

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

**YEAR A**

**21 DECEMBER 2025**

Here we enter a new stage of Advent: having spent so much time on the Second Coming, now we look back, to remember the details of the Lord's First Coming. Today we focus on the characters of Mary and Joseph, and hear of the circumstances surrounding the conception of the child Jesus, and the reaction of Joseph. This mystery springs from the House of David, and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the promise that the Messiah would come from that line. The link between the First Reading and the Gospel is quite explicit today, since Matthew actually quotes Isaiah. Joseph, descendant of King David, is invited to take his place in the great story of God's relationship with the Chosen people. There is great sense of a timeless mystery reaching its focal point, as that which was "promised long ago" (Second Reading) now takes flesh in the womb of Mary.

**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 7:10-14** - The Lord himself will give you a sign: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son who she will call Emmanuel.

**Psalms 24 : Let the Lord enter, he is the king of glory /** The Lord is the earth and its fullness / Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord / He shall receive blessings from the Lord.

**Second: Romans 1:1-7** : News about the Son of God, who was a descendant of David by the human nature he took ... through him we received grace and our mission to preach ...

**Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24** - Mary was betrothed to Joseph .. but was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. An angel appeared to Joseph, and told him to take Mary as his wife anyway, and to name the child Jesus. ... All this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son .."

**3. THANK YOU AND HAPPY 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.

**4. ST HERBERT'S COFFEE MORNING:** Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas. Please come and join us this Sunday for our Christmas Coffee Morning following 11am Mass with tea/coffee/cake/juice.

**5. 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

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

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

**8. CHRISTINGLE AND CRIB BUILDING SERVICE:** will take place this Sunday 21 Dec at 3pm in St Herbert's. All welcome.

**9. BISHOP JOHN'S MESSAGE FOR CARITAS:** Bee-ing there this Christmas: Demand for our diocesan charity Caritas Salford's services is greater than ever as more and more people in our diocese experience poverty, homelessness and discrimination. If you haven't seen their Bee There Advent appeal yet, which asks if you are able to help support people locally, you can read more at [www.caritassalford.org.uk/BeeThere](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/BeeThere) Bishop John has recorded a special message to tell us more about why it's so important, especially at this time of year: [www.caritassalford.org.uk/bishop-john-christmas-25/](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/bishop-john-christmas-25/)

**10. SAFEGUARDING SURVEY - PUBLIC CALL FOR INFORMATION:** The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) are completing a safeguarding inspection within the Diocese of Salford, and would like to hear the views of as many people as possible regarding their arrangements for safeguarding. Responses will be collected anonymously unless you choose to provide your contact information, and the survey will close at 11:45pm on Friday 16th January 2026. To submit your response, please scan the QR code:



**11. ST HERBERT'S MASS:** There will be no Parish Mass at 10.00 am on Wednesday at St Herbert's church. There will be Christmas Vigil Mass at 6.00 pm.

**HYMNS**

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Entrance: 361 ; Offertory: 491 , 443 ; Communion: 447; Recessional 851: .

**ST HERBERT'S:** Entrance: 541; Offertory: 503; Communion: 646, 161; Recessional: 431.

## 12. 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)

## 13. 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. Mary Farmer was in school all week completing Advent Retreats with each class- everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. 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 a busy two weeks in school. Early years and key stage 1 performed the nativity stories which were wonderful especially the singing! Lower key stage 2 held their carol concert again with beautiful singing and telling a very special story. Throughout the 2 weeks we have our Advent assemblies where the candles on the Advent wreath are lit and different sections of the story of birth of Christ are told.

This week was party week and we had a very special visitor who brought great excitement to school and he told the children to go to bed early and not wake up too early !!!!! On Wednesday the whole school went to church for the last school mass of the year. The readers were wonderful as was the singing. We'd like to thank the Parish family for joining us.

Everyone at school is ready for a rest and we would like to wish you all a holy and happy Christmas and lots of love and prayers for 2026.

**14. SUNDAY SMILE:** A van full of wigs and hairpieces was stolen on Wednesday night from a warehouse off Lydia Becker Way. Police believe the thieves are local, and said they are continuing to comb the area.

## WEEKDAY CALENDAR

<b>MONDAY:</b>	Both churches closed.
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	<b>Corpus Christi:</b> Private Prayer at 6.30 pm; Mass at 7.00 pm
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	<b>St Herbert's: NO 10.00 AM MASS.</b>
	<b>Christmas Vigil: St Herbert's:</b> Private Prayer at 5.30 pm; Mass at 6.00 pm
<b>THURSDAY (Christmas Day):</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
<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
	<b>CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE BEFORE OR AFTER MASS ON REQUEST</b>

## MASS REQUESTS

Missa pro populo

**Special Intention:** Boe Heppel

**R.I.P:** Benjamin Gabriel Lindley McLoughlin, Edward and Mary Elson, Raffaele Santoro, Sierra Grace Clarke, Giulio Santoro Senior, Annie McCarthy, Holy Souls in Purgatory, Down Cookson Martinez, Baby Robbie.

**Anniversary:** John Slevin(1<sup>st</sup>), Mary and Bill Patterson.

**Birthday Anniversary:** Mary Grimshaw.

**Christmas Mass:** Jack and Eileen Huntington.

**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, Boe Heppel.



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Corpus Christi RC Church, 8 Derby Street, OL9 7HX



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.