

## 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## YEAR A

7 DECEMBER 2025

Throughout the first three weeks of Advent our focus is very clearly on the End of Time, and the Second Coming of the Lord - not on the run up to Christmas (that only comes in the last week). If we view Advent as a Season preparing for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the Baptist who appears today: if it was about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, becomes a confusing figure: 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 an unequivocal and very graphic reference to the end of time and the Second Coming in the reading from Saint Peter; it is a frightening picture that he paints, 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. The Gospel focuses on the great Advent prophet, John the Baptist, with his message of preparation - we are invited to get ourselves ready, making a way for the Lord.

## 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: Isaiah 11: 1-10** - A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse ... as a signal to the nations.

**Psalms 72** : In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace forever / O God give your judgement to the king / For he shall save the poor when they cry / May his name be blessed forever.

**Second: Romans 15: 4-9** : Everything written in the scriptures was meant to teach us ... it can only be to God's glory for you to treat each other in the same way as Christ treated you.

**Gospel: Matthew 3: 1-12** - John the Baptist preached ... and said "I baptise in water for repentance, the one who follows me is more powerful".

**3. BRASS BAND CONCERT:** The Brass Band Concert will take place on Sunday 14th December in Corpus Christi School Hall 2pm- 4pm( Derby Street Entrance) opp Corpus Christi Church. Tickets are now on Sale! Adults £ 5 Children £2.50. Raffle and Refreshments. Come and join us for an enjoyable afternoon with Mossley Brass band.

### 4. ADVENT STATEMENT FOR SYNOD IMPLEMENTATION:

As Advent ushers in a new liturgical year, the Diocesan Synod Implementation Group offers a brief update on our progress since the March 2025 Synod Voting Day, where 40 recommendations were prioritized under Leadership & Collaboration, Spirituality & Formation, Young People & Schools, and Community & Outreach—supported by Inclusion and clergy-engagement sub-groups.

Our emerging vision for a synodal Church in Salford centres on six themes: prayer, listening, and renewal as the heart of Eucharistic life; welcoming, inclusive, and accessible communities celebrating diversity; participation and representation through diverse leadership and formation; young people and families fully engaged in faith and service; collaboration and resources shared among all; and outreach, dialogue, and healing with compassion for survivors and interfaith ties.

**5. THE SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY:** On Monday 8th December is the Solemnity of The Immaculate

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There will be two Masses in our parish.

St Herbert's Church, 10.00AM

Corpus Christi Church, 6.00pm.

### 6. CHRISTMAS MASSES:

\* Wednesday 24th December, Vigil Mass at 6.00pm, St Herbert's Church

\* Thursday 25th December:

Corpus Christi Church, 9.30AM

St Herbert's Church, 11.00AM

**7. ADVENT WALK WITH ME BOOKS:** are available at the back of church from today. Price: £1.50.

**8. DIOCESAN ALMANAC:** now on sale at the back of each church. Wirebound copy - £6.00; Plain copy £5.00.

**9. CHRISTINGLE AND CRIB BUILDING SERVICE:** will take place on Sun 21 Dec at 3pm in St Herbert's. All welcome.

**10. ADVICE AS ENERGY BILLS CONTINUE TO RISE:** If you or those in your wider parish community are in need of support with rising energy bills, Caritas Salford has put together some helpful advice on their website. Their energy advice service team can support with free sessions and drop-ins in your area. You can find out more by visiting [www.caritassalford.org.uk/energysupport](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/energysupport)

**11. RECEPTION CLASS CHRISTMAS PLAY:** The Parishioners of Corpus Christi are invited to Reception Class Christmas Play !! at Corpus Christi School. Monday 8th. December 2025 at 9.30am. There will be Mince pies Tea and Coffee served at 9.15am. For Catering purposes please put your names on the list at the back of Church.

**12. CORPUS CHRISTI CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** There will be lessons this Sunday and next Sunday.

**13. LEGION OF MARY, MANCHESTER COMITIUM:** Join us for Carols and \holy Rosary at the Crib as we come together in faith to sing cherished Christmas carols and pray the Holy Rosary for Peace in our world on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm at St Ann's Church, St Ann's Square, Manchester, M2 7LF. Let's celebrate the birth of our Saviour with joyful witness! For inquiries Email: [legionofmarymanchester@gmail.com](mailto:legionofmarymanchester@gmail.com)

### HYMNS

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Entrance: 541; Offertory: 431, 175; Communion: 328; Recessional: 503.

**ST HERBERT'S:** Entrance: 671; Offertory: 273; Communion: 715, 511; Recessional: 242.

**14. RELICS OF ST CARLO ACUTIS TO VISIT DIOCESE OF SALFORD:** In January, the relics of St Carlo Acutis will be hosted at two of our churches over five days, during which time the Diocese will welcome schools, parishioners and people from all over for veneration. Carlo is the first millennial saint, and is celebrated for his profound faith and his use of the internet to log Eucharistic miracles from around the world. He was passionate about spreading the teachings of the Catholic Church up until his death from leukaemia at the age of 15. The relics will be presented at St Mary's Church, Burnley from 28-29 January 2026 before they travel to St Patrick's Church, Collyhurst from 30 January to 1 February 2026. More information will be shared soon with parishes and on the Diocesan website and social media channels.

#### 15. SCHOOL NEWS

**Corpus Christi:** The children have had their assessment week in school this week where they completed assessments in reading, writing and maths based on their learning for this half term. This year's children in Pupil Parliament had an exciting trip to London on Tuesday. they were going to see where all the big government decisions are made for our country and visited these buildings and also had a little tour around London visiting the London Eye! A very busy day for them.

Photos for this trip can be found on the school's social media. The children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 have had another busy week of practising for their school Nativity performances next week. They have been working hard and the singing sounds amazing. We can't wait to watch it!

**St Herbert's:** On Monday the whole school gathered together for a special Advent assembly. The first candle was lit on our Advent wreath as we prepare for the coming of baby Jesus. The reception class went to the Queen Elizabeth hall to watch the Snowman, which was accompanied by an orchestra. The children were mesmerised! During the afternoon the "snowman" walked around the hall waving and greeting the children, which of course they thought was wonderful. Upper key stage 2 performed their Christmas show for the whole school and then their families. Everyone enjoyed the show and the children were wonderful! EYFS and key stage 1 are busy rehearsing the Nativity story which they will perform next week.

**16. SUNDAY SMILE:** The English teacher at St. Thomas the Dubious High School puzzled one class last week when he said, "What has four letters, always has six letters and never has five letters?" After a while, one of his brighter pupils said, "That's quite correct, Sir. The word *what* does have *four* letters, the word *always* does have *six* ... etc. etc."

#### WEEKDAY CALENDAR

##### MONDAY (Immaculate Conception):

**St Herbert's:** Private Prayer at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am

**Corpus Christi:** Legion of Mary Prayer at 5.30 pm; Mass at 6.00 pm

##### TUESDAY:

**Corpus Christi:** Private Prayer at 6.30 pm; Mass at 7.00 pm

##### WEDNESDAY:

**St Herbert's:** Divine Mercy Prayer at 9.30 am; Mass at 10.00 am

**St Herbert's: Funeral Service For Joan Wiseman at 1.00pm.**

##### 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:** Private Intention, Rev. Dermot Heakin.

**R.I.P:** Linda Solon, Holy Souls in Purgatory.

**Lately Dead:** June Mills

#### 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, Luke Burke, Mary Gowran, Angela Delph, 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, Heather Matson, Christopher Ward, Mary Prince.



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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.