

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C**

**22 December 2024**

It's only in this last week before Christmas that we begin to hear about the "Christmas story" itself. For the past weeks we have been preparing ourselves to greet the Lord, when he comes. Now we prepare to remember how he first came, by listening to the prophecies of his coming, and by hearing of the events before his birth. We meet the woman, Mary, who herself had been prepared for the coming of the Messiah. She has received the angel's greeting, and his strange news, and has accepted her role in God's plan. Now she hurries to her kinswoman, Elizabeth, who herself bears John the Baptist in her womb. John, just as we heard last week, alerts us to the presence of the Lord, as he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. His joy is that God has kept his promise, and is with his people.

**PARISH NOTICES & EVENTS**

**PARISH OF DIVINE MERCY PRAYER**

1. 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: Micah 5:2-5a** - Out of Bethlehem will be born ... the one who is to rule over Israel ... He himself will be peace.

**Psalm: 80** - **Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.** / Shepherd of Israel hear us / God of host turn again / May you hand be on the man you have chosen

**Second: Hebrews 10:5-10** - ... "made holy by the offering of his body"

**Gospel: Luke 1:39-45** - Mary visits Elizabeth - whose child recognizes her. "Of all women you are the most blessed"

**3. CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE:** Starts at 5:30PM before the Vigil Mass on Christmas eve, Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December at Corpus Christi Church.

**4. CHRISTMAS MASSES:**

**Christmas Eve at Corpus Christi Church, Tuesday 24th December,;**

Vigil Mass at 6.00pm,

**Christmas Day, Wednesday 25th December:**

Corpus Christi Church, 9.30AM.

St Herbert's Church 11.00AM.

**5. THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS:** Thank you to all those who have volunteered their services in the Parish during this year. You are 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.

**6. REFRESHMENTS AT ST HERBERT'S:** Refreshments will be served after 11.00 am Mass on Christmas Day in the Sacristy at St Herbert's. Everyone welcome. Merry Christmas to all!

**7. BRASS BAND CONCERT: A BIG THANKYOU**

To everyone who Attended and Helped to make this Concert a Huge Success, everyone thoroughly enjoyed it.

Mossley Brass Band said " See you Same Time Next Year"

Many thanks, Tony.

Wishing you and all the family a Happy and Holy Christmas.

**8. NEW YEARS EVE:** We are sorry to say that the New Years Dance has been cancelled due to the poor uptake in tickets. Thank

you to those who showed interest.

**9. CORPUS CHRISTI PLANNED GIVING:** The sets of envelopes are available from a box on the Welcomers table. They are due to start on Sat/Sunday 5/6th January 2025. Please help yourself. They are numbered but not recorded. They are provided free to encourage parishioners to give their offerings regularly. They are NOT for Gift Aid use. Only use them if you are not paying income tax on earnings or pensions.

**10. CHRISTINGLE & CRIB BUILDING SERVICE:** will take place at St Herbert's Church on Christmas Eve at 11.00 am ((10.30 am if wish to help). All welcome.

**11. CORPUS CHRISTI CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** There will be no lessons while the primary school is closed for the Christmas break. We will resume on Sunday 12th January. Thank you for your support, new helpers are always welcome. See one of the helpers for more information.

**12. ADVICE AS ENERGY BILLS CONTINUE TO RISE:** If you, anyone you know, or someone in your wider parish community needs support around rising energy bills, Caritas Salford has put together some helpful advice on their website. You can find out more by visiting <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/fuel-poverty-challenges/> and can also find details on the website page on how to arrange a session with their energy advice service team.

**13. CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING:** Our Laudato Si' Centre is once again joining forces with a Christmas Tree recycling project in a bid to care for community and common home. The project raises funds for local charities by collecting used Christmas trees, while chippings from the trees will be repurposed across the Laudato Si' Centre. Find out more: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/christmas-tree-recycling-24>

**14. OPENING MASS FOR THE PILGRIMS OF HOPE JUBILEE:** Pope Francis has invited dioceses across the world to unite in prayer as we begin the 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope" Jubilee. Our diocese will be marking the start of the Jubilee with a Mass, celebrated by Bishop John, on Sunday 29th December at 2pm at Salford Cathedral's Temporary Church. All are welcome to join us as we mark the start of this special year of grace.

