



# PARISH OF ST JOHN XXIII, PRESTON

## *St Joseph and English Martyrs Churches*

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

SUNDAY, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT [C]

Upcoming Masses & Services this week;

	Time	Church	
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December</b> <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	5.30pm [Sat]	EM	Sacrament of Penance [ <i>Confessions</i> ]
	6.00pm [Sat]	EM	Mass   <i>Agnes Jordan [RIP]</i>
	11.15am	SJ	Mass   <i>Raymond &amp; Marguerite Warburton</i>
	12.30pm	SJ	Baptism   <i>Benny Lewis</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [ <i>Confessions</i> ]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass   <i>People of the Parish</i>
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December</b> <i>Monday of Advent, week 1</i>	6.00pm	EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	6.30pm	EM	Mass   <i>Kevin Kirkby</i>
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b> <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	9.00am	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am	SJ	Mass   <i>P. A. Francis</i> <i>Mass with Year 6 from St Teresa's School</i>
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>St John Damascene</i>	11.00am	SJ	Requiem Mass   <i>Catherine Ann Rawcliffe</i>
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Thursday of Advent, week 1</i>	9.00am	EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am	EM	Mass   <i>Thanksgiving</i> <i>Mass is in Church with Year 6 from St Ignatius' School (not memorial chapel)</i>
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>St Nicholas</i>	12.45pm	SJ	Requiem Mass   <i>Neals Joseph</i>
	5.30pm	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	6.00pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [ <i>Confessions</i> ]
	6.30pm	SJ	Mass   <i>Deceased Family &amp; Friends</i>
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>St Ambrose</i>	9.30am	SJ	Mass   <i>Rachel France</i>
	10-10.30am	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [ <i>Confessions</i> ]
	5.30pm	EM	Sacrament of Penance [ <i>Confessions</i> ]
	6.00pm	EM	Mass   <i>People of the Parish</i>
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	11.15am	SJ	Mass   <i>Rachel Jones</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [ <i>Confessions</i> ]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass   <i>St Augustine [4]</i>

### THE ADVENT OF CHRIST

With the whole Church we delve deeply into the truth and beauty of the *Adventus* of Christ, the approach or arrival of Christ. In many ways all our seasonal customs as families and as a parish should point us more surely to Christ. Our customs and traditions are kept to sharpen our focus on Divine Charity, become flesh in the Christ child. Liturgically, two things can help us in this greater focus on the coming of Christ. Firstly, by a careful attention to the Word of God, many of the readings are so familiar to us, though this year we are given a new translation, our attention will be required anew. Something new may be spoken to us, by Christ, the Word made flesh! A new translation seeks to convey faithfulness to the Sacred Word, as we are called to new faithfulness each Advent. Secondly, attention and reflection are needed towards the occasions in the Mass where the priest stands with the people, on the same side of the Altar, *ad orientem*. These movements and positions in the Liturgy are a physical reminder, an outward gesture, that points to our inward disposition, in all things looking to and living out the coming of Christ. As sure as Christ comes to us upon the Altar in the Holy Eucharist, so He will come again. *Veni, Domine Jesu! Come, Lord Jesus!*

## 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 especially: Canon Robert Horn, Fr Alf Parker, Brian Drake, Neals Joseph, Catherine Ann Rawcliffe and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bishop T. W. Pearson (First Bishop of Lancaster), Charles Wadson, Michelle Ratcliffe, Magdalen Grimes, and Teresa Collinson.

### DIOCESE OF LANCASTER CENTENARY 'AN ALTERNATIVE [PRESTON] HISTORY'

Only eight years after the restoration of the Catholic Hierarchy in England in 1850 it was mooted by Bishop Goss of Liverpool, at Garstang, when opening the new church, that a new diocese in north Lancashire be established.

Given the unusually Catholic nature of Preston, the initial thoughts were to Preston being the seat of any such diocese. Canon John Walmsley was Rector of St Joseph's, Preston, 1869-1895, and the Liverpool Chapter of Canons considered him a potential Bishop of Liverpool. It has been said that if Preston was to be carved out to form a new diocese, then our own Canon Walmsley would have become, First Bishop of Preston!

As we know it was not to be so in the lifetime of Canon Walmsley and only in 1924 was the seat of the new diocese established in the county town of Lancaster, with Preston its southern border.

### PROCLAMATION OF THE HOLY YEAR

Every 25 years the Church celebrates a 'Holy Year,' a Jubilee Year celebrating our faith, re-establishing our relationship with Christ and His Church. A special time for hope and reconciliation. It is an ancient custom for a Bishop to announce the Holy Year at various stations throughout his diocese.

To this end we are very pleased that in Preston Bishop Paul Swarbrick will announce the Holy Year in our own Parish, at St Joseph's, on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, as he celebrates the 11.15am Mass.

Do make every effort to attend this Mass and encourage fellow Catholics to join us!

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December | Christmas Eve**  
6.00pm English Martyrs | 7.30pm St Joseph  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> December | Christmas Day**  
10.00am St Joseph

### PARISH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets are available after weekend Masses, £1.00 a strip. Please support! The raffle will be drawn after Sunday Mass at St Joseph's, 15<sup>th</sup> December. 1<sup>st</sup> prize £75, 2<sup>nd</sup> £50, 3<sup>rd</sup> £25 and other prizes to be won!

### SANCTUARY LAMPS FOR CHRISTMAS

If you would like to buy a Sanctuary Lamp in memory of a loved one that will be lit for the Christmas Masses and 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.

### BLESSING OF THE BAMBINELLI

On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December, you are encouraged to bring the baby Jesus from your crib sets to Mass to be blessed. This beautiful, yet simple, tradition connects our celebration of Christmas in church to your nativity scenes at home.

### YOUTH 2000 PRESTON RETREAT DAY 2024

Our young people are encouraged to join this one-day retreat of prayer, teaching, friendship, and fun next Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December, 9:00am - 9:00pm at Corpus Christi High School [PR2 8QY]. See Posters.

### 'GABRIEL'S MESSAGE'

You are invited to a performance of sacred music for Christmas at St Joseph's church on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 at 7.00pm. The concert is performed by the choir *Occento* who were with us last year. Tickets are £10.00.

### THIS SUNDAY'S SPECIAL COLLECTION:

For the *Diocesan Poor Missions Fund*.

### NEXT SUNDAY'S SPECIAL COLLECTION:

For *Society of St Vincent de Paul*.

Also, you can donate food goods (non-perishable) for those in need using the boxes found at the back of both churches.

## The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

[www.stjohnxxiiipreston.com](http://www.stjohnxxiiipreston.com)

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