

THE WORD THIS WEEK

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT YEAR A

18 December 2022

Here we enter a new stage of Advent: having spent so much time on the Second Coming, now we look back, to remember the details of the Lord's First Coming. Today we focus on the characters of Mary and Joseph and hear of the circumstances surrounding the conception of the child Jesus, and the reaction of Joseph. This mystery springs from the House of David, and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the promise that the Messiah would come from that line. The link between the First Reading and the Gospel is quite explicit today since Matthew actually quotes Isaiah. Joseph, descendant of King David, is invited to take his place in the great story of God's relationship with the Chosen people. There is great sense of a timeless mystery reaching its focal point, as that which was 'promised long ago' (Second Reading) now takes flesh in the womb of Mary.

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 7:10-14 - The Lord himself will give you a sign: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son who she will call Emmanuel.

Psalms 23: Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory / The Lord is the earth and its fullness / Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord / He shall receive blessings from the Lord.

Second: Romans 1:1-7: News about the Son of God, who was a descendant of David by the human nature he took ... through him we received grace and our mission to preach ...

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24 - Mary was betrothed to Joseph ... but was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. An angel appeared to Joseph and told him to take Mary as his wife anyway, and to name the child Jesus. ... All this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son ..."

3. HOPE IN THE FUTURE – FOURTH ADVENT REFLECTION:

Copies of this week's Advent Reflection are available at the back of each church.

4. MASSES OVER CHRISTMAS: Masses over the Christmas weekend will be as for a normal weekend:

Christmas Eve: Corpus Christi at 5.30 pm

Christmas Day: Corpus Christi at 9.30 am

St Herbert's at 11.00 am

5. HOPE IN THE FUTURE PRAYER CYCLE: HOPE IN THE FUTURE PRAYER CYCLE:

This week let us pray for the people of the parish of St. Vincent de Paul, Norden, for Father James Manock, their parish priest and the Rural Dean, and for their parish primary school. May they know the nearness of God who is Emmanuel.

6. CORPUS CHRISTI CHRISTMAS FAIR: Thank you to all the staff, parents, children, and the PTA of Corpus Christi School, and also all the parishioners of Corpus Christi Church, who all worked really hard to make the Christmas Fair a huge success. The total amount raised was £3061.30, which will be shared equally between Corpus Christi School and Corpus

Christi Church. All the Raffle Prize winners have been notified.

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. Come along and see out the old year and welcome the New Year!

7. MOSSLEY BRASS BAND CONCERT: will take place this Sunday, 18 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.

8. CHARITABLE COLLECTION OF USED STAMPS: Parishioners are kindly asked to save used postage stamps collected over the Christmas period and place them in the boxes to be found in both churches. These will then be sent to the two charities concerned with Alzheimer's Disease and Parkinson's Disease, from which several parishioners sadly suffer. Please leave about half a centimetre of paper around each stamp.

9. CHRISTINGLE SERVICE AT ST HERBERT'S: A Christingle Service will be held at St Herbert's Church at 1.00pm on Christmas Eve. Come about 12.30 pm - 12.45 pm if you want to help set up. All welcome.

10. CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING IN ST HERBERT'S SACRISTY: Whether you're going home to Christmas on your own, not seeing family until later, or just want a few more mins with your church family, there'll be tea, coffee and mince pies in the Sacristy after 11.00 am Mass in St Herbert's on Christmas Day. Ho! Ho! Ho!

11. PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES, CORPUS CHRISTI: These are now available at the back of the Church. They are NOT Gift Aid. They are provided to help people remember to make an offering each week. They are dated for each Sunday of the year. They start on Sunday 1st January 2023.

12. ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER: Please note that any items for next week's newsletter should be sent to Fr Lawrence, via the Parish email address, divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com by **12.00 noon on Wednesday, 21 December**. Thank you.

HYMNS

CORPUS CHRISTI: Entrance: 361; Offertory: 851;
Communion: 447, 133; Recessional: 851.

ST HERBERT'S: Entrance: 502; Offertory: 161;
Communion: 671, 646; Recessional: 431.

13. SCHOOL NEWS

Corpus Christi: As we approach the last couple of day before our Christmas break, the children have been extremely busy.

Our children in Robin and Sparrow class performed their nativity for the school and their families. They were adorable and extremely confident in their retelling of the nativity. We look forward to watching our KS1 children next week when they performed their production.

On Thursday, we all gathered together in a beautiful mass as a parish and school family. Thank you to our Year 5 children for leading such a reverent mass. We would also like to thank our school choir for their stunning performance of the Christmas Hallelujah.

Thank you to our parishioners for attending our community lunch with our Pupil Chaplains. It is always lovely to see you all.

We would finally like to thank you all for your generosity shown during the Hope in the Future Advent Appeal. We were blown away with your love and kindness. This week our Pupil Chaplains delivered hampers to Caritas House in Collyhurst and our Mini Vinnies created a hamper for the local care home. We would like to wish you all happy and Holy Christmas and we will see you all in 2023.

St Herbert's: Well, what a busy, busy week! The Early years performed their nativity - The Innkeepers Breakfast and they were all wonderful from the narrators down to the tiny sheep. Then it was KeyStage 1's turn -The Innspectors - the singing and acting were superb, and it was clear the children enjoyed it by the huge smiles on their faces. Next week, the 19 December at 6.30 pm, there will be a Carol concert by Lower Key Stage 2. We would love it if you could join us as we prepare for the coming of baby Jesus.

The children and staff would like to say a huge thanks for the fantastic support of the Advent appeal. We were truly overwhelmed by the response. Your support enabled us to help 19 families who were extremely grateful.

Finally, St Herbert's school family would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Holy Christmas. Stay with us Lord on our journey.

14. SUNDAY SMILE

The infant school children had been rehearsing their Nativity Play for weeks so that they would be word perfect. Finally, the special evening arrived, and the church was completely filled. The play was going perfectly well, until the scene where the innkeeper tells Joseph and Mary that there is no room at the inn. Unable to contain herself, the little girl playing Mary turned to Joseph and in a loud voice said, "I TOLD you to make a reservation!"

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
- CHRISTMAS EVE:** **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 5.00 pm; Mass at 5.30 pm
- CHRISTMAS DAY:** **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

Special Intention: Tony Deakin, Reverend Sister Margarita Bittner

Lately Dead: David Clines

Anniversary: Vera McDermott, Raffaele Santoro, Giulio Santoro (Senior)

Thanksgiving Mass: Mr & Mrs Apostol (Wedding Anniversary)

Christmas Mass: Jack & Eileen Huntington, Brian & Sophie Robinson, Agnes Judith Taylor

PRAYER FOR SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Father, we place before you all the sick and housebound of the parish:
Gerard Healey, 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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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.