



Our Lady and St Joseph RC Church Heywood

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The Second Sunday of Christmas Year A, 4th January 2026

THS WEEK AT OUR LADY AND ST JOSEPH

Monday 5th Jan.: Christmas Weekday.

9.30am Morning Mass

Tuesday 6th Jan.: The Epiphany of the Lord, (Solemnity)
(HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am: Morning Mass and 6pm: Evening Mass

Wednesday 7th Jan.: Christmas Weekday.

9am: Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass

Thursday 8th Jan.: Christmas Weekday

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass:

Friday 9th Jan.: Christmas Weekday.

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass:

Saturday 10th Jan.: Christmas Weekday.

10am Morning Mass:

10.30am. Adoration and Confessions.

6pm: First Mass of Sunday:

Sunday 11th Jan.: The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

9.30 am Mass & 11.00 am Mass:

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers

3rd/4th Jan.: Readers: 6pm P. Sherry, 9.30am: M. Schofield, 11am: D. Doyle. **Eucharistic Minister:** 6pm: B. Doyle, 9.30am: H. Sharrock, 11am C. Shore.

10th/11th Jan.: Readers: 6pm B. Brown, 9.30am: P. Cunningham, 11am: P. Greenall. **Eucharistic Minister:** 6pm: J. Matthews 9.30am: D. Sharrock & 11am S. Fitzsimons.

Thank you for your generosity. **Christmas:** £465.00 (Gift Aid) £830.00 (Loose Change). **Last Weekend:** £430.00 (Gift Aid) £430.88 (Loose Change) & CAFOD £32.42.

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. **Parish Christmas Fayre:** What a great day! Thank you for all your support. We raised £1,287.00 on the day. From the

MEGA Raffle drawn on the 23rd, we raised £500.00, bringing the grand total to £1,787.00. The winning tickets numbers are displayed at church entrance doors. Many thanks to Kathleen Murray & G. Housley's Heywood who kindly donated the 1st and 2nd prizes respectively and our other donors.

Unclaimed Raffle Prize: Ticket Number starting from 191 with first name: Liz won the 1st prize and it is yet to be claimed

FHC: The next FHC Children's Catechism Session this week 10th/1112th January 2026.

Bereavement Group Meeting: Tuesday 6th January 7-8:30 Bereavement Group are meeting for a talk by Russ Magnall, an ex police commander and wellbeing coach. He is an inspiring speaker. All are welcome. Any details ring Pat Greenall on 07599355924.

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

This week we pray for the people of the parish of St Robert of Newminster, Levenshulme and Longsight, with Fr Kris Aneke, MSP, their priest. We pray for their three parish primary schools and for the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions.

Let us pray for those who live and work on Gloucester Ave, Winchester Ave, Dorchester Gr, Muirfield Cl & Sunningdale Dr.

For The sick of our Parish.

For Paul O'Rourke and all who have died recently.

For Antonio, Maria & Matilde Da Silva, James & Veronica Maguire, Paul Skinner, David Pearson, Eric Fletcher, Vincent O'Brien Frank Parry, Nicholas, Dorothy, Kay, Nick, Dominic & James Doyle. Ethel & Peter McHugh, Josie Dermody, Ellen & Handel Holt, Brian Neary, Kenneth Bray, Nora Jones, Frank & Clara Taylor, deceased members of Jamieson & Barnes families, the Schofield & Thornton Families and all we remember at this time.

FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Epiphany: 528; The Epiphany is the manifestation of Jesus as Messiah of Israel, Son of God and Saviour of the world. the great feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men (magi) from the East, together with his baptism in the Jordan and the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee. In the magi, representatives of the neighbouring pagan religions, the Gospel sees the first-fruits of the nations, who welcome the good news of salvation through the Incarnation. the magi's coming to Jerusalem in order to pay homage to the king of the Jews shows that they seek in Israel, in the messianic light of the star of David, the one who will be king of the nations. Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and worship him as Son of God and Saviour of the world only by turning towards the Jews and receiving from them the messianic promise as contained in the Old Testament. The Epiphany shows that "the full number of the nations" now takes its "place in the family of the patriarchs", and acquires *Israelitica dignitas* (is made "worthy of the heritage of Israel").

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*.

