
Aspects of Advent: Preparation

“Prepare a way for the Lord”. This is the message of St John the Baptist we hear in the Gospel today. The people came to John trying to make their hearts ready for the coming of the Messiah; Advent is our time for doing the same. We prepare our hearts by trying to turn to Jesus and welcoming Him, turning away from sin and trying to live by His light. The people who came to John were baptised – submerged in the water – and they confessed their sins. They give us a good example! One of the best ways of preparing to meet the Lord is to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions are scheduled every Saturday 11am-12noon (in the side chapel, with distancing etc). You can also make an appointment directly with Fr Andrew. At this time of year there are always so many practical preparations for Christmas. Let’s not let our spiritual preparations get crowded out; let’s turn to the Lord and make some time for Him this Advent.



Today's Readings

Each year on the second Sunday of