

THE WORD THIS WEEK

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT YEAR A

4 December 2022

Throughout the first three weeks of Advent our focus is very clearly on the End of Time, and the Second Coming of the Lord - not on the run up to Christmas (that only comes in the last week). If we view Advent as a Season preparing for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the Baptist who appears today: if it was about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, becomes a confusing figure: his role is to preach to us, as he did of old, and to prepare us for the (second) coming of the Lord. Everything gets more specific today: what is being preached is not an event, but a person: Isaiah promises him, John welcomes him, Paul invites us to imitate him. We have here a thumbnail portrait of the Messiah - useful to refer to when we get to Christmas and he is revealed as a child in a manger!

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 11: 1-10 - A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse ... as a signal to the nations.

Psalm 71: In his days justice shall flourish and peace 'til the moon fails / O God give your judgement to the king / For he shall save the poor when they cry / May his name be blessed forever.

Second: Romans 15: 4-9: Everything written in the scriptures was meant to teach us ... it can only be to God's glory for you to treat each other in the same way as Christ treated you.

Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12 - John the Baptist preached ... and said, "I baptise in water for repentance, the one who follows me is more powerful".

3. HOPE IN THE FUTURE – ADVENT REFLECTION:

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

4. 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.

5. 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!

6. MOSSLEY BRASS BAND CONCERT: will take place on 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 19/20 November.

7. CORPUS CHRISTI COFFEE MORNING: Come and join us for our Monthly Coffee Morning this SUNDAY 4th DECEMBER after the 9.30am Mass. Teas, Coffee and Homemade Cakes. Everybody Welcome!!

8. CORPUS CHRISTI CHILDREN'S LITURGY:

Children's Liturgy resumes at Corpus Christi for the next two Sundays until we have a break for Christmas.

9. PARENT/TODDLER GROUP: is now closed until 12 January 2023. Merry Christmas and thank you for all your support.

10. DIVINE MERCY PARISH ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Further to the appeal a little while ago, around 15 parishioners expressed an interest in setting up an SVP in our Parish which is wonderful. A little survey has been carried out of priorities for a new group. The initial results highlighted:

1. Befriending and visiting older and more isolated people
2. Helping with school uniform provision and cost
3. Providing a 'drop-in' warm room once a week
4. Providing food parcels and other practical help for people on low incomes/benefits
5. Helping people with transport to Church/medical appointments, etc.
6. Setting up a foodbank
7. Organising one-off events: Christmas party/trips out, etc. a healing mass
8. Organising a healing service/mass
9. Meeting and praying together as a group to support each other and develop ideas.

The group needs to start meeting and getting active but perhaps the New Year is the best time to start. We will try and meet alternately at Corpus Christi and St Herbert's, and I will let you have details of meeting times after Christmas. In the meantime, we can get together a list of people who might appreciate a visit from the SVP and some help. Please let Father Lawrence have any names and contact details.

11. 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.

HYMNS

CORPUS CHRISTI: Entrance: 541; Offertory: 431; Communion: 470, 165; Recessional: 503 .

ST HERBERT'S: Entrance: 671; Offertory: 273; Communion: 511, 194; Recessional: 242

12. PLANNED GIVING BOOKS OF ENVELOPES - CORPUS CHRISTI: These are now available at the back of Corpus Christi church. They are NOT Gift Aid. They are provided to help people remember to make an offering at Mass each week. They are dated for each Sunday of the year. The amounts are not recorded, it is your personal offering for Mass.

13. SCHOOL NEWS Corpus Christi: As a school we are working with Caritas to promote their new Catholic Social Teaching award for young people. We are looking for children who promote their Gospel Values in all walks of life. 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 in the community and at home. More information about this award can be found on our school website under Our Catholic Life - Caritas in Action.

If you want to nominate a child, please email info@corpuschristi.oldham.sch.uk and state the name of the child you are nominating and your reason why. We would also like to welcome our parish family into school on **Monday 19th December at 9: 30 am** to

watch our KS1 nativity. We will be serving tea/coffee and mince pies served before the show starts. If you would like to join us, please can you give your name to Tony Power. A list will be placed at the back of Corpus Christi Church. Thank you.

St Herberts: This week we have begun our Advent assemblies in preparation for the arrival of Jesus on Christmas day. Another busy week in school this week. Key Stage 1 and 2 went to the pantomime at Middleton Arena to watch Snow White. They had a fantastic time. Over the last couple of weeks Upper Key Stage 2 have been working hard rehearsing Scrooge. The day finally arrived, and we must say St Herbert's have very talented children. The show was fantastic. Finally, we would like to say a **BIG** thank you to you all for the continued support in caring for our vulnerable families, they are truly grateful and wanted to say thank you. The children and staff will keep you all in our prayers.

14. SUNDAY SMILE

A Sunday School teacher was teaching her class about the powerful Kings and Queens of the Old Testament. Then she said, "But there is a higher power. Does anyone know what it is?" From the back of the room one little boy exclaimed, "I do, Miss. It's Aces!"

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

Special Intention: James Evans, Margaret Tite, Anonymous
Lately Dead: Phillippa Whittaker, Irene Ball, Joan Reeves
RIP: Members of the Heverin, Corrigan, Elwell, Murphy and Morgan Families; Members of the Gorton & Campbell families
20th Anniversary of Ordination: Fr David Chinney
Christmas Mass: Doreen Heyes, Victor Heyes

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

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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.