THE WORD OF THE WEEK: In the East, this Season of Christmas is called the "Time of Manifestation", or Showing. Today is the 'Feast of the Manifestation', or the Showing of the Saviour to the whole world, to all nations. In the wise men who travel from the East, we see all the nations other than the people of Israel being welcomed at the New Temple of the New Covenant - the new born child in the manger. A look at the Psalm response shows this: "All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord." The same is true of the key word in the second reading: "Revelation" remember that for the people of Israel this was to be their Messiah, come to restore their fortunes. By this feast, we proclaim God's plan was to extend his salvation to men and women of every nation, of every time and every place - including us. In many ways this is our Christmas Feast, when we celebrate the Good News of the Saviour's birth revealed at last to us.

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C	H	L	K	I	D	E	T	S	E
H	T	I	I	N	I	H	A	A	G
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T	A	R	G	F	C	L	O	R	A
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E	I	M	D	R	S	E	R	R	H
S	K	E	T	A	D	B	D	Y	I
A	R	B	E	T	L	E	M	E	M

BETHLEHEM
EAST
INFANT
KING
STAR
HOMAGE
LEADER
DATE
CHILD
DELIGHT
GOLD
MYRRH



SUNDAY Plus

2nd Sunday after Christmas **Divine Office Week II** Year A

You are going towards God



All of us must search together. First and foremost, by giving [a] good example in our lives, with joy, living the joy of the Gospel, not discouraging others, but rather looking for ways to encourage young people to hear the voice of the Lord and to follow it and to serve in the Church.

Pope Leo

Epiphany house blessing

Have you ever visited a house and seen something like 20 C+M+B 20 chalked over a door and wondered what it means?

The numbers and letters are a time-honoured Epiphany custom celebrated in many places across the world.

C+M+B stands for the names Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, the traditional names of the Magi. It's

also believed that the letters are the initials of the Latin words meaning "Christ, bless this house" (*Christus mansionem benedicat*).

The first 20 is the century and the second figures are the year, so, for 2026, 20 C+M+B 26 would be chalked over the door.

The Epiphany Blessing places God at the entrance to the home and the entire family under God's protection. It invites Jesus to be a daily guest in the home, the family's comings and goings, conversations, work and play, joys and sorrows.

Lord of hope, as this Jubilee Year of Hope ends, let me continue my pilgrimage through life in a spirit of hope, joy and confidence in your incredible love. Amen.

Where are you heading for in the course of your life?

You are constantly doing, saying or thinking about something. This happens all the time, at every moment of your day.

The fact is that you are looking forward to something, whether close or far away and you tend to that, in the hope it will bring you a crumb of happiness.

This longing for happiness is present in every human being. In fact, by heaping up money, seeking glory and pleasures, people are only trying to find happiness.

Have you not perhaps sought this happiness until now in any place and thing on this earth?...

Allow your fantasy to build freely in your mind that happiness you have dreamed of. Try to imagine all that you have ever wished to have and ask

yourself: what if there still is something that lasts even longer?

You will always have the same answer: if it is possible to reach something even better, that is, if your soul is still unsatisfied, then you have not reached your happiness your purpose. And whatever limitations you might still have to overcome they shall always be an impediment towards the perfection of your happiness.

This means that you long for happiness, but a happiness without limitations: an infinite, eternal happiness.

Everything in this world is limited; That is why things are not enough to satisfy our souls. Still, every living creature under the sun longs for happiness... this longing can be fulfilled by the infinite and eternal God.

St Maximilian Kolbe OFM, Stronger Than Hatred: a collection of spiritual writings

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

Our search for happiness

What is happiness? What is the happiness that we await and desire? Not some fleeting pleasure, a momentary satisfaction that, once experienced, keeps us longing for more, in a desperate quest that leaves our hearts unsated and increasingly empty. We aspire to a happiness that is definitively found in the one thing that can bring us fulfilment, which is love. Thus, we will be able to say even now: I am loved; therefore I exist; and I will live forever in the love that does not disappoint, the love from which nothing can ever separate me. Let us listen once more to the words of the Apostle: "I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord"

Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 21



READINGS

Today:
Ecclesiasticus
24:1-2, 8-12
Ephesians
1:3-6, 15-18
John 1:1-18

Monday:
1 John 3:22 – 4:6
Matthew 4:12-17,
23-25

Tuesday:
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

Wednesday:
1 John 4:11-18
Mark 6:45-52

Thursday:
1 John 4:19 – 5:4
Luke 4:14-22

Friday:
1 John 5:5-13
Luke 5:12-16

Saturday:
1 John 5:14-21
John 3:22-30

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 3:13-17