

**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT YEAR A**

**27 November 2022**

Advent opens with a great promise: 'In the days to come' 'the hope of a people who need God. '...The master is coming' is also a promise, not a threat to breed fear, but to answer our cry. So, Advent begins, not with thoughts of the past, with the coming of the Lord we celebrate at Christmas, but with the future, and the promise that He is coming back. We are encouraged to stay awake and treat every day as the day the Lord will come; we do not do this out of fear for a Master who beats his servants, but out of love of a Master who always treats us with mercy. Nevertheless, we must always be watchful, because we can grow sleepy and complacent, saying that we can leave this prayer or that confession or the other change in the way we live to tomorrow. Even as we look forward to the tomorrow of the Lord's coming, we must remember that it might be today!

**PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS**

**PARISH OF DIVINE MERCY PRAYER**

Lord Jesus Christ, help us never to abandon your ways. As you have loved and shown us your mercy, may we sincerely express our love for God by loving our neighbour and being merciful to them. Jesus, King of Divine Mercy, we trust in you.

**2. READINGS**

**First: Isaiah 2: 1-5** - Isaiah's vision about Jerusalem: the mountain of the Lord's temple will tower above other mountains - people will go to it and be taught God's ways ... they will hammer their swords into ploughshares ... and live in the eternal peace of God's kingdom.

**Psalms 121:** I rejoiced when I heard them say "let us go to God's house" / It is there that the tribes go up / For the peace of Jerusalem pray / For the love of my bretheren and friends

**Second: Romans 13: 11-14** - wake up, our salvation is near ... live in the light.

**Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44** - Stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming.

**3. PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP JOHN:** A Pastoral Letter from Bishop John for the First Sunday in Advent will be read at all Masses this weekend. Copies of the letter are available at the back of both churches.

**4. HOPE IN THE FUTURE – ADVENT REFLECTION:** Advent is a time of waiting for the wonderful feast of Christmas when we celebrate the birth of Jesus - God coming to earth as man to show us love and mercy and bring salvation to all. We also await and prepare for God's second coming when, 'He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.'

Pope Francis reminds us that Advent is 'the season for remembering the closeness of God'. It is a time to renew our commitment to our faith, to listen to and be attentive to the Word of God so we can grow in love.

As we light the first candle on our advent wreath, we focus on Hope, a reminder that God offers hope to those who are lost. This candle is also known as the Prophecy Candle, as the prophets of the Old Testament gave the message of mercy and salvation to all mankind.

In the world today, many of our neighbours are in need, homeless, oppressed and living in hope to find joy and peace. It is a timely occasion, therefore, to focus on hope. Our mission, as followers of Christ, is to know, love and serve God.

During Advent, let us remember the true meaning of Christmas and reflect on ways we can help to bring hope and joy to others. Let us find ways to put Love in Action through selflessness, kindness and generosity.

*God our Father, we pray that you will continue to light the candle of hope in our hearts each day.*

*Stay with us, Lord, on our journey.*

**5. HOPE IN THE FUTURE – SHARING THE HOPE:** A

key focus of our Parish Hope in the Future project is 'Sharing the Hope.' We can do this by responding to those in need. This Advent we are asking parishioners if you can help to make Christmas special for families who may struggle without help. Donations of festive treats and non-perishable food may be left at the back of church. Thanks for your support.

**6. NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE:** Tickets are now on sale at all Masses. DJ and Buffet. Doors open at 7.00pm. Ticket Price £18.00. Please contact Jane on 07772631398 or by email [divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com](mailto:divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com). Come along and see out the old year and welcome the New Year !!!!

**7. ADVENT WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS:** are available at the back of each church. These booklets are a useful way of entering the season of Advent and preparing for Christmas. Price: £1.00.

**8. MOSSLEY BRASS BAND CONCERT:** will take place on Sunday, 18th December in Corpus Christi School Hall, from 2 pm- 4 pm. Tickets: Adults £4 Children £2. Tickets will be on sale at both churches this weekend 19th/20th November.

**9. ST HERBERT'S CHRISTMAS FAIR:** will take place this Sunday, 27 November 12.00 to 2.00pm. Please support the Christmas Fair. Thank you.

**10. CORPUS CHRISTI CHRISTMAS FAIR:** will be held this Sunday, 27 November 2022 in Corpus Christi School Hall. Doors open at 10.30 am. Please come along and make this event a huge success.

**11. PARENT/TODDLER GROUP:** In St Herbert's Parish Centre every Thursday from 1.00 pm– .45 pm (term-time only) £1.00 includes refreshments. Everybody welcome!

