

**THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH
WORSHIPPING AT
SACRED HEART CHURCH.**

**25 QUEEN STREET, COLNE.
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Saturday 9th 6.00pm. Vigil Mass
Sunday 10th 9.30am. Second Sunday of Advent

Tuesday 12th 10.00am Mass. **OL of Guadalupe**

Wednesday 13th 10.00am Mass. St Lucy V M

Thursday 14th 5.45pm Exposition and Benediction

6.30pm Mass

St John of the Cross. P D

Friday 15th 10.00am Mass.

12 noon Requiem Mass for Jean Horsfall

Saturday 16th 11.00am - 11.30am. Confessions during Exposition

Saturday 16th 6.00pm. Vigil Mass
Sunday 17th 9.30am. Third Sunday of Advent

Key:	Ap.	Apostle
	Ab	Abbott
	Bp	Bishop
	D	Doctor
	M	Martyr
	P	Priest
	R	Religious
	V	Virgin

Well done to everyone who supported our parish mission in any way.

Thank you, of course, to Fr. Elias and Fr. Peter who brought us expressions and experiences of our Faith which were perhaps different from what we are used to, but which, according to the many of you who have given us 'feedback', was 'uplifting', 'encouraging', 'touched the spot' or 'refreshing'.

A massive thank you to the parishioners of St. John Southworth parish along with Fr. Gerard, who took part in such numbers and who supplied the musical support for all the services. A sincere thank you also to parishioners and people who came from other towns and parishes.

There was no impression, to me, of 'home team' and 'visitors'. Everyone was equally present and part of what was going on. May the Lord sincerely bless us and water the seeds that were sown. Fr. Peter (Colne)

Carol Services invitations.

You are invited to the Salford Diocesan Schools Singing Programme Carol Service in St. Mary's Burnley on Tuesday 12th December at 6.30pm. Free admission.

You are also invited to the Burnley and Pendle District Scout Carol Concert in Sacred Heart Church, here, on Wednesday 13th December at 6.00pm. Free admission and refreshments in the hall afterwards.

The SVP is collecting new toys for needy children in Pendle. The collection closes on Sunday December 17th. Please take a decoration from the tree at the back and put any presents in the box at the back of the Church. There is no need to wrap them - we'll take care of all of that.

We have been given six fabulous soft toys by a parishioner to raffle to raise money for the SVP. Tickets will be on sale after all the Masses.

Thanks for your continued support.

Thread of Hope theatre performance

You are invited to a new and original theatre performance devised from the wisdom and experiences of those in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction.

Date: Thursday 14th December 7-9pm (Refreshments from 6.30pm, performance starting at 7pm).

Venue: St. John's Methodist Church, Albert Road, Colne BB8 0RY

Suitable for 16yrs +

There is no charge for the performance, but please do let us know if you are attending by

Decorating the Church for Christmas

This is an invitation for everyone to be part of preparing your Church for Christmas. There are several ways you can do this:-

- Come along at **10.00 am on Saturday, 23rd** and decorate a window bottom to your own design. (please ring Margaret Ward, 862798 if you are able to do this)
- Or use provided decorations and greenery to decorate any window bottoms etc.
- Or Help with any 'heavy' lifting.
- **Alternatively help with a small amount of final preparations after 9.30 Mass on Sunday 24th**

We also need medium or large poinsettias as part of the decorations we plan. If you could donate one of these, you can bring them along to church anytime from Sunday, 17th. of December

Thank you.

Mass times: 23rd, 24th, 25th December

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Saturday 23rd, Vigil Mass 6.00pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Sunday 24th. Morning Mass 9.30am

Christmas Masses:

Family Mass: Sunday 24th, 6.00pm Christmas Eve

Christmas Day: Monday 25th 10.00am Christmas Day.

The Baskets are back!

As from the Third Sunday of Advent, (Saturday Vigil 16th December) we will once again be using the collection baskets during the Offertory at the Vigil Mass and Sunday Mass.

The Offertory ought to be an action in the Mass where we can symbolically show that we are offering something of our own or ourselves to God. It is also a time where we can make a concrete contribution to the wellbeing of the Church and all of its activities.

Many people give very generously by Standing Order or via the card machine. We rely heavily on these regular donations. We do not expect those people to contribute to the basket in addition to what they already give! But for everyone else, we are aware that the basket is easily missed and we would hate anyone to feel that they had not been given the opportunity to contribute to the parish.

Church cleaning

This will be on Tuesday 12th of December after Mass at about 10.30 am. This will be a grand pre Christmas clean. Please come and



I am delighted to reproduce here Father Gerard's letter to his parishioners from his newsletter this week. He expresses what I would like to say much more eloquently and clearly than I would be able to do, what I would like to say.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The Parish Mission at Sacred Heart church, which concluded with a final Mission Service on Friday

evening, was for me an unexpected grace. It would seem to be the very nature of grace, that it is

always unexpected; when we are looking for one thing, we find something else which is more valuable

than what we were first looking for!

The Mission which was a great opportunity for the people of Sacred Heart parish in Colne, became an

unplanned and unexpected blessing to all our parishioners living in Nelson, Brierfield, Fence, and to folk

who came along from even further afield. We thank Fr Peter and the parishioners of Sacred Heart

parish for extending their welcome to us! It was truly a delightful spiritual experience which served to

nurture our Advent preparation for Christmas.

We prayed for healing for ourselves in every aspect of our lives; we were presented with opportunities

to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation; we prayed for those who have died; we reflected on the

great gift of prayer which opens us to the power of God, and finally, on Friday evening, we renewed our

devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus.

We thank the two Redemptorist priests—Fr Peter and Fr Elias—who preached with passion, and who

presented their message in creative liturgies which helped us to really enter into the times of prayer

and reflection.

But, what was for me an unexpected grace was how comfortable we all felt ourselves to be as we

gathered together from the wider area of Pendle. If you would care to listen to the debate to which

there is a link at the bottom of this page, you will hear about how the Holy Spirit is at work in new ways

in the Church, and it would seem to be clear that parish life as we have experienced it over this last fifty

years is changing. Just as our natural families tend to be more dispersed than in times past, we are now

experiencing a widening of our spiritual family beyond the geographical boundaries which once very

much defined a parish.

Last week's Parish Mission was a shared experience, creating a shared memory, and this, after all, is

what the life of the Church is all about: a shared experience and a shared memory which takes us all the

way back to the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and that first experience of the power of the