



# Our Lady and St Joseph RC Church Heywood

St Joseph's Presbytery, Mary St, OL10 1EG. 01706 369777

Website: [www.catholicheywood.org.uk](http://www.catholicheywood.org.uk).

Email: [stjosephheywood@outlook.com](mailto:stjosephheywood@outlook.com)



**Parish Priest:** Fr Augustine Franklin MSP  
Email: [Augustine.franklin@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:Augustine.franklin@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

**Assistant Parish Priest:** Fr John Okeme MSP  
Email: [John.okeme@dioceseofsalford.org.uk](mailto:John.okeme@dioceseofsalford.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary:** Sharron Whittle  
[stjosephheywood@outlook.com](mailto:stjosephheywood@outlook.com)

**Third Sunday of Advent Year A, 14th December 2025**

Served by the  
Missionary  
Society of St Paul

## THS WEEK AT OUR LADY AND ST JOSEPH

**Monday 15th Dec.:** Advent Weekday.

9.30am Morning Mass

**Tuesday 16th Dec.:** Advent Weekday.

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass

**Wednesday 17th Dec.:** Advent Weekday.

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass

**Thursday 18th Dec.:** Advent Weekday.

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass

**Friday 19th Dec.:** Advent Weekday.

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass

**Saturday 20th Dec.:** Advent Weekday.

10am Morning Mass:

6pm: First Mass of Sunday:

**Sunday 21st Dec.: 4th Sunday of Advent Year A**

9.30 am Mass:

11.00 am Mass:

### Readers & Eucharistic Ministers

**13th/14th Dec.: Readers:** 6pm S. Gibson, 9.30am: P. Cunningham, 11am: D. Doyle. **Eucharistic Minister:** 6pm: J. Matthews 9.30am: D. Sharrock, 11am C. Shore.

**20th/21st Dec.: Readers:** 6pm J. Matthews, 9.30am: S. Jones, 11am: P. Greenall. **Eucharistic Minister:** 6pm: B. Doyle, 9.30am: L. Mather, 11am S. Fitzsimons.

**Thank you** for your generosity. **Last Weekend:** £404.00 (Gift Aid) £34837 (Loose Change) & CAFOD £42.44.

**200 Club** If you would like to join it is only £5 a month which needs to be paid at the beginning of every month. The more members we have, the bigger the prize and more money going back into our church. Winners are on the Notice Boards.

**Unclaimed 200 Club Winnings:** S. Lloyd, J. Emmet, M. Basford and P. Djamalis. Please pick up Winnings from the sacristy. **Children's Liturgy:** From the 1st Sunday of advent 30th Nov., we shall resume children's liturgy in the parish at the 11am Mass. We are asking for children's liturgy volunteers.

**Junior Choir:** There will be a practice on Monday at 3.40 for all children who would like to read or be a part of the choir for the Family Mass on Christmas Eve. The practice will be held in the Parish Meeting Room

**Parish Christmas Fayre :** Thank you so much for your support, contributions and donations toward our Christmas Fayre. Thanks also to our various volunteers who worked so hard organising, moving things, being in charge of stalls

and cleaning afterward.

**MEGA Raffle now on sale:** 1st Prize : **Shark Classic Anti Hair Wrap Cordless Vacuum ICZ160UK**, courtesy of Kathleen Murray, 2nd Prize: **NINJA 3.8L Air Fryer AF100UK** courtesy of **G. Housley** and some great Food Hampers for 3rd prize. Tickets, one pound per a strip .

**Heywood SVP Foodbank:** are looking for someone with good money management skills to act as their treasurer. Role involves processing donations and payments, keeping good digital records of transactions and occasional reporting. If you would like to volunteer, please contact 07396071193 or speak to Brian Doyle for more details



### CHRISTMAS MASSES

**Wednesday 24th, Christmas Eve: Mass**

**5.30pm:** *Family Mass: Mass to be principally for families with (young) children*

**Mass 7.30pm:** Mass principally for families with older children and other parishioners.



**Thursday 25th Christmas Day:** Mass 9.30am Mass 11am,

**This week we pray** for the people of the parish of the Sacred Heart and St. Francis, Gorton, and Fr Kevin Murphy, their parish priest, together with their parish primary schools.

