

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR A

14 DECEMBER 2025

In many ways the readings this Sunday are simply a continuation of last week – Isaiah gives us more details about the work of the Messiah, and Paul invites us to continue to be patient until the Lord's Coming. What is slightly different is the voice of John the Baptist this week: last week in Matthew 3 he was proclaiming with utter confidence that "someone is coming". Now, in Matthew 11, he asks Jesus from prison: "Is it you?" For us, as we listen to these scriptures, we are being offered something very particular – the prophecies of Isaiah (and indeed the prophet John the Baptist) are pinned down firmly and securely in the person of Jesus, Son of Mary – in fact, Jesus himself, in his reply to John says as much: "I am the Messiah that Isaiah prophesied." Again we are invited to hold the images of the prophecies in our minds until Christmas, when we can look on the child in the manger and say "We know who this is: it is the promised Messiah – God who comes to save us!"

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 35: 1-6, 10 - Let the wilderness .. bring forth flowers look, your God is coming to save you ... those the Lord has ransomed shall return, they shall come to Zion shouting for joy.

Psalms 145: Come Lord and save us / It is the Lord who keeps faith forever / It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind / It is the Lord who loves the just.

Second: James 5:7-10: Be patient, do not lose heart because the Lord's coming will be soon.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11 - John sends the disciples to ask Jesus "Are you the one who is to come?" Jesus answers by pointing to his works, and tells the people about John's greatness - and that the least in heaven is still greater than him.

3. CORPUS CHRISTI CHILDREN'S LITURGY: This is our final session today with Maria & Teresa leading the lesson. Thank you for your support this term, the children have been excellent. Our next term begins on Sunday 11th January. Hope you all enjoy a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

4. CORPUS CHRISTI RAFFLE: We would like to Thank Everyone who worked so hard in Organising the Grand Raffle. Also a big Thankyou to everyone who donated some lovely prizes for the Raffle and of course Thankyou to everyone who bought tickets and supported the Event. We raised a Grand Total of ; £687.

5. BRASS BAND CONCERT: This Sunday 14th December 2pm-4pm. Come and Enjoy a wonderful afternoon with Mossley Brass Band. Tombola and Refreshments. Adults £5 Children £2.50. Tickets will also be available at the Door.

6. 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.

7. BAPTISM: We welcome into the Divine Mercy community LEO HARRISON HARDWOOD, who was baptized in the Parish last weekend.

8. 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

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

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

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

12. 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

HYMNS

CORPUS CHRISTI: Entrance: 503; Offertory: 96, 362; Communion: 133; Recessional: 706.

ST HERBERT'S: Entrance: 669; Offertory: 284; Communion: 419, 605; Recessional: 218.

and drop-ins in your area. You can find out more by visiting www.caritassalford.org.uk/energysupport

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, 27th 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

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, achings 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: We had a very busy week this week here at Corpus Christi. Our Reception children performed their Christmas nativity for the school and their families. They were amazing! We were very proud of them all. We also had our annual Christmas jumper day this week. Our Mini Vinnies raised money on this day for the wonderful charity - Mary's Meals. Thank you to our families for supporting us. On this day we also had our delicious Christmas dinner together in the hall. Children who are part of the Rock Steady group and after school Dance group in school also performed and showcased what they have been working on this year so far in our assembly on Friday. Next week, we look forward to celebrating our Advent Mass with our parish.

16. SUNDAY SMILE:

A parishioner, who works at Manchester Metropolitan University, was introduced to a Microbiologist during the week. Afterwards, he told his colleagues that the man was much bigger than he had expected.

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 Prayer at 9.30 am; Whole School/ Parish Mass at 10.00 am
THURSDAY:	Corpus Christi: Private Prayer at 9.00 am; Whole School/ Parish Mass at 9.30 am Corpus Christi: Funeral Mass for Linda Marie Solan at 12.00 noon.
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

Anniversary: Martin Ward

Lately Dead: Joan Whitehead; Sheila Joyce

RIP: Thomas McCarthy, Tomy

Special Intention: Anonymous

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, Ann Muldoon.



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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.