



Our Lady and St Joseph RC Church Heywood

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Served by the
Missionary
Society of St Paul

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Second Sunday of Advent Year A, 7th December 2025

THIS WEEK AT OUR LADY AND ST JOSEPH

Monday 8th Dec.: The Solemnity of Immaculate Conception (Solem.).

9.30am Morning Mass

6pm: Evening Mass.

Tuesday 9th Dec.: Advent Weekday.

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass

Wednesday 10th Dec.: Our Lady of Loreto (Opt. Mem.)

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass

Thursday 11th Dec.: St. Damasus I, Pope and Martyr (Opt. Mem.)

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass

Friday 12th Dec.: Advent Weekday.

9am Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9.30am Mass:

Saturday 13th Dec.: St Lucy (Mem.).

10am Morning Mass:

6pm: First Mass of Sunday:

Sunday 14th Dec.: 3rd Sunday of Advent Year A

9.30 am Mass:

11.00 am Mass: Baby Freya's Baptism reception.

12.30 pm: Baby Freya's Baptism.

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers

6th/7th Dec.: Readers: 6pm B. Brown, 9.30am: M. Schofield, 11am: G. DaSilva. **Eucharistic Minister:** 6pm: B. Doyle, 9.30am: H. Sharrock, 11am D. Tierney.

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.

Thank you for your generosity. **Last Weekend:** £462.90 (Gift Aid) £338.89 (Loose Change) & CAFOD £35.55.

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.

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 **Junior Choir** practice in the parish meeting room on Monday the 1st at 3.40pm, in preparation for the Carol Service.

RCIA Class Sessions: Every Friday in the parish meeting room at 7pm.

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, be-

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 Carols on Wednesday 10th Dec. at St Luke's Church at 7pm. Brass band accompaniment with visiting Choirs. There will be refreshments afterwards



This week we pray for the parishioners of St. Catherine's, Didsbury, together with Fr. John Hitchen, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary school, the Barlow High School and Francis House Children's Hospice

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

For The sick of our Parish.

For Bob Shields, John Smalley, Barry Fitzsimons and all who have died recently.

For Frank & Clara Taylor, 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, Kathleen Brown, Bernard Tattersall, , Michael Logan, Eileen Logan, Rebecca Rochford, Ellen Holt, Handel Holt, forgotten Souls 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: Throughout the first three weeks of Advent our focus is very clearly on the End of Time, and the Second Coming of the Lord - not on the run up to Christmas (that only comes in the last week). If we view Advent as a Season preparing for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the Baptist who appears today: if it was about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, becomes a confusing figure: his role is to preach to us, as he did of old, and to prepare us for the (second) coming of the Lord. Today we have an unequivocal and very graphic reference to the end of time and the Second Coming in the reading from Saint Peter; it is a frightening picture that he paints, and so the first reading offers tender words of comfort to help us understand who is coming, and why we should be ready to meet him. The Gospel focuses on the great Advent prophet, John the Baptist, with his message of preparation - we are invited to get ourselves ready, making a way for the Lord.

L	O	C	U	S	T	S	S	M	E
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T	R	A	I	E	V	I	R	E	H
Y	L	A	P	R	A	E	E	G	C
S	E	E	N	E	C	A	D	A	A
E	R	N	B	I	R	I	L	N	E
C	N	H	O	J	A	P	I	A	R
I	O	V	I	H	I	S	W	S	P

JOHN
PREACHED
WILDERNESS
MESSAGE
REPENT
VOICE
PREPARE
BELT
LOCUSTS
HONEY
SANDALS
RIVER



SUNDAY *Plus*

2nd Sunday of Advent **Divine Office Week II** Year A**E & W: Bible Sunday**

The Advent messenger

You cannot tell the story of Jesus without first speaking about John the Baptist. He introduces the adult Jesus in all the Gospels. John worked no miracles, held no office, belonged to no religious party. Yet his importance for Jesus was unique: he stands as the only religious leader whom Jesus ever sought out and spoke of with deep affection and admiration. He is described as a voice crying in the wilderness, a large presence that dominates the emptiness of the wasteland.

The purpose of this energetic renewal movement is to prepare for the one who is to come. And we know that "one" to be Jesus of Nazareth. Although John has his own group of disciples, he does not make himself the focus of his prophetic witness; he does not claim that he is the way, the truth and the life. John understands his own powerful place within the larger context of God's plan, and this frees him to defer to the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit. Jesus' greatness does not


diminish John's importance: John is important precisely because of who Jesus is.

John challenges all of us to foster the greatness in others without feeling threatened about the value of our own contribution; to celebrate the importance of others because we have a sense of our own worth and value before God.

As the relationship between John and Jesus teaches us, the generosity in recognising the goodness in others can help them call out the good that is in ourselves. When that happens, there are no losers.

*Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.,
Jesus and the Gospels*



God of surprises, open my eyes to see you at work. Surprise me this Advent as I try to make more space for you in my life. Let me celebrate your goodness.  Amen.

Try to be good

People sometimes say: "We are in a society that is all rotten, all dishonest." That is not true. There are still so many good people, so many honest people. Rather, what can be done to improve society? I would say: let each of us try to be good and to infect others with a goodness imbued with the meekness and love taught by Christ. Christ's golden rule

was: "Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself. Do to others what you want done to yourself." And he always gave. Put on the cross, not only did he forgive those who crucified him, but he excused them. He said: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." This is Christianity, these are sentiments which, if put into practice would help society so much.

Pope John Paul I

The way we communicate is of fundamental importance: we must say "no" to the war of words and images, we must reject the paradigm of war.

Pope Leo



Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope Search for peace

The first sign of hope should be the desire for peace in our world, which once more finds itself immersed in the tragedy of war. Heedless of the horrors of the past, humanity is confronting yet another ordeal, as many peoples are prey to brutality and violence. What does the future hold for those peoples, who have already endured so much? How is it possible that their desperate plea for help is not motivating world leaders to resolve the numerous regional conflicts in view of their possible consequences at the global level? Is it too much to dream that arms can fall silent and cease to rain down destruction and death? May the Jubilee remind us that those who are peacemakers will be called "children of God". The need for peace challenges us all, and demands that concrete steps be taken. May diplomacy be tireless in its commitment to seek, with courage and creativity, every opportunity to undertake negotiations aimed at a lasting peace.

Pope Francis, Spes non confundit, 8

READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12

Monday:
Genesis 3:9-15, 20
Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12
Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday:
Isaiah 40:1-11
Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday:
Isaiah 40:25-31
Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday:
Isaiah 41:13-20
Matthew 11:11-15

Friday:
Isaiah 48:17-19
Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday:
Ecclesiasticus
48:1-4, 9-11
Matthew 17:10-13

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