**Let us pray for** those who live and work on Vigo St, Derwent Ave, Coniston Gr, Rydal Gr and Buttemere Ave.

**For** The sick of our Parish.

**For** Bernice Stahler and all who have died recently.

**For** Fr James Ryan, Bernard Hull, Frank & Clara Taylor, Maureen Gerrard, Paul Dermody, Norma Kierans, Cathrine Rothwell, Kathleen Daly, Emma Grime, Nora Jones, Robert Plover, Mark Coyle, Rita Rowe, Imelda Aspinall, Jack Couch, Tom Logan, William Logan, Margaret Logan, Kevin Stanley, Tery Payn, Cathrine Rothwell, Jack Hargreaves, Brenda Mahon, Helen Maxwell, and all we remember at this time. **December Carol Services:** **Diocese of Salford Schools' Singing Programme:** The Diocese of Salford Schools' Singing Programme will be hosting a series of free carol services in churches across the diocese this December. Each service begins at 6.30pm and includes traditional carols and readings as part of a one-hour programme. Find your nearest service at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/whats-on/>

**Mass for Engaged Couples to be celebrated by Bishop**

**John Arnold:** On Saturday 14 February, Bishop John will be celebrating a special Mass for engaged couples across the diocese. The Mass provides couples with an opportunity to seek God's blessing to guide and strengthen them during this time of preparation. Newly-married couples are also invited to receive a blessing in their first year of marriage. The Mass will take place at St Patrick's Church in Collyhurst on Saturday 14 February 2026 at 1:30pm.

**THE WORD OF THE WEEK:** 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!

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# SUNDAY Plus

3rd Sunday of Advent **Divine Office Week III** Year A

# Teach me your ways

Teach me your way of looking at people:  
as you glanced at Peter after his denial,  
as you penetrated the fears of the rich young man  
and the hearts of your disciples.

I would like to meet you as you really are,  
since your image changes those with whom  
you come into contact.

Remember John the Baptist's first meeting with you?  
And the centurion's feeling of unworthiness?  
And the amazement of all those who saw miracles  
and other wonders?

How you impressed your disciples,  
the rabble in the Garden of Olives,  
Pilate and his wife  
and the centurion at the foot of the cross...

I would like to hear and be impressed  
by your manner of speaking,  
listening, for example, to your discourse  
in the synagogue in Capharnaum  
or the Sermon on the Mount where your audience  
felt you "taught as one who has authority."

Pedro Arrupe SJ, Hearts on Fire: praying with Jesuits

I am an Augustinian, a son of St Augustine, who once  
said, "With you I am a Christian, and for you I am a  
bishop." In this sense, all of us can journey together  
toward the homeland that God has prepared for us.

Pope Leo

## Christmas tree legends

Legend says that one Christmas Eve, in a forest in Germany, a poor forester and his family huddled by their log fire, trying to stay warm. A small boy, bitterly cold, alone and lost, knocked at their front door. There was very little to spare, but the family made space beside the fire as the child gulped down a bowl of hot broth. Soon it was bedtime. Very early next morning, Christmas Day, singing angels woke the family from their sleep. They then

discovered that their young visitor was the Boy Jesus. In thanks for their hospitality, Jesus gave the forester and his family a freshly cut branch from a fir tree – and thus began the custom of having a Christmas tree in the home.

Another legend tells that the Boy Jesus found a poor family who could not afford to decorate their Christmas tree. He solved their problem by taking some spiders' webs and changing them into silver thread – the first tinsel.



Jesus at the Sermon on the Mount by August Müller (1923). Renata Sedmakova / Shutterstock.com

Loving Lord, we'll soon be celebrating the joy of Christmas. Help me to make it a meaningful celebration for the people around me. Help me to spread your love. **+** Amen.

## READINGS

Today:  
Isaiah 35:1-6, 10  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

Monday:  
Numbers 24:2-7,  
15-17  
Matthew 21:23-27

Tuesday:  
Genesis 49:2, 8-10  
Matthew 1:1-17

Wednesday:  
Jeremiah 23:5-8  
Matthew 1:18-24

Thursday:  
Judges 13:2-7, 24-25  
Luke 1:25

Friday:  
Isaiah 7:10-14  
Luke 1:26-38

Saturday:  
Song of Songs 2:8-14  
Luke 1:39-45

Next Sunday:  
Isaiah 7:10-14  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-24

## Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

### Remember young people

Signs of hope are also needed by those who are the very embodiment of hope, namely, the young. Sadly, they often see their dreams and aspirations frustrated. We must not disappoint them, for the future depends on their enthusiasm. It is gratifying to see the energy they demonstrate, for example, by rolling up their sleeves and volunteering to help when disasters strike and people are in need. Yet it is sad to see young people who are without hope, who face an uncertain and unpromising future, who lack employment or job security or realistic prospects after finishing school. Without the hope that their dreams can come true, they will inevitably grow discouraged and listless... With renewed passion, let us demonstrate care and concern for adolescents, students and young couples, the rising generation. Let us draw close to the young, for they are the joy and hope of the Church and of the world!

Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 12