**HYMNS**

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Entrance: 439; Offertory: 851;  
Communion: 214, 628; Recessional: 521.

**ST HERBERT'S:** Entrance: 503; Offertory: 443;  
Communion: 334,349; Recessional: 431.

**12. JOB VACANCY IN THE DIOCESE OF SALFORD: GARDNER AND WELL-BEING COORDINATOR (REPLACEMENT ROLE)**

**Appointment Type:** Full-time, permanent; **Working hours:** 35 hours per week, Mon-Fri though some evening and weekend work will be required. **Location:** Wardley Hall, Wardley Hall Road, Worsley, Manchester, M28 2ND. **Salary and benefits:** £22,660 – £27,855 per annum dependent on skills and experience, 25 holidays, plus statutory bank holidays and 5 Diocesan closure days. **About:** The Diocese of Salford seeking to recruit a Gardener and Wellbeing Coordinator to tend to the grounds of the Hall, including the Laudato Si' Centre (in accordance with seasonal needs), and support horticulture, well-being school, and community programmes.

**For further information and to apply, please visit** [www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies](http://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies)

**13. SCHOOL NEWS**

**Corpus Christi:** Last Sunday, some of our Pupil Chaplains represented our school at Sunday Mass. They read the Advent Appeal for our parish and asked for love and support to be shown during the Advent season. We thank our parish family for their kindness shown during

our appeal, and for the kind words expressed about our young Pupil Chaplains.

This Sunday we look forward to our school and parish Christmas fair. Our PTA, staff and parish have been working hard to get everything prepared. We would like to thank our families for their kindness and generosity shown when making donations. We look forward to welcoming you after Sunday Mass.

As a school we are working with Caritas to promote their new Catholic Social Teaching award for young people. Every school in Salford Diocese has been presented with their own award. We are looking for families and parishioners to help us and nominate the children of Corpus Christi when they witness them carrying out their faith in action. More information about this award can be found on our school website under Our Catholic Life- Caritas in Action.

**14. SUNDAY SMILE**

An embarrassed parishioner told the vicar after a church service, "I hope you didn't take it personally, vicar, when my husband walked out during your sermon."

The vicar replied, "Well, I did find it rather disconcerting."

"It wasn't out of any disrespect to you," insisted the parishioner.

"Fred has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child."

**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

**MONDAY:** Both churches closed.  
**TUESDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 6.30 pm; Mass at 7.00 pm.  
**WEDNESDAY:** **St Herbert's:** Private Prayer at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am;  
**THURSDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 9.00 am; Mass at 9.30 am  
**FRIDAY:** **St Herbert's:** Private Prayer at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am  
**SATURDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 5.00 pm; Mass at 5.30 pm  
**SUNDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer 9.00 am; Mass at 9.30 am  
**St Herbert's:** Private Prayer 10.30 am; Mass at 11.00 am

**CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE BEFORE MASS ON REQUEST**

**MASS REQUESTS**

**Missa pro populo**

**Lately Dead:** Margaret Dodd, Patricia Hughes, Margaret Jolley, Nancy Barrett, Felimon Templo Jnr

**RIP:** Peter Geraghty, Fergus Reynolds, Mary Reynolds, Mary McChrystal, Arthur McChrystal, Mathew Bennett

**Anniversary:** Christopher Shaw, Joseph Wright, Margaret Lees

**PRAYER FOR SICK & HOUSEBOUND**

Father, we place before you all the sick and housebound of the parish:  
 Mary Gowran, Margaret Lawless, Edith Hamilton, David Roberts, Agnes Conroy, Mrs Monica Anne Turner, Angela Delph, Jean Allen, Dorothy Buckley, Nora Hickey, Sheila Cavey, Nancy Pinto, Mrs H Fallas, Anthony McDermott, Beryl Henderson, Jean Winterbottom, Maxine Bennett, Dominic Boardman, Angela Fairgrieve, Jack Hulme, Peter Wooldridge, Nikki Winnard, Pauline Powell, Phillip Lees, Andrew Lees, Mrs Lewandowski, Mary O'Connor.



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St Herbert's RC Church, 148 Broadway OL9 0JY

[www.divinemercuryoldham.org](http://www.divinemercuryoldham.org)

**ARE YOU...**

- New to the Parish?
- Know someone who is sick or in hospital?
- Can you help the parish or us you?
- Like a visit from the priest?

Please speak to Fr Lawrence after mass or at any convenient time.