



PARISH OF ST JOHN XXIII, PRESTON

St Joseph's and English Martyrs' Churches

Incorporating the districts of St Augustine, English Martyrs, St Ignatius, St Joseph & St Teresa

Sunday 7th December 2025

Second Sunday of Advent [A]

| | Time | Church | |
|---|---------------|--------|--|
| Sunday 7th December <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> | 5.30 - 5.50pm | EM | Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] |
| | 6.00pm | EM | Mass Franca & Franco |
| | 11.15am | SJ | Mass Raymond & Marguerite Warburton |
| | 12.30pm | SJ | Baptism Elivia Isobel Fisher |
| | 4.00pm | SJ | Rosary & Benediction |
| | 4.30 - 4.50pm | SJ | Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] |
| | 5.00pm | SJ | Mass Joanne Finch |
| | 6.00pm | SJ | Baptism O'Brien |
| Monday 8th December <i>The Immaculate Conception</i> | 9.30am | SJ | Mass Hanna Khorishko |
| | 6.00pm | EM | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament |
| | 6.30pm | EM | Mass Elsie Davies |
| Tuesday 9th December <i>St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin</i> | 8:50am | SJ | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament |
| | 9.30am | SJ | Mass Peter Beirne (with SJ school) |
| | 10.45am | SJ | Funeral Service Worrell Hurtault |
| Wednesday 10th December <i>Our Lady of Loreto</i> | 12noon | | No Public Mass in the Parish Requiem Mass Canon Anthony Walsh At St Wulstan's, Fleetwood |
| Thursday 11th December <i>St Damasus I</i> | 11.00am | SJ | Requiem Mass Bridget Mellis |
| Friday 12th December <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i> | 6.00pm | SJ | Exposition & Sacrament of Penance |
| | 6.30pm | SJ | Mass Kevin Kirkby |
| Saturday 13th December <i>St Lucy</i> | 9.30am | SJ | Mass Gerry Fullarton |
| | 10.00-10.30am | SJ | Exposition & Sacrament of Penance |
| | 5.20pm | EM | First Confession Preparation Session [2] |
| | 5.30 - 5.50pm | EM | Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] |
| | 6.00pm | EM | Mass Lisa & Giuseppe |
| Sunday 14th December <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Gaudete</i> | 10.30am | SJ | First Confession Preparation Session [2] |
| | 11.15am | SJ | Mass In Thanksgiving |
| | 12.30pm | SJ | Baptism Lilian Ganyi Szabo |
| | 4.00pm | SJ | Rosary & Benediction |
| | 4.30 - 4.50pm | SJ | Sacrament of Penance [Confessions] |
| | 5.00pm | SJ | Mass People of the Parish |
| EM = English Martyrs [PR1 1NA] | | | SJ = St Joseph [PR1 5UQ] |

OUR LADY AND ADVENT

Following Bishop Swarbrick's Pastoral Letter last week and in light of the Marian Solemnity and memorial this week we continue to consider how our Mother the Church, proposes Mary to us as Christmas draws ever nearer. She teaches us how to live Advent. Mary is, in some sense, Advent personified. God the Father had prepared her from the first moment of her life to be a worthy mother of his Son. Like a faithful daughter of Israel, she had prayed throughout her youth for the coming of the Messiah. When she was a young girl, she discovered that she was part of God's answer to that prayer, but in a way that would far have exceeded any Hebrew maiden's prayers: not only would the Messiah be her son, but her son would also be God. Her "yes!" to the Archangel Gabriel launched the proximate preparation for the birth of Jesus the Messiah.

Advent could be considered an entering into Mary's response of faith, following and encountering that response serves as a guide for us along our own pilgrimage of faith. As it were, we are taken into the embrace of Mary in Advent, climbing into Mary's womb to listen to the beat of her contemplative heart and to be lost in wonder at the treasure that is waiting there. Within Mary is the greatest of all mysteries, the fruit of that womb is our Christmas joy.

