

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT YEAR B

10 December 2023

Throughout the first three weeks of Advent our focus is very clearly on the Second Coming of the Lord - not so much on the run up to Christmas (until the last week). If we view Advent as a preparation for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the Baptist who appears today: if it's about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, is a confusing figure: but his role is to preach to us, as he did of old, and to prepare us for the (second) coming of the Lord. Today we have a very graphic reference to the end of time and the Second Coming in the reading from Saint Peter; it is a frightening picture, and so the first reading offers tender words of comfort to help us understand who is coming, and why we should be ready to meet him.

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 40: 1-5, 9-11 - Comfort my people ... speak to the heart of Jerusalem ... a voice cries "Prepare in the wilderness"

Psalms 84 - Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help / I will hear what the Lord has to say / Mercy and faithfulness have met / The Lord will make us prosper.

Second: II Peter 3:8-14 - With the Lord a "day" can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years one day - live holy and saintly lives while you wait for the Day of the Lord ... so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 - John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, to fulfil the prophesy made by Isaiah. He baptised, and preached about the more powerful one who was to follow him.

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**

3. 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 at the back of church.

4. 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.

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

6. 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 would like 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 address: divinemercuryoldham@gmail.com as soon as possible. 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.

7. CORPUS CHRISTI CHRISTMAS FAIR - held in Corpus Christi School Hall. A big thank you to everyone who supported the Fair. Thank you also to the parishioners and everyone at Corpus Christi School, who all worked so hard before and on the day to make the Fair a success. The amount raised was £2140. This will be shared equally with the School. A list of all Raffle Prize Winners is at the back of Church. All Raffle Prize Winners have been notified.

8. ASDA CRIB: Please visit the crib near Asda Information desk. This is an annual display funded by all 18 Chadderton churches.

9. CORPUS CHRISTI - PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: The packs of envelopes for planned giving will be available at the back of Corpus Christi Church this 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.

10. DIOCESAN SYNOD: On the 15th October Bishop John announced that as part of the Diocesan Synod we are going to come as a together as a Diocese for what he describes as 'The Big Listen'. Parishes are encouraged to hold Listening Sessions and there is an opportunity to for individuals to respond directly to the questions being posed. As a parish we are planning to hold our listening session on **Saturday 13th January 2024** - in the hall at Corpus Christi School from **9.30am - 12.00 noon**.

HYMNS

CORPUS CHRISTI: Entrance: 314; Offertory: 362; Communion: 165; Recessional: 851.

ST HERBERT'S: Entrance: 671; Offertory: 214; Communion: 419, 635; Recessional: 242.

11. ECT PRIMARY POOL 2024: Are you looking for a career in teaching? Do you know someone who is training for a career in primary education? ECT (Early Career Teachers) due to gain Qualified Teacher Status in Summer 2024 are being invited to apply for recommendation for interview to Catholic schools with vacancies for September 2024.

Email education@dioceseofsalford.org.uk to find out more and apply.

12. SCHOOL NEWS

Corpus Christi: This week our Mini Vinnies met with Fran, a representative from Mary's Meals. They heard all about the charity and the work they do. Next week for Christmas jumper day, we will be donating all the money raised to Mary's Meals. All money raised will be doubled by a group of generous supporters. Mary's Meals feeds hungry children living in some of the world's poorest countries. It costs just £19.15 to feed a child with Mary's Meals for a whole year.

This week we were lucky enough to welcome back Mary Farmer who has been leading RE Advent Retreats across this school. She worked with each class and spent time with them, learning more about following Jesus this Advent and

welcoming him into our lives. Thank you to our parish members who attended our community lunch with our Pupil Chaplains. We hope you had a lovely time. Our Mini Vinnies also created a Christmas Card and a decoration for members of the parish who attended lunch. They also sent extra back to Church for other members of the parish, and parishioners that are housebound.

St Herbert's: This week we began our Advent assemblies. We are waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus. Everyone in school is thinking of what they will do to be ready for the birth of Jesus. Friday was a non-uniform day. In return the children were asked to support Caritas "Will you Bee there this Christmas? Campaign." The families were, again, amazing sending in hats, gloves, scarves, toiletries and much more. These will be distributed to the homeless by Caritas. During the week we had a special visitor - Santa. He had breakfast with the children before school and it was lovely to see lots of families coming together reading books with their children. The West Midland Theatre Company came to school to perform "Sinbad." Lots of fun was had by all. Oh yes, we did!!!

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
Corpus Christi: Requiem Mass at 12.00 noon for Michael Crossan (RIP)
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
Corpus Christi: Requiem Mass at 1.00 pm for Gerard Healey (RIP)
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: Michael Crossan, Gerard Healey

RIP: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Anniversary: Brenda Walshe (1st anniversary); Margaret Lees; Burton, Walsh, Quayle, Garside, Spencer & Scott families

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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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.