**15. CRISIS SUPPORT OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD:** If you or anyone in your local community requires support over the Christmas period, Caritas Salford has put together a page on their

**HYMNS**

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Entrance: 526; Offertory: 362, 273; Communion: 681; Recessional: 360.

**ST HERBERT'S:** Entrance: 541; Offertory: 503; Communion: 646, 635; Recessional: 431.

website which includes information on when their services are open, as well as signposting to other organisations who might also be able to support those in urgent need. You can read more here: [www.caritassalford.org.uk/service-christmas-opening-times/](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/service-christmas-opening-times/)

**16. SAINTS OF THE WEEK:**

**SAINT JOHN – 27 DEC:** John’s Gospel is another form of witness to the Word made flesh; as we read his Gospel we are once more presented with the mystery of this Christmas Season.

**17. SCHOOL NEWS:**

**Corpus Christi:** Our final week of this half term has been very busy! The staff and children are very much looking forward to their Christmas break.

This week, our KS1 children performed their Christmas nativity for the school, parish and their families. They were amazing! The children put on a wonderful performance, and we are extremely proud of them all.

We also had our Advent Mass with our parish family. Our Year 5 children led a reverent mass all about 'The Holy Family' and the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you to our parish for joining us and for their kind words following the mass.

We would like to take the opportunity to wish our parish family a happy and Holy Christmas, and we will see you in the new year.

**St Herbert’s:** Well what an exciting and busy week it has been. The whole school came together with the Parish family to celebrate Mass. The singing was beautiful. Tuesday was party day and it was lovely to see the children so excited when Father Christmas arrived. Thursday was Christmas jumper day where the children enjoyed a lovely Christmas dinner. On Friday we said farewell to Mrs Marsh who is taking early retirement. Mrs Marsh has been with us for 19 years and we wish her a wonderful retirement and thank her for all her hard work. Finally we would like to wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and we will see you in 2025.

**18. SUNDAY SMILE:** *St. Thomas the Dubious High School had their Christmas Dinner last Tuesday. Adding to the festive fun was the Deputy Head Teacher, a known comic, who entertained with his topical one-liners. Here is a selection:*

Santa isn't allowed to go down chimneys any more. It's been declared dangerous under Elf and Safety Regulations.

I couldn't get to the chocolates in my Advent Calendar this year. Foiled again.

When I was a child, my family was so poor that at Christmas we could only exchange glances.

I'm not saying I live in a rough district, but the Advent Calendar I bought had half the windows boarded up.

My neighbour is so stupid that when I told her Christmas is right around the corner she went looking for it.

**WEEKDAY CALENDAR**

<b>MONDAY:</b>	Both churches closed
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	<b>Corpus Christi: Carol Service at 5.30 pm; Vigil Mass at 6.00 pm</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	<b>Corpus Christi: Private Prayer 9.00 am; Christmas Mass at 9.30 am</b> <b>St Herbert’s: Private Prayer 10.30am; Christmas Mass at 11.00 am</b>
<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:** Private intention, Raymond Morgan, Des Fitz Patrick family & friends.  
**Lately Dead:** John C. Slevin, Jim O’Hanlan.  
**R.I.P:** Raffaele Samtoro, Giulio Samtoro Senior, Amie Mc-Carthy, Thomas Mc-Carthy.  
**Christmas Mass:** Corrigan, Hevern, Elwell, Murphy & Morgan families, Leo & Doreen Mazza, Anne Mazza, Jack & Eileen Huntington.  
**Anniversary:** Martin Francis Ward, Mary & Bernard Nangle, William Ambrose, John Southworth, Linda & Micheal Mercer, Amy Howarth, David Teimey, James Cromwell, Sheila & Tony Robinson.  
**Wedding Anniversary:** Mr and Mrs Conrad Apostol.

**PRAYER FOR SICK & HOUSEBOUND**

Father, we place before you all the sick and housebound of the parish:  
 Noreen Butterworth, Margaret Lawless, Sheila Cavey, Stuart Williams, Peter Stone, Wade Stevens, Luke Burke, John McCarthy, Mary Gowran, 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, Pauline Powell, Phillip Lees, Andrew Lees, Mary O’Connor, Louise Knotman, Shirley Pryce.



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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.