

St. William of York Catholic Church



PARISH PRIEST
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MASS TIMES
Sunday
8.00 am & 10.00 am
Weekdays
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 9.30am
Thursday No Mass
Friday 7.00 pm
Saturday 5.30 pm (Vigil of Sunday)
Confessions on Saturdays 4.30-5.15pm in church or by personal arrangement with Fr Jonathan

Third Sunday of Advent

10/11 December 2022

Saturday 10 December

No morning Mass
4.30-5.15 **Confessions**
5.30 **Vigil Mass** of Sunday
Tom Enright RIP

SUNDAY 11 December

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gaudete Sunday (Year A)

[Daily Office Psalter week 3]
8.00 **Mass** People of the Parish
10.00 **Parish Mass** and **Angelus**
Jim Love RIP (Anniv)
[3.00 Christmas Tea and Sing-along Carols]

Monday 12 December

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Memorial
9.30 **Mass** For the church in need and for sick and deceased clergy

Tuesday 13 December

St Lucy, Memorial

9.30 **Mass** Maria Shukla (Birthday) and Dr Tralika Shukla (sickness)

Wednesday 14 December

St John of the Cross, Memorial

9.30 **Mass** Eileen O'Sullivan RIP (Anniv)

Thursday 15 December

Feria of Advent 3

No Mass day

Friday 16 December

Feria of Advent 3

Friday abstinence
7.00pm **Mass** Eamonn Sheridan RIP

Saturday 17 December

Feria of Advent 3 No morning Mass
4.30-5.15 **Confessions**
5.30 **Vigil Mass** of Sunday
Lawrence (sickness)

SUNDAY 18 December

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A)

[Daily Office Psalter week 4]
8.00 **Mass** People of the Parish
10.00 **Parish Mass** and **Angelus**
Barbara Chandler RIP (Anniv)

PLEASE TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME.

PREPARATION BEFORE MASS ALMIGHTY GOD, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen. *After the prayer, unless you are under 7, please prepare in silence to meet the Lord.*

DURING MASS Last week we began using other congregational responses provided in the Missal.

At the Greeting:

Priest Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Congregation And with your spirit.

During the Eucharistic Prayer:

Priest The mystery of faith.

Congregation Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free!

At the Dismissal:

Priest Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

Congregation Thanks be to God!

AFTER THE 10am MASS ... refreshments (often cakes!) and chance to connect in the Parish Hall. Everyone is very welcome.

THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT *The Order of Mass* can be followed in the red Parish Mass Book – **first from p.7**; then, after the Bidding Prayers – **from p.15**; then, from the Lord's Prayer – **p.56**. (New Mass cards, far simpler to follow, are in preparation.)

The **Readings** for today's Mass are to be found in the gold Parish Mass Book on **pp.88–90**. The psalm response is: **Come Lord, and save us!**

The early Christians lived in the hope that Jesus would return in their own lifetime. The debate among them, fed by the writings and ministry of St Paul, was about how they should live so as to be ready when the Lord returned. Two thousand years after the death of Jesus and, like the first generation of Christians, we too are expected to conduct ourselves in such a way that we wouldn't be taken by surprise when the Lord returns – because "no one knows the day or the hour" except God himself (Mt 24.36; Mk 13.32).

Today's liturgy opens with words of St Paul "Rejoice in the Lord always! The Lord is near!" (Phil 4.4) It was not a Christmas greeting! For many centuries 'Christmas Day' was not widely celebrated in the Church. No, St Paul

is talking about *Christ's second coming*, the joy of which strengthens Christians to live in the present world,

despite it being often difficult and sometimes hostile to believers, with the “peace that passes all understanding”. This is the reason the Church, in a season of prayer and fasting, celebrates today in pink!

First Reading (OT): Isaiah 35.1–6, 10 This exquisite text from the prophet Isaiah uses powerful images to describe the path back to health and salvation. Everyone and everything will be touched by an explosion of joy. Those set free by God await a wonderful future. God’s justice and mercy will underwrite human justice, peace, and happiness. The early Christians turned to this prophecy as forecasting the coming of Messiah, and the dawning of the kingdom of God.

Second Reading (NT): James 5.7–10 We saw a few weeks ago how *patience* is the key advent virtue. St James urges his readers to exercise patience just like the farmer who has sown seed and must await the harvest. The longer the delay, the greater the patience required. But James does not want his people to tread water, he wants them to put the waiting time to best possible use. Christians cannot just sit back: they must make the time *fruitful*. They must be fruitful! They must actively prepare themselves and the world for the second coming of the Lord. We must make patience into a *virtue* – a source of *strength* in our lives and characters.

Gospel: St Matthew 11.2–11 Having sent a message to John the Baptist about what was happening since he began proclaiming the kingdom of God, Jesus challenges the people as to what their expectations of John were when they first went to hear him preach. As Christmas now approaches, it is worth our asking ourselves what exactly we expect of Christ, and of being His disciples.

Calling Servers, or would-be servers So that we can far more easily communicate with all who serve at Mass on Sundays or weekdays – or want to learn to serve – please would you (or parents of younger servers) add your name and email address *before Christmas* to the list currently in the Priest’s Sacristy? Such details will only be used by Robert Chandler or Fr Jonathan for *that* purpose.

Confessions before Christmas In addition to making a personal arrangement with Fr Jonathan at any time, please note that **throughout the week before Christmas** there will be **Adoration and Confessions** as follows:

Mon, Tues, Wed 19–21 Dec	9.30 Mass 5.30-6.30 Adoration and Confessions
Fri 23	From 12 noon Adoration 5.30-6.30 Confessions 7.00pm Mass
Sat 24 Christmas Eve	9.30 Christmas Eve Morning Mass TBC Confessions

This is the one essential Christmas preparation. Please do not neglect it.

Christmas Collections Since this year Christmas falls on a Sunday we wanted to make it clear that any offering given in the normal planned giving methods is for the benefit of the Church; anything given in the special Christmas Offering envelopes will be for the benefit of Fr Jonathan. As in previous years, should you wish to make a separate donation to Fr Jonathan at any time then you should mark the envelope for the attention of Fr Jonathan.

First Confession and Holy Communion 2023 **Application Forms** are available in the church porch for parents to complete and return direct to Father Jonathan. To be considered, children must already be in Year 3 or above at school. If you have any questions, please talk to Carol-Anne Chandler after any Sunday 10am Mass.

The Christmas Fayre held last Saturday lifted our spirits, after several difficult years for many. This was a successful local and parish community event which raised £2,311.38 towards the funding of a new organ for the church. Thank you to those able to give up their time on the day as well as commitments of many in the preceding weeks. A hearty thanks to all parishioners for supporting the fayre in so many ways including attending it and making generous donations. *Tim G, Robert C and Fr Jonathan*

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CLEAN 9.30am on Saturday 17th December. To support the weekly cleaning teams and undertake additional tasks to make the church truly ready for Christmas. There really are plenty of roles for everybody who would like to get involved. Just turn up and there will be a list of jobs! Everybody welcome.

Readers Rota

<u>10 December 5.30</u> John McIntyre	<u>11 December 8.00</u> Amalie Direkze
<u>11 December 10.00</u> Readings Maureen Ruane, Bidding prayers Patrick & Joseph Arthur	
<u>17 December 5.30</u> Martin Rush	<u>18 December 8.00</u> Daphne Byron
<u>18 December 10.00</u> Readings Georgia Nwawulor, Bidding prayers Robert Chandler	