

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT YEAR B

3 December 2023

Advent opens with a great cry, and a great promise: “*Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down!*” is the cry, of a people who need God. “...*The master is coming*” is the promise, not to breed fear, but to answer our cry. 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 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 love and 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 64:1-9 - The prophet pleads with God to come: "Our Redeemer is your ancient name Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt.)

Psalms 79 - God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Second: I Corinthians 1:3-9 - I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received ... you are waiting for our Lord: Jesus Christ to be revealed.

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37- Stay awake because you do not know when the master of the house is coming ... if he comes; unexpected he must not find you asleep.

3. ADVENT WALK WITH ME BOOKS: are available at the back of church from today. Price : £1.00.

4. HOPE IN THE FUTURE – REFLECTION FOR ADVENT: Copies are available at the back of each church. Please take a copy.

5. CORPUS CHRISTI CHRISTMAS FAIR: Will be held this Sunday, 3rd December 2023 in Corpus Christi School Hall. The doors will open at 10.30 am after the 9.30 am Mass. Christmas Raffle tickets will be on sale at all Masses. First Prize £100 plus many more prizes. Price of tickets £1.00 each. The Raffle will take place at the Christmas Fair and we would like to appeal for good quality prizes for the Raffle and bottles for the Bottle Tombola. Please come along and make this event a huge success.

6. BRASS BAND CONCERT: In Corpus Christi School Hall on Sunday 17th December 2023 from 2pm - 4pm. Please come along and enjoy an afternoon with MOSSLEY BRASS BAND. Tickets will be on sale from this weekend: Saturday/ Sunday 18th/19th November.

7. NEW YEAR’S EVE CELEBRATION: In St Herbert's Parish Centre. 7.30pm till late! This year we have live entertainment provided by singer George William & DJ Andy Glynn. A Hot Supper all for £21. See the posters & add your name to the list for tickets at the back of both churches.

8. MEETING OF THE PARISH SVP: will take place in Corpus Christi Presbytery on Sunday, 10 December after the 9.30 am Mass.

9. ST HERBERT’S CLEANING ROTA: Thank you so much to all the people who have kept St Herbert’s Church clean throughout the year. If anyone else could spare one hour a month to join one of the cleaning teams, please see Barbara Mallinson.

10. ST HERBERT’S CHRISTMAS FAYRE: Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas fayre but a special thanks to all the helpers and stall holders for their hard work in preparing for the day so that it was a success. Thank you too to Father Christmas for travelling to visit us -the children were pleased to see you! The amount raised - £2250.

11. PARISH SVP CHRISTMAS PROJECT: The SVP would like to distribute some Christmas food hampers to parishioners who may need a little help over the festive period and are unable to access the food pantry. If you want a hamper or you know of anybody who you think would benefit from one e.g. housebound, low income households etc, please forward your/their details to the parish email divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com . Please provide us with a name and contact number so we can arrange delivery and please ask consent of any nominees. Donations of festive foods would be greatly appreciated but also items for hamper construction e.g. cellophane, tissue paper, ribbon. Thank you very much for your continued support. The SVP.

12. ST HERBERT’S CHRISTMAS FAYRE RAFFLE PRIZE WINNERS: **£100.00 CASH** – Phil Stones; 2. Julie Hilton; 3. Joan Boocock; 4. Trish Wildy; 5. Chloe Fenton; 6. Eric; 7. Paula Woodridge; 8. C Kevens; 9. Catherine Lawton; 10. Frank Carlisle; 11. Peter Briggs; 12. Carol Porter; 13. Joachim Dike; 14. Julie Byre; 15. Pam Oldham; 16. Doreen; 17. Vanessa; 18. Siobhan Martin; 19. Joanne Bradburn; 20. Vanessa; 21. Jane & Phil; 22. Fergus Reynolds; 23. Aurelia; 24. Lee Claffey; 25. Edward Fanning; 26. Edith; 27. Cath Lowe; 28. Elizabeth Haigh; 29. Mary; 30. Howard. Thank you all for your support . Better luck next time. All prizes have been claimed.

13. SAINT OF THE WEEK - ST NICHOLAS, BISHOP – 6 DECEMBER: St Nicholas was Bishop of Myra, in what is now Turkey. He died in the fourth century, in Eastern Europe. “Saint Nicholas” distributes presents to children on this day, in remembrance of his charity and care as a bishop.

14. ST HERBERT’S PLAGROUP: Is now closed for the Christmas period. Thank you for all your support. It will re-open in the New Year, with date to follow.

HYMNS

CORPUS CHRISTI: Entrance: 503; Offertory: 175; Communion: 628; Recessional: 307.

ST HERBERT’S: Entrance: 503; Offertory: 177; Communion: 307, 560; Recessional: 431.

PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

15. ADVENT TAIZE SERVICE: SS Aidan & Oswald's Church warmly invite you to an Advent Taizé Service on 3rd December 2023 at 7.30pm. Please use the Vaughan Street entrance.

16. CORPUS CHRISTI – PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: The packs of envelopes for planned giving will be available at the back of Corpus Christi Church next weekend 9/10 December. These start on the weekend of 6/7 January 2024. They are NOT Gift Aid boxes of envelopes. These packs are for non-tax payers and are simply to help and encourage parishioners to donate weekly.

17. SCHOOL NEWS

Corpus Christi: This week our children in Wren Class visited Oldham Library. They explored patterns all around and printed their own versions using different materials. They had a great time. Next week, children in Starling and Swallow Class will visit too. We look forward to seeing our parish family at the annual Christmas Fair this Sunday. We hope to see many of you there. It is always a great event that joins the school, parish and local community together. This week marks the start of Advent and our children will begin to take home their Advent prayer bags. Each night different children will take home their Advent prayer bag and complete it with their family. It is always lovely to see these bags being shared at home.

We would like to welcome parishioners to our KS1 nativity on Monday 18th December at 9:30am. If you are interested, please speak to Tony Power to confirm your attendance by Friday 8th December. Thank you.

St Herbert's: Well, what a busy week it has been in school! We have had an RE inspection by Salford dioceses and they were very complimentary about the school. As well as this solar panels have been fitted, supporting the bishop's vision for looking after our common home. This week year 5 and 6 who have been rehearsing for their show "It's Christmas" performed it for the school, and then family and friends.! It was a wonderful production with super singing. We have very talented children.

18. SUNDAY SMILE: *The Staff at St. Thomas the Dubious High School are pleased that their new Year 7 intake are settling in. However, they are still given many laughs by some children. (11)*

A teacher of English Literature was discussing Shakespeare and wrote on the whiteboard: William Shakespeare 1564-1616. He was totally astounded when one child asked him if that really was the dramatist's phone number.

A boy who was placed in the top stream for English asked, "Miss, how do you spell UFO?"

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 OR AFTER MASS ON REQUEST

MASS REQUESTS

Missa pro populo

Lately Dead: Bernard McDevitt

PRAYER FOR SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Father, we place before you all the sick and housebound of the parish: Sheila Cavey, Agnes Conroy, Louise Whittaker, Stuart Williams, Peter Stone, Wade Stevens, Luke Burke, John McCarthy, Gerard Healey, Mary Gowran,, Edith Hamilton, David Roberts, Mrs Monica Anne Turner, Angela Delph, Dorothy Buckley, Nora Hickey, Nancy Pinto, Mrs H Fallas, Anthony McDermott, Jean Winterbottom, Maxine Bennett, Dominic Boardman, Angela Fairgrieve, Peter Wooldridge, Nikki Winnard, Pauline Powell, Phillip Lees, Andrew Lees, 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.