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

29th November 2026 **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT [B]**

	Time	Church	
Sunday 29th November *First Sunday of Advent* *Special Collection: Poor Missions*	11.15am 4.00pm 4.30-4.50pm 5.00pm	SJ SJ SJ SJ	Mass | *James Turner* *followed by Children's Catechesis* *Rosary & Benediction* Sacrament of Penance *[Confessions]* Mass | *Pro Populo*
Monday 30th November *St Andrew*	6.00-6.20pm 6.30pm	EM EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass | *Holy Souls – November Lists*
Tuesday 1st December *St Ralph Sherwin & Comps*	**11.30am**	SJ	Requiem Mass | *Lucy Sandham Ball*
Wednesday 2nd December *of Advent week 1*			
Thursday 3rd December *St Francis Xavier*	9-9.20am 9.30am **7.00pm**	SJ **AL**	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Mass | *P.A Francis* Mass | *Reception of Canon Doyle*
Friday 4th December *St John Damascene*	**11.00am**	AL	Requiem Mass | *Canon Doyle* *No Evening Mass*
Saturday 5th December *of Advent week 1*			*Mass celebrated in Preston Prison*
Sunday 6th December *Second Sunday of Advent*	11.15am 4.00pm 4.30-4.50pm 5.00pm	SJ SJ SJ SJ	Mass | *Pro Populo* *Rosary & Benediction* Sacrament of Penance *[Confessions]* Mass | *Families*

EM = English Martyrs [PR1 1NA] **SJ = St Joseph [PR1 5UQ]**

ST RALPH SHERWIN & COMPANIONS

Having attended the Venerable English College in Rome for a portion of my priestly formation, the lives of our forefathers there, those students who studied and prepared there to be priests before us during English Reformation, knowing that to return to England meant an agonising death if their priesthood was discovered, always struck me. Spending time in that place means we draw close to them. Their feast as a group we would recall on the date of the first Martyrdom, that of St Ralph Sherwin on 1st December 1581, a student priest of the English college in Rome who died alongside the better-known St Edmund Campion and St Alexander Briant.

Each member of the English College in Rome is recorded in a book called the *Liber Ruber*, simply red book, this continues to this day. St Ralph Sherwin signed his entry with the phrase;

"potius hodie quam cras,"

"rather today than tomorrow."

These words expressing his burning desire to bring Word and Sacrament back to an oppressed Catholic population have inspired generations of priests ever since. Arriving back in England in November 1581, St Ralph Sherwin was swiftly arrested, and the rest of his life was spent in captivity until his execution, hung, drawn, and quartered.

This feast is always celebrated in early Advent and these words of St Ralph Sherwin link to the season. They suggest the priority of the Christian life and everything of it. Our own relationship with God, our commitment to prayer, delving into salvation history in Sacred Scripture, the priority of evangelisation. But these words are of Advent, not just for how they apply to us, but to how we should long for, or question any longing having gone cold, for the coming again of Christ our King.

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: Canon David Mahy, Canon Harry Doyle, Lucy Sandham Ball and all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mgr P. O'Dea, Bishop Thomas Wulstan Pearson, Lee Parker, Magdalen Grimes, and Delia Johnson.

CANON HARRY DOYLE RIP

We continue to pray for Canon Harry Doyle, our near neighbour at Alston Lane, who recently passed away. We give thanks for his ministry in our Parish and Deanery. His funeral arrangements are as follows:

- Thursday 3rd Dec, 7.00pm – Reception of Canon Doyle's body into Church with Mass.
- Friday 4th Dec, 11.00am Requiem Mass followed by burial in the Churchyard.

*If you wish to attend, do consider the **evening Mass** on the 3rd given the limited size of the church. Fr Etienne is seeing to the general administration of Alston Lane Parish at this time - this may affect certain routines. Fr Shiju Sebastian Kalarickal is assisting Fr Etienne with weekend Masses.

CHANGES TO PARISH MASS SCHEDULE

From **this weekend**, 1st Sunday of Advent [*Saturday 28th November*], the following changes in our parish take effect: **Sunday Masses only at 11.15am & 5.00pm.** *There will no longer be a Saturday morning or evening *[Vigil] Mass*. I thank you for your generous support. *Fr Etienne*

PARISH CENSUS

Please do complete a new **parish census form**. This form can be found in the church porch or on our website. Please share this form with neighbours and relations within the parish. Do post a form through their doors; a gentle 'hint' for Catholics to come home!

ST JOSEPH'S HOLY SHOP

Our 'Holy Shop' is open after the 11.15am Mass at St Joseph's, with Christmas items now available. Outside of this time contact the parish office.

COLLECTION FOR THOSE IN NEED

Non-perishable food goods for those in need can be placed in the buckets found in the church porch. Thank you for your contributions!

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Thursday 24th December | Christmas Eve
7.00pm
Friday 25th December | Christmas Day
11.15am

*The change to Mass on Christmas Day reflects how many people turn up on Christmas Day at the regular Sunday Mass time. Also, this considers providing and being responsible for Christmas Masses at Alston Lane.

CHILDREN'S CATECHESIS FOR ADVENT

After the 11.15am Mass on Sunday 29th November, Fr Etienne would like to meet with our children for a short catechesis on the Advent season.
Young children will be invited to take a wooden crib scene to colour/paint and to bring to be blessed on *Bambinelli* Sunday [see below].

BLESSING OF THE BAMBINELLI

On Sunday 13th December, you are encouraged to bring the baby Jesus from your crib sets to Mass to be blessed at the end of our Sunday Masses. This beautiful, yet simple, tradition connects our celebration of Christmas in church to your nativity scenes at home.

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, on 13th December. To donate prizes [not bric-a-brac] towards the Raffle; please contact the parish office. First prize, £50.00.

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 will be 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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS FOR CHURCH

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

POLISHING THE BRASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

If you are available during the week, perhaps come to Mass and stay on to polish the brasses ready for Christmas.

The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

www.stjohnxxiiipreston.com

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