

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT YEAR B**

**17 December 2023**

So who is coming? This Sunday's readings help to answer that question. John the Baptist is asked about the coming of the Messiah - is it him? He affirms his role as "a witness to speak for the light", by pointing to the one who stands among the crowd unknown to them who is coming after him. This idea is present in the First Reading, where Isaiah proclaims what the "anointed one" ('Messiah' in Hebrew) will do, and the joy that this will bring. It is interesting that the Psalm appointed for this Sunday is the Magnificat - Mary's song of praise at the announcement that the Messiah would be born of her - in which she sings of the works of the coming Messiah. Paul then reminds us that we are still waiting patiently: "God has called you, and he will not fail you." This is why, on this 'Gaudete' Sunday, we as God's people rejoice in his care, made visible in his promises, fulfilled in Jesus.

**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 61: 1-4, 8-11** - The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, he has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

**Psalm: Lk 1 / Is 61** - My soul rejoices in my God / The almighty works marvels for me / He fills the starving with good things.

**Second: I Thessalonians 5:16-24** - Be happy at all times, pray constantly ... never try to suppress the Spirit ... may the God of peace make you perfect and holy.

**Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28** - A man came sent by God. His name was John. ... The priest and Levites questioned him, he quoted from Isaiah "A voice cries in the wilderness..." ... there stands among you the one who is coming after me, I am not fit to undo his sandal ..."

**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. BRASS BAND CONCERT:** In Corpus Christi School Hall this 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.

**5. DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET:** will be said on Wednesday mornings at 9.30 am at St Herbert's before the 10.00 am Weekday Mass.

**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. CHRISTINGLE:** The Christingle and Crib building service will be held on Saturday 23rd December in St Herbert's Church at 1.00 pm. Come at 12.45 if you want to help prepare.

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

**9. ASDA CRIB:** Please visit the Crib near the Asda Information Desk. This is an annual display funded by all 18 Chadderton churches in 2005, including our own two churches.

**10. 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.

**11. ADVENT APPEAL:** Our diocesan charity Caritas Salford has launched its Advent appeal for 2023, including a very special animation film voiced by local children. You can view the short animation and find out more about how you can make a donation to the appeal, or take action to help people in your parish who are experiencing crisis this Christmas, by visiting the Caritas Salford website: [www.caritassalford.org.uk/beethere](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/beethere)

**12. PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM:** The Diocese of Salford is now accepting bookings for our 2024 pilgrimage to Walsingham. If you would like to join next year's pilgrimage, bring along a group, or help as a volunteer, please fill out a booking form, available at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/walsingham-2024>. You can get in touch by calling 0161 817 2214 or emailing [walsingham@pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:walsingham@pilgrimage@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

**13. YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM:** Salford Youth and Young Adults Ministry is delighted to once again offer a dedicated youth pilgrimage to Walsingham, aimed for students in Years 7, 8 and 9. This pilgrimage runs alongside the

**HYMNS**

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Entrance: 644; Offertory: 641; Communion: 133; Recessional: 297.

**ST HERBERT'S:** Entrance: 541; Offertory: 641; Communion: 346, 628; Recessional: 218.

main diocesan pilgrimage and will leave on Friday 3rd May and return on Saturday, 4 May 2024. For further details, please contact: [youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:youth@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

**14. SCHOOL NEWS**

**Corpus Christi:** As we approach the end of this half term, we are as busy as ever here at Corpus Christi. This week our Reception children performed their Christmas nativity for the school and their families. They were a credit to us! They were fantastic and we are very proud of them.

This week we held our annual Christmas Jumper Day. This year we raised money for a wonderful charity, Mary's Meals. We raised £217.67 for Mary's Meals. Our donations will be doubled by an organisation supporting the charity. We thank our families for supporting us and making a huge difference to others.

This week for well-being Wednesday, we were treated to a special performance of 'Cinderella' by Chaplins Panto. The children (and staff) had a great time. It was a great show from start to finish. Following the panto, we enjoyed our delicious Christmas dinner!

Thank you to our parish family for welcoming us this week for our Advent Mass. Our Year 5 children led a reverent and uplifting mass, helping us understand the true meaning

of Christmas. We also thank our choir for their beautiful performance during the mass.

**St Herberts:** There has been lots of excitement in school this week. We continue to have our Advent assemblies where we think about preparing ourselves for the coming of Jesus to make sure we are ready. EYFS performed their nativity "The Snuggle Up Stable" for school and then their parents. They were wonderful! Key stage 1 too performed their Nativity called "The Late Angel." Again, wonderful singing and acting. Year 6 went to Total Care to bring a little festive cheer to the residents. They had a wonderful sing-a-long! We would like to say a huge thank you for all the goodies you have provided for our vulnerable families.

**15. SUNDAY SMILE**

*A Manchester church's Advent Lunch last Sunday was a very pleasant affair. Besides tasty food the parish comedian entertained with his one-liners. Here are a few of them: (10)*

I'd like to start with the chimney jokes. I've got a stack of them and the first one is on the house.

Someone actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a note on the windscreen which read, 'Parking Fine'.

I went back to my local supermarket and said, "I want to make a complaint. This vinegar's got lumps in it". The manager said, "Yes, I know. Those are pickled onions."

**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

- MONDAY:** Both churches closed.
  - TUESDAY:** **Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 6.30 pm; Mass at 7.00 pm
  - WEDNESDAY:** **St Herbert's:** Divine Mercy Chaplet at 9.30 am; Parish/School 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**  
**Special Intention:** Amy Howard  
**RIP:** M Crossan, Gerard Healey  
**Anniversary:** Martin Francis Ward (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary); Alan Mayman (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary), Raffaele Santoro, Giulio Santoro Senior  
**Christmas Mass:** Jack & Eileen Huntington

**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

[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.