



The Sacred Heart &



St. Francis Parish, Gorton

Dec 21st 2025



## 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

### SCHEDULE

Sun 21th	<b>4th Sunday of Advent</b> 09:15 Adoration & Confession 10:00 Morning Prayer 10:30 Mass & Choir 11:45 Church Clean	
	<b>Parish Community</b> 11:45 Refreshments	
Mon 22nd	<b>Requiem Mass</b> 11:15 Mary Rose Power	
Tue 23rd	<b>Advent week 4</b> —	
Wed 24th	<b>December 24th</b> 17:30 Christmas Vigil Mass	
	<b>December 24th</b> 23:00 Midnight Mass	
Thu 25th	<b>Christmas Day</b> 10:30 Christmas Mass	
Fri 26th	<b>St Stephen</b> 09:15 Mass	
Sat 27th	<b>St John</b> 11:00 Adoration & Confession 12:00 Mass	
	<b>The Holy Family</b> 17:00 Adoration, Confession & Evening Prayer 17:30 Vigil Mass	
Sun 28th	<b>The Holy Family</b> 09:15 Adoration & Confession 10:00 Morning Prayer 10:30 Mass & Choir 11:45 Church Clean	
	<b>Parish Community</b> 11:45 Refreshments	

### SIGNS FROM GOD AND THE LANGUAGE OF GOD

The Bible records the ways in which God has revealed himself to humanity, most fully in the person of Jesus and also in the descent of the Holy Spirit. But since Adam and Eve, God has been communicating with his creation in various ways.

In the first reading today, God himself encourages King Ahaz to, "Ask for a sign of the Lord your God..." Ahaz hesitates at this because he does not want to put God to the test. Later, the Pharisees and others would be criticised for demanding signs.

The prophet Isaiah then says, "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel." And this is what we hear about in the Gospel reading. Joseph is given assurance by God in a dream that the child Mary is carrying has been conceived by the Holy Spirit.

I think it is a fairly common human experience that we often do not know what we should do. Life throws up all sorts of choices, opportunities and problems. We would like to work out the best way to act. Wouldn't it be good if God spoke to us so clearly in our dreams, so that we could wake up and act decisively?



I believe that God speaks to each one of us profoundly and frequently, not just now and again. I also think that God uses different sorts of languages with different people and at different times. We need to learn the language of God.

But the biggest issue, I suggest, concerns our listening. We need to learn how to listen to God, especially in prayer. I rarely sense God speaking to me directly in prayer, but I am certain that the good habit of prayer means that we are alert through the day to the signs that God then puts our way.

It has been said that, "God speaks to us in many ways but his preferred language is silence." If we are faithful in our observance of the Christmas season and if we are prayerful listeners, I am sure that we will all receive signs and indications about God's will for us and his great plans for our good.

God bless, Fr Kevin.

### PARISH MEETING IN THE NEW YEAR

It is a while since we have had a Parish Meeting as I have been awaiting the directions for the next steps in to be taken for the implementation of the Diocesan Synod. These steps include the setting up of a Parish Leadership Team and the appointment of official welcomers in churches. There will be a Parish Meeting on **Sunday 18 January 2026 at 12.00 p.m.** at **Sacred Heart Church**, after the 10.30 a.m. mass. All are welcome and in fact it is really important that as many people as possible attend.

**PASSION FOR GORTON**  
PERFORMERS NEEDED

A **Community Passion Play** will to take place on **Good Friday, Manchester Monastery.**

Open auditions are being held **January 4th & 5th 2026**, at

7pm at **Sacred Heart Parish Centre, Levenshulme Rd, M18 7WJ.**

If you or, anyone you know, are interested in talking part in some way, come along, meet the team, and get involved in a meaningful community event! For information, contact

"Rejoice with Voice" 0757445667  
[contact@rejoicewithvoice.co.uk](mailto:contact@rejoicewithvoice.co.uk);  
[www.rejoicewithvoice.co.uk](http://www.rejoicewithvoice.co.uk);

## PARISH PRAYERS

If you would like a mass offered for a specific intention, pass an envelope with an offering of £10 or more to Fr Kevin, noting if it should be kept private).



