

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD YEAR A

25 December 2022

The Prologue of St John has a special place in Christian theology, and for centuries was recited at the end of the Mass as summing up the whole work of redemption. It begins with God's creation by the Word and ends with the completion of the purpose of creation through the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. In the centre comes the incarnation, which enables and invites those who accept Christ to become children of God. As we contemplate the child Jesus in the manger, may God grant His peace to the world, Amen.

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 52: 7-11 - The messenger arrives with good news. The King is coming.

Psalm: Psalm 97 – All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Second: Hebrews 1: 1-6 – The greatness of the incarnate Son of God.

Gospel: John 1: 1-18 – The Prologue to the Gospel of St John

3. THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS: Thank you to all those who have volunteered their services in the Parish during this year. Your work is greatly appreciated. Thank you very much, too, for the presents and cards I have received. I would like to wish all parishioners a very happy and holy Christmas. Fr Lawrence.

4. CHRISTMAS EVE MASS AT CORPUS CHRISTI: Carols will be sung before the Mass on Christmas Eve from 5.00 pm onwards.

4. HOPE IN THE FUTURE PRAYER CYCLE: Let us pray for the parish of Our Lady of Grace, Prestwich, for Father Philip Caldwell, their parish priest, Mgr John Allen, for their parish primary school, for the chaplaincy to Prestwich Hospital, and the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion. May the Child of Mary pour out his grace on the parish and on all whom they serve.

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. 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.

7. 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!

9. FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS AT ST MARY'S, THE HIDDEN GEM: Starting on Saturday, 7th January, there will be First Saturday Mass and Devotions at the Hidden Gem, Mulberry Street, Manchester. All are welcome to join.

10.30am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
10.30am	Confessions
11.30am	Holy Rosary and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
12noon	Holy Mass
12.30pm	Break for taking refreshments locally
1.30pm	Devotions to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Spiritual Conference
	followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Solemn Benediction
3.00pm	Conclude

10. BISHOP JOHN'S VIDEO MESSAGE – CARITAS ADVENT APPEAL: Bishop John has recorded a special message about the work of Caritas and a call to act in support of people locally who are experiencing poverty, disadvantage and homelessness. You can watch his video message at <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/news/bishop-johns-message-during-cost-of-living-crisis/>

11. THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS: We all enjoy singing 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' but do we know its hidden meaning? From 1558 until 1829, Catholics in England were not permitted to practise their faith

HYMNS

CORPUS CHRISTI: Entrance: ; Offertory:; Communion: ; Recessional: .

ST HERBERT'S: Entrance: 536; Offertory: 501; Communion: 155, 614; Recessional: 135 .

PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

openly, and so this carol was written in cryptic form for instructing young Catholics. The hidden meanings are:

1. Partridge in a pear tree - Jesus Christ.
2. Two turtle doves - Old and New Testaments.
3. Three French hens - Faith, Hope and Charity.
4. Four calling birds - Four Gospels/Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.
5. Five golden rings - The Pentateuch: first five books of the Old Testament.
6. Six geese a-laying - Six Days of Creation.
7. Seven swans a-swimming – Seven Sacraments/Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
8. Eight maids a-milking - Eight Beatitudes.
9. Nine ladies dancing - Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit.
10. Ten lords a-leaping - Ten Commandments.
11. Eleven pipers piping - Eleven Faithful Apostles.
12. Twelve drummers drumming - Twelve Points of Belief in the Apostles' Creed.

Michael Lawson

14. SUNDAY SMILE ON CHRISTMAS DAY – *better laughs than in your average cracker!*

Last year, parishioners at a Manchester church gave their priest a jumper for Christmas but it kept picking up static electricity. Fortunately, the priest was able to take it back and exchange it for another one – free of charge.

A lady told her husband that if she didn't like his Christmas present, she would burn it. So, her husband gave her a candle. A man said he had received the best Christmas present possible. It was a broken drum. He went around telling all his friends that it just couldn't be beaten,

Q. What did Adam say to his wife on the night before Christmas Day?

A. It's finally Christmas, Eve.

Q. How does Christmas Day always end?

A. With the letter Y!

MERRY
Christmas

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:	Corpus Christi: Requiem Mass at 9.15 am for Alan Maymon RIP 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: Private, Private, Kath Clifton

Lately Dead: Martin Francis Ward, Alan Maymon, George Wrigley, Brenda Walsh

RIP: Dawn Cookson Martinez & Baby Robbie

Anniversary: Fr Peter McKie, Tony Wall,

Thanksgiving Mass: Nemesia Wrigley, Private

Christmas Memories: Members of the Heverin, Corrigan, Elwell, Murphy and Morgan families.

Birthday Anniversary: Mary Grimshaw

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.