SENT

Following on from a very enjoyable concert in October, the gospel duo, **Heaven Sent** will be at Christ church on Friday, 16th December, 2.00pm, performing a mix of 60's and Christmas songs. Entry £5.00 payable at the door. The concert will be followed by tea/ coffee and mince pies.

POUND DRAW WINNERS

£10.00 Monica McArdle
£10.00 Helen Keating
£10.00 Janet Starkie
£10.00 David Hustler
£71.00 towards Parish funds, thank you!



Community Lunch

This week, Tuesday (29th Nov) and every other Tuesday at Christ Church, 12.00noon, £4.00. Food and friendship! Just come along, no need to book.

DIOCESE OF SALFORD



Pastoral Letter of the Right Reverend John Arnold Bishop of Salford

To be read and distributed on the weekend of 26th – 27th November, First Sunday of Advent 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We come to the beginning of a New Year in the life of the Church. We need to acknowledge the continuing changes and challenges within our nation and internationally. So many people face conflict and the impact of climate change and, even in our own communities, there is increasing poverty and stress. This new year invites us to consider how we may best express the Gospel values and meet the demands of those most important commandments of the Law, as declared by Jesus Himself: “You must love the Lord Your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and your neighbour as yourself”. The lived reality will be different for each one of us in the personal circumstances of our lives. I wish to consider two initiatives in which, I believe, the Holy Spirit is calling us to participate.

I wrote to you exactly a year ago asking for your active engagement with the Universal Synod called by Pope Francis, an invitation to all Catholics to reflect on the way the Holy Spirit was asking us to move forward as Church in these next generations. I would like to thank all those who joined in this prayerful journey of discernment. Over 1500 individuals in this Diocese took part, with group submissions received from families, schools, organisations and parishes. Not all of these were Catholics who attend church regularly.

The responses were carefully read and distilled into themes and a report, which is available to read on the Diocesan website, was sent to the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales. Together with reports from the other Dioceses in England and Wales this contributed to a National Synthesis. Bishops from across the world will meet in October 2023 and October 2024 to discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Universal Church, through the People of God.

Building on the good work of the Universal Synod, and our own project Hope in the Future, I believe it is right to continue that “synodal” process here in our own Diocese, by holding our own Diocesan Synod. Pope Francis is clear that this way of walking together and listening to each other ‘is what God expects of the Church in the third millennium’.

(continued)

A Diocesan Synod is an important and solemn event in the life of a Diocese in which Bishop, priests and lay-people come together in a spirit of prayer to discern together what God is asking of His Church in our Diocese and will help us to live out our calling to be Missionary Disciples and Ambassadors for Christ, accompanying each other on the journey of life. It is a journey by which we, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, can together set the future direction and priorities of the life and mission of our Diocese.

It is hoped that the Diocesan Synod will be officially opened at the Chrism Mass in 2023. It is important that we, individually and together, listen to God speaking through the scriptures, through the living tradition of the Church, as well as in our lives and the lives of others, particularly those on the margins of Church and society. My prayer for each of us is that we would allow ourselves to be truly open to the presence of the Spirit and His promptings and recognize the crucial part we each play in the Church's Mission.

More details about the process will follow in the New Year but in the meantime let us all pray for the success of the Diocesan Synod and that each of us prayerfully consider how we can contribute. This may be as a parish or deanery Synod member, by speaking to family and friends about their experience of the Church or by attending a group discernment session.

A simple prayer that we might use could be:

“Stay with us, Lord, on our Journey. Help us to listen to each other and to what you are saying to us, so that we may prayerfully discern the way that you wish us to go, and fulfil all that you are asking of us”.

The second initiative involves a very simply change in our way of living. You may have heard of a recent study from the University of Cambridge that estimates that about a quarter of Catholics in the United Kingdom observe abstinence from meat on Fridays, as a penitential act and remembrance on the day of Christ's suffering and death. This is a tradition that has been promoted, as a spiritual exercise since the 9th Century. But the Cambridge study suggests that this “spiritual and penitential” gesture actually prevents 55,000 tonnes of carbon being emitted into the atmosphere every year, equivalent to 82,000 people taking a return flight from London to New York. So, such a “spiritual” gesture suddenly has an important practical impact on our carbon emissions, and the environment. What if all Catholics were to observe a meat-free Friday? What if Catholics around the world were to adopt this simple, and not demanding, practice? The impact on our environment would be considerable. We are all asked to make changes like this to assist in healing the damage being done to the environment. We cannot leave changes to politicians and industry. As Pope Francis says, “each and every one of us has a part to play”. Maybe abstaining from meat on Fridays is an important way we can put our faith into practical action.

As Christians, we look forward in hope, asking that we may all be channels of God's love, in the difficult times we face in today's world.

May our daily prayer always include that invitation to Jesus Himself; “Stay with us, Lord, on our journey”

Yours devotedly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John', with a small cross symbol above the first letter.

Bishop of Salford