### MASS INTENTIONS:

**RECOVERY:** EVAN NALIKATA,  
**RECENTLY DECEASED:** GEORGE EPAMINONDAS

**ANNIVERSARY:** MICHAEL HALLORAN,  
CARLO ALBANESE

**REST IN PEACE:** REST IN PEACE X 2,  
GEMMA GOFF,

**PRIVATE INTENTION:** ANNIE GORDON,  
ANNE AND MARY NELSON, ISAAC BRYANS.

**FAMILY BLESSINGS:** KATHLEEN TEMPLE,  
MARY MCGILL, BRENDEN CALLAGHAN,  
GEOFF CALLAGHAN, MICKY KAVANAGH,  
BRIDGET FLEMING, BERYL HOGARTY

### OUR BRETHREN WHO ARE UNWELL:

AILSA SMITH, JANET MCCARTHY,  
JENNIFER HUNTER, MARTIN BRENNAN,  
TOMMY LOFTUS

## MARY'S MEALS

This is just a reminder that our Parish Project continues for the third year. I would be very grateful if you could take another collection box for the Christmas Holidays and gently encourage all your Christmas visitors to make a small donation!

## RIGHT TO LIFE UK

Let us pray for all parents expecting a new child, that they might be blessed with a safe and healthy pregnancy for mother and baby. **Lord hear us.**

## ADVICE AS ENERGY BILLS RISE

If you are in need of support with rising energy bills, Caritas Salford has put together some helpful advice. Their energy advice service team can support with free advice sessions.

[www.caritassalford.org.uk/energysupport](http://www.caritassalford.org.uk/energysupport)

## CONTACT US

**Parish Priest:** Fr Kevin Murphy  
**Permanent Deacon:** Davie Nalikata  
**Administrator:** Minna Moffatt-Feldman

**Parish Office:** Sacred Heart Presbytery,  
Levenshulme Road, Gorton, M18 7WJ.

**Telephone:** 0161 223 0338

[parish@sacredheartstfranciscgorton.co.uk](mailto:parish@sacredheartstfranciscgorton.co.uk)

[www.sacredheartstfranciscgorton.co.uk](http://www.sacredheartstfranciscgorton.co.uk)

**Facebook:** Sacred Heart & Saint Francis of Assisi Parish

## MASSES NEXT WEEK

In the school holidays and in the Christmas season, please note the times and locations of masses very carefully. There is no mass on Tuesday. On Christmas Eve masses are at the usual Christmas times of **5.30 p.m. at St Francis Church** and then **11.00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church**. This is called a "Midnight Mass" because it will end just after midnight and so we will "see in" the arrival of Christmas Day. On Christmas Day mass will be at **10.30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Church** and there again on **Boxing Day at 9.15 a.m.**

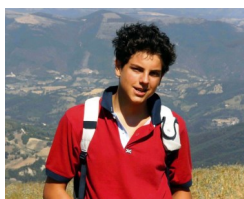


## CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

The Confirmation programme will start up in January 2026. This is open to anyone who has not received the sacrament and who is over the age of 13. If you are interested in joining the programme, please give your name and contact details (also a parent's if you are under the age of 18). More information will follow.

## NEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**Caritas Salford:** <https://www.caritassalford.org.uk/about/careers/>  
**Diocese of Salford:** <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/vacancies/>  
**Schools:** <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/education/vacancies/>  
**Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust:** <https://emmauscat.com/>  
**Romero Catholic Academy Trust:** <https://www.romerocat.com/>  
**St Teresa of Calcutta Trust:** <https://www.stoccat.org.uk/>



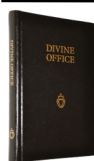
## RELICS OF ST CARLO ACUTIS

The relics of St Carlo Acutis will be hosted at two Salford Diocese churches over five days. 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 follow.

## MISSION HOUSE




Craig Lodge is now taking applications for young people to join new offers a nine-month Mission House programme that sets out to form spirit-filled evangelizers for the renewal of the Church. Any young person between the ages of 18 and 30 can apply. For more information, see <https://www.craiglodge.org/ministries/mission-house>

## PRAYING THE DIVINE OFFICE.



For some time now, altar servers and others have been praying Morning Prayer from The Divine Office (the prayer of the church) on Sunday mornings from 10.00 - 10.15. We have also introduced Evening Prayer at 17:00-17:15, Saturdays at St Francis church. Prayer sheets are available so that you can join in. Please do come to the front of church and join in.

## OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

WEEKEND DEC 13-14TH		
	Basket	£131.10
	Basket	£316.00
	Digital	£273.66

Please consider making offertory contributions by **Standing Order**. If required, forms are available at each church, use the QR code, or **transfer** directly from your bank:

**TSDT SACRED HEART & ST FRANCIS GORT,**  
**20-55-34 // 20707600**

## **Bài đọc I: Is 7:10-14**

Trong những ngày ấy, Đức Chúa phán với A-khát rằng:

“Người hãy xin Đức Chúa, Thiên Chúa của người, ban cho người một dấu: dưới tận âm phủ hay trên tận trời cao.”  
Nhưng A-khát thưa: “Con sẽ không xin; con không dám thử thách Đức Chúa.”

Ngôn sứ I-sai-a nói:

“Hỡi nhà Đa-vít, hãy nghe đây!

Chẳng lẽ làm phiền người ta chưa đủ, mà các người còn muốn làm phiền cả Thiên Chúa của tôi nữa sao?

Vì thế, chính Đức Chúa sẽ ban cho các người một dấu:

Này đây, một trinh nữ sẽ thụ thai và sinh hạ một con trai,

và tên con trẻ sẽ là Em-ma-nu-en — nghĩa là ‘Thiên Chúa ở cùng chúng ta’.”

Đáp ca: Tv 24 (23)

**Đáp: Hãy mở cửa cho Chúa vào; Người là Vua vinh hiển.**

- Trái đất và mọi loài trên đó đều thuộc về Chúa, hoàn cầu và mọi người cư ngụ trong đó. Chính Người đặt nền móng trên biển cả, và xây dựng trên các dòng nước. **Đáp.**
- Ai được lên núi thánh của Chúa? Ai được đứng trong thánh điện của Người? Là người tay sạch lòng thanh, không mê theo chuyện hư không. **Đáp.**
- Người ấy sẽ được Chúa chúc phúc, và được Thiên Chúa cứu độ ban thưởng. Đó là dòng dõi những kẻ tìm kiếm Chúa, tìm kiếm Thánh Nhan Thiên Chúa nhà Gia-cóp. **Đáp.**

## **Bài đọc II: Rm 1:1-7**

Tôi là Phao-lô, tôi tớ của Đức Giê-su Ki-tô, được gọi làm Tông Đồ, được tách riêng để loan báo Tin Mừng của Thiên Chúa.

Tin Mừng này, Thiên Chúa đã hứa trước qua các ngôn sứ trong Kinh Thánh, liên quan đến Con của Người: theo huyết nhục, Người xuất thân từ dòng dõi vua Đa-vít; theo Thần Khí thánh thiện, nhờ sống lại từ cõi chết, Người được xác nhận là Con Thiên Chúa đầy quyền năng: đó là Đức Giê-su Ki-tô, Chúa chúng ta.

Nhờ Người, chúng tôi đã lãnh nhận ân sủng và chức vụ Tông Đồ, để đưa muôn dân đến vâng phục đức tin vì

danh Người.

Trong số ấy có cả anh em, những người được kêu gọi thuộc về Đức Giê-su Ki-tô.

Kính gửi tất cả anh em ở Rô-ma, những người được Thiên Chúa yêu thương và được gọi nên thánh:  
Nguyên xin ân sủng và bình an của Thiên Chúa là Cha chúng ta và của Đức Giê-su Ki-tô, Chúa chúng ta, ở cùng anh em.

Alleluia (Đứng)

Ha-lê-lu-ia, ha-lê-lu-ia. “Này đây, trinh nữ sẽ thụ thai và sinh hạ một con trai, và người ta sẽ gọi tên Người là Em-ma-nu-en — nghĩa là Thiên Chúa ở cùng chúng ta.” Ha-lê-lu-ia.

## **Mt 1:18-24**

Việc Đức Giê-su Ki-tô giáng sinh xảy ra như sau:

Mẹ Người là bà Ma-ri-a đã đính hôn với ông Giu-se.

Nhưng trước khi hai ông bà về chung sống, bà đã có thai do quyền năng Chúa Thánh Thần.

Ông Giu-se, chồng bà, là người công chính, không muốn tố giác bà, nên định tâm bỏ bà cách kín đáo.

Ông đang toan tính như vậy, thì kìa, sứ thần Chúa hiện đến báo mộng cho ông rằng:

“Hỡi Giu-se, con cháu Đa-vít, đừng ngại đón Ma-ri-a vợ ông về, vì người con bà cựu mang là do Chúa Thánh Thần.

Bà sẽ sinh hạ một con trai, và ông sẽ đặt tên là Giê-su, vì chính Người sẽ cứu dân Người khỏi tội lỗi.”