The Church wants us to be bearers of Christ to others, following in the steps of Mary, who first bore Christ to the world, the first missionary of the Good News, when she hastened to greet her cousin Elizabeth.

OUR PRAYERS

We pray for all our sick and housebound parishioners and those who care for them. We also pray for all the lately dead: Bridget Mellis, Canon Tony Walsh, Worrel Hurtault, Christine Mellor and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Daniel Turner, Audrey Brennan, and Hugh Doherty.

CANON ANTHONY (TONY) WALSH

For parishioners wanting to attend his funeral, and/or to pray for him at the time of his funeral, this will take place at St Wulstan's, Fleetwood, this Wednesday, 10th December at 12noon. We thank God for his labours in all the districts of our Parish and pray for his happy repose.

Eternal rest grant, unto him O Lord

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL [SVP]

Thank you to everyone who come last Sunday to listen to Peter Dilworth on behalf of the SVP. The initial response was encouraging.

A meeting of the Parish SVP Conference will take place at St Joseph's Presbytery on Tuesday 20th January at 6.00pm. You are all welcome to attend. Please do consider joining, pray how you may bear witness to charity and compassion in this way.

CONFIRMATION IN 2026

In anticipation of this Sacrament being celebrated around the Easter Season next year, young parishioners who are school year 6+ and who are not confirmed should complete an enquiry form from our church porches and return this to our priests by **this Sunday, 7th December** [a slightly extended deadline].

FIRST CONFESSION PREPARATION

Please take note of our next session of preparation before Masses *next* weekend. Do remember to be coming to Mass regularly in between these sessions with your sacramental card.

TEA & COFFEE ON SUNDAYS

A few more recruits are needed for Tea & Coffee at St Joseph's on Sundays. Any costs incurred can be recouped from donations. Sign up on the sheet in the Lancaster Room. Thank you to our volunteers.

COLLECTION FOR THOSE IN NEED

Non-perishable food goods for those in need can be placed in the buckets found in the porches of our two churches. Thank you for your contributions!

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Wednesday 24th December | Christmas Eve

5.30pm - English Martyrs

[6.30pm Proclamation & Carols - St Joseph's]

7.00pm - St Joseph's

Thursday 25th December | Christmas Day

10.00am - St Joseph's

N.B. Do distribute the Christmas Cards with Mass times among friends, relations, and neighbours.

SANCTUARY LAMPS FOR CHRISTMAS

Sanctuary Lamps in memory of a loved ones will be lit for the Christmas Masses and used beside the Tabernacle throughout the year. Please place a donation of £5.00 in an envelope marked 'Sanctuary Lamps for Christmas' with the name[s] you wish to be remembered.

N.B. These are **not** the Votive Saint lamps found in the Holy Shop.

BLESSING OF THE BAMBINELLI

Next Sunday, 14th December, do bring the baby Jesus from your crib sets to Mass to be blessed at the end of our Masses. If it is a fixed set, you can bring the whole crib. This beautiful, yet simple, tradition connects our celebration of Christmas in church to your celebrations at home.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets are available after weekend Masses, £1.00 a strip. Please support! The raffle will be drawn after at St Joseph's **next Sunday, on 14th December**. First prize, £75.00 and many more prizes to be won.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS FOR CHURCH

To contribute to 'Christmas Flowers' donations please use the brown envelopes in the church porch. These can be placed in the collection basket.

CLEANING OUR CHURCHES FOR CHRISTMAS

A Parish "big clean" of our churches and brasses will take place at:

- St Joseph's on Saturday 20th December after Adoration at 10.30am.
- English Martyrs on Friday 19th December at 11am. Many hands make light work - Please help!

SUNDAY BENEDICTION

From Sunday 28th December (including) there will be a pause on the celebration of Benediction on Sundays at St Joseph's. Benediction will resume, with Stations of the Cross on Sunday 22nd February.

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

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