



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

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3rd Sunday of Advent



17th December 2023



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 and Friends,

The message of Advent is, "be prepared!" The people of the Old Testament were given clues and signposts for many centuries as God prepared them for his own arrival into our world. John the Baptist was the final messenger who steps out from the Old Testament to declare a new beginning in God's plan of salvation. John knows that he is only a signpost, and that his role is to point out the only person who has the authority to demand the obedience of a human heart. **Who else, but Jesus, can make such a demand?**

We now have not only the whole story of the Old Testament to reflect back on, but we have two thousand years of Christian history to help us to make up our minds as to who Jesus is, and to ask ourselves what is he wanting of us! **If we are not waiting for Jesus, then who are we waiting for?**

Our own hearts are filled with clues as to what, deep down, we really desire. We long for freedom and peace, for security and joy. Our hearts dream of a better world which is free from corruption, injustice and oppression. And Jesus promises that it is only in him that the longings of our hearts can be fulfilled. **Who else, but Jesus, might make such promises?**

The time of Advent is a "make your mind up time!" The world wants to celebrate the Christian promises of love and peace, but without making the necessary step of faith which opens our hearts so that God's promises may be fulfilled in our lives. **Who else, but Jesus, can personally challenge us to make such a step of faith?**

John the Baptist acknowledged that he was not the light! He was only a witness to speak for the light. In the same way, if the world was filled with good-meaning, well-intentioned, and even religious people, then there would still be no light! There might be signposts and clues as to where to find the light, but it is only in Jesus that our hearts can be illuminated! **Who else, but Jesus, can claim to be the Light of the world?**

May we 'be prepared' as we await the arrival of the One who comes to save us!
Fr Gerard

Last week, I tried to include a link to a recording of a discussion which took place online last week which was entitled, '**Thriving or Closing**'. The discussion brought together several parties including the C.E.O. of the Catholic Truth Society (CTS); the Bishop of Northampton, David Oakley; and a priest from Canada, Fr James Mallon, who makes a highly significant contribution to the debates about parish life. I would recommend that you listen to the views and opinions expressed in this discussion because any realistic and informed discussions which will take place as to the future of the Church in Nelson and Colne will have to be set in context with what is happening in the wider Church in the UK and beyond. Hopefully, the corrected link below will now work!

[You can access the recording of the debate on this link](#)

Mass schedule for week beginning Monday 18th December

Monday 18th Dec	Tuesday 19th Dec	Wednesday 20th Dec	Thursday 21st Dec	Friday 22nd Dec	Saturday 23rd Dec	Sunday 24th Dec
NO MASS	MASS C.C. 10.00am	MASS H.S. 7.00pm	MASS & Exposition 10.00am C.C.	MASS C.C. 10.00am	Confessions C.C. 11.00— 12 noon	C.C. 9.30am H.S. 11.15am

Children's Church: C.C. - Mary M & Margaret B H.S. - Lisa S, Rose, Joanne T

Date	Reader 1	Reader 2
This Week: 17th Dec	Joan Penny-Heys	Amanda Duckett
Next Week: 24th Dec	Margaret Needham	Roger Lee

CHRISTMAS MASSES

24th December, Christmas Eve (Sunday) morning:
C.C. 9.30am, H.S. 11.15am

24th December, Christmas Eve (Sunday) evening:
H.S. 5.00pm (Family Mass)
C.C. 8.00pm

25th December, Christmas morning:
C.C. 9.30am, H.S. 11.15am

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Dec 17th Annie Arnold (2015)
Dec 21st Mary O'Donnell (1992)
Jim Eccles (2002)
Dec 23rd Jean Garaghty (1991)
Dec 24th Charlie Horner (2001)



We pray for the repose of the souls of all who have died, that the Lord will receive them into the fullness of his resurrection life!

MASS INTENTIONS

Colin Hardacre, RIP
Edward Kelly, anniv, 23rd Dec
Christmas Memorial:
Charlotte Jones & family;
Sean Martin & family; Jerry Smrt, Elaine Cartmell.

Tommy Quirke; James & Mary Kate McCarthy;
James and Elizabeth McCarthy; James and Mary Frazer.

Fred Bate, Jeffrey Bate, Dean family.

John Fox, Mary Fox, Hugh Fox

Christmas Intentions:
Andrew & Marie Cave, Maria Cunningham, Francis & Stephanie Cave, Mary Fox.

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL POUND DRAW

1st Prize £100 Roger Veevers
2nd Prize £75 Keaver McLaughlin
3rd Prize £50 Shelagh Lebbon
4th Prize £25 Christine Marshall



ADVENT C.A.F.O.D. SOUP



Thanks to all who came to support this most worthwhile event again this year. A special thanks to the kitchen team who surpassed themselves with excellent soups. Lovely to see so many of our school children attending each week as well.

Amounts raised by the Draw and CAFOD soup lunches will be published next week. Again, thank you to all for your generosity

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 16th Dec (tomorrow) 11.00 –12.00 at Christ Church.

Wed, before and after Mass at Holy Saviour's

Thursday, 21st Dec, after 10.00am, Christ Church.

Saturday, 23rd Dec, 11.00 –12.00 at Christ Church.

Christmas Family Mass 5.00pm at Holy Saviour's

Rehearsal for children who would like to be involved at 11.00am on Saturday 23rd in Holy Saviour's church.

CHURCH COLLECTION

10th December: £352.00
Standing Orders: approx: £632 p/w

Warm Space

Wednesday 20th December at Christ Church
12:30pm – 3pm. Hot drinks, soup and bread .