

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT YEAR B**

**24 December 2023**

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 character of Mary and hear of the angel Gabriel being sent to her, to invite her to take her part in the mystery of the Incarnation, "the revelation of the mystery kept secret for endless ages". This mystery springs from the House of David, and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the establishing of that house. An interesting idea is that the first reading talks of David wishing to build a house for the Lord; through the prophet he is told not of the house that he would build, but the House which is his line: eventually, in Mary (betrothed to Joseph) the House of David does itself become the house of the Lord, the womb wherein he has a dwelling place.

**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: Samuel 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14-16** - The prophet Nathan is sent to David to tell him that the Lord will make him great ... your house will always stand secure before me.

**Psalm: 88** - I will sing forever of your love, O Lord / I have made a covenant with my chosen / He will say to me "you are my Father".

**Second: Romans 16:25-27** - Glory to him who is able to give you strength to live according to the ... a mystery kept secret for endless ages but now so clear it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere.

**Gospel: Luke 1:26-38** - The Annunciation: the angel Gabriel is sent to Mary ... "let what you have said be done to me".

**3. CHRISTMAS WEEKEND/DAY MASSES:**

**Saturday, 23 December:** Corpus Christi: 5.30 pm

**Sunday, 24 December:** Corpus Christi: 9.30 am  
St Herbert's: 11.00 am

**Sunday, Christmas Eve Vigil Mass:** St Herbert's: 6.00 pm

**Monday, Christmas Day:** Corpus Christi: 9.30 am  
St Herbert's: 11.00 am

**4. 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.

**5. PARISH SVP:** Thank you very much for a generous anonymous donation from a parishioner at Corpus Christi.

**6. 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.

**7. CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA:** Join us in St Herbert's Sacristy after 11.00 am Mass on Christmas Day, for tea/coffee, mince pies, good company and Christmas cheer.

**8. DIOCESAN SYNOD:** On 15 October, Bishop John announced that as part of the Diocesan Synod we are going to come together as a Diocese for what he describes as 'The Big Listen.

Parishes are encouraged to hold Listening Sessions and there is an opportunity for individuals to respond directly to the questions being posed. As a parish we are planning to hold our listening session on **Saturday, 13 January 2024**, in the hall at Corpus Christi School from **9.30 am to 12.00 noon**.

There are sheets at the back of Church where you can register your interest. We would like to encourage as many people as possible to take part in our listening event.

**9. NOTICE ABOUT SCAM EMAIL:** The Diocese of Salford has shared a warning about a scam email that has been circulated to some parishes in our diocese. The email comes from a "parish priest" Gmail account, features the parish priest's name in the display name, and asks the recipient to purchase gift cards on behalf of the priest. Please be aware that this is not a genuine email. If you come across any such email, please do not engage with it and simply delete it from your inbox. If you are ever unsure about an email from the parish, please call the parish office and we'd be happy to advise. Thank you.

**10. FREE ENERGY ADVICE SERVICE FOR LOCAL PEOPLE:** As the cost-of-living crisis continues to hit our communities hard, Caritas Salford, our diocesan charity, has introduced a new service to support people with energy advice. The service includes advice on saving money on utility bills, as well as practical support such as insulation methods, support with condensation and damp, LED bulbs and draught excluders. For more information on the service or to find out when and where sessions will take place, contact [energyadvice@caritassalford.org.uk](mailto:energyadvice@caritassalford.org.uk) or call 0161 817 2250.

**11. SCHOOL NEWS**

**Corpus Christi:** Our final week in school for 2023 has kept us very busy, and the staff and children are very much looking forward to their Christmas holiday break.

This week our children in KS1 put on an amazing performance of their nativity. The children were fantastic, and we are extremely proud of them all! Thank you to our parish family for coming along and supporting our KS1 children. We really

**HYMNS**

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Entrance: 141; Offertory: 443;  
Communion: 500; Recessional: 343.

**ST HERBERT'S:** Entrance: 503; Offertory: 671;  
Communion: 646, 161; Recessional: 431.

## PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS

appreciate the kind words shared; the children loved hearing your feedback.

Our little Ducklings in Nursery had a wonderful stay and play with their families and also enjoyed performing in a Christmas concert for them too. They were adorable! They were a credit to us.

We would like to wish our parish family a happy and holy Christmas and we look forward to spending more time with you all in 2024. God bless you all.

**St Herberts:** We've reached the last week and what a busy one it was! We continued with our Advent assemblies which were led beautifully by our pupil chaplains. During Advent the children were asked to make their own Bambinelli. Pope John Paul II began the tradition of Bambinelli Sunday during his papacy to remind families about the joyous event of Baby Jesus' arrival in the manger. On Wednesday the Bambinellis were presented during Mass and Father Lawrence blessed them - they are now at the homes of the children, a constant reminder we are waiting for the coming of Jesus.

On Monday Lower Key Stage 2 held their carol concert in Church and it was packed to the rafters! The children told the story of the birth of Jesus through readings, hymns and dance. There was a beautiful atmosphere in Church.

The children had their Christmas parties and were visited by Father Christmas who gave each child a present! Thursday was Christmas jumper day and Christmas dinner -lots of excitement rippled through school on both days. Finally, we have reached the end of the week! We would like to wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and thank you for the continued support for our vulnerable families. Happy Christmas and we will be back in 2024.

### 12. SUNDAY SMILES FOR CHRISTMAS

A boy at a local school wanted to be Joseph in the Infant Nativity Play. However, he was cast as the innkeeper and objected loudly, but to no avail. When the play was presented before a packed audience, Mary and Joseph knocked on the door as directed, and asked him if he had a room for them. The boy smiled and said, "Yes, sure I have! Lots of room, come on in!"

Q. What game did the ox and ass play while waiting in Bethlehem?

A. Stable tennis

Q: How did Mary and Joseph know that Jesus was 8lb 2oz when he was born?

A. They had a weigh in a manger.

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

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

**CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE BEFORE OR AFTER MASS ON REQUEST**

## MASS REQUESTS

### Missa pro populo

**Special Intention:** McDonnell Family, Nancy Cathcart, Private Intention

**Lately Dead:** Dorothy Doyle

**Anniversary:** Alf Taylor

**Christmas Mass:** Mary & Bernard Nangle William Ambrose, John Southworth, Sheila & Tony Robinson, Claire Kershaw, James Cromwell, Birrel Family, Broomhead Family, Norah Healey; Walker, Newton, Broadbent, Whiteman, Chantler & Denton Families

**Birthday Anniversary:** Mary Grimshaw

**Thanksgiving Birthday:** Nemesia Wrigley & family

## 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, 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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[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.