Tất cả những sự việc ấy đã xảy ra để ứng nghiệm lời Chúa phán qua miệng ngôn sứ:

“Này đây, trinh nữ sẽ thụ thai và sinh hạ một con trai, và người ta sẽ gọi tên Người là Em-ma-nu-en” — nghĩa là “Thiên Chúa ở cùng chúng ta”.

Khi tỉnh giấc, ông Giu-se làm như sứ thần Chúa dạy và đón vợ về nhà mình.

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **FIRST READING: ISAIAH 7:10-14**

In those days: The Lord spoke to Ahaz: 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.' And Isaiah said, 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.'

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM 24(23)**

**R: Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.**

The LORD'S is the earth and its fullness,  
the world, and those who dwell in it.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the rivers he made it firm. **R.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The clean of hands and pure of heart,  
whose soul is not set on vain things. **R.**

Blessings from the LORD shall he receive,  
and right reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the people who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

### **SECOND READING: ROMANS 1:1-7**

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an Apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**STAND**

**Alleluia, alleluia.** Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel — which means, God with us.

**Alleluia.**

**Deacon/Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And with your spirit.**

**Deacon/Priest:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to **N. All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-24**

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel'— which means, God with us.

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

The Gospel of the Lord.



## 圣道礼仪 读经一：依撒意亚先知书 7:10-14

在那些日子，上主对阿哈次说：

“你向上主你的天主求一个征兆：或深达阴府，或高至上天。”

但阿哈次说：“我不求，我不试探上主。”

依撒意亚说：“达味家啊，请听！你们使人厌烦还不够吗，竟连我的天主也要厌烦吗？”

因此，上主自己要给你们一个征兆：看，一位贞女要怀孕生子，给他起名叫厄玛奴耳——‘天主与我们同在’。”

——上主的圣言

众答：**感谢天主。**

答唱咏：咏 24（23）

答句：让上主进来吧！他是光荣的君王。

- 大地和其中的一切属于上主，世界和住在其间的都属于他。是他奠定了海洋的基础，在江河之上使大地稳固。 **答：让上主进来吧！他是光荣的君王。**
- 谁能登上上主的圣山？谁能站在他的圣所？是那手洁心清的人，不倾心虚妄，不起假誓。 **答。**
- 他必蒙上主赐福，得救主天主的赏报。这就是寻求上主的一族，寻求雅各伯天主面容的人。 **答。**

## 读经二：罗马书 1:1-7

我，保禄，基督耶稣的仆人，被召为宗徒，特派宣讲天主的福音。

这福音是天主藉先知在圣经中早已预许的，论及他的圣子——按肉身说，他出自达味后裔；按至圣的神说，他因从死者中复活，被确认为具有大能的天主之子：我们的主耶稣基督。

我们藉着他领受了恩宠和宗徒的使命，为使万民因他的名而服从信德；其中也包括你们这些被召属于耶稣基督的人。

致在罗马所有为天主所爱、蒙召为圣徒的人：愿恩宠与平安由天主我们的父及主耶稣基督赐予你们。

——上主的圣言

众答：**感谢天主。**

福音前欢呼（起立）

阿肋路亚，阿肋路亚。

“看，贞女要怀孕生子，人要称他的名字为厄玛奴耳——天主与我们同在。”

阿肋路亚。

## 福音

司祭/执事：愿主与你们同在。会众：也与你的心灵同在。司祭/执事：恭读圣玛窦福音（N）。会众：主，光荣归于你。

## 玛窦福音 1:18-24

耶稣基督的诞生是这样的：

他的母亲玛利亚已经许配给若瑟，但在他们同居之前，她因圣神而怀孕。

她的丈夫若瑟是个义人，不愿公开羞辱她，便决定暗中休退她。

他正在思量这事时，看，上主的天使在梦中向他说：

“达味之子若瑟，不要害怕娶玛利亚为你的妻子，因为她所怀的，是出于圣神。

她要生一个儿子，你要给他起名叫耶稣，因为他要把自己的民族从罪恶中拯救出来。”

这一切发生，是为应验上主藉先知所说的话：

“看，贞女要怀孕生子，人要称他的名字为厄玛奴耳”——意思是“天主与我们同在”。

若瑟从梦中醒来，就照上主的天使所吩咐的做了，娶了他的妻子。

司祭/执事：——基督的福音。

会众：**赞美你，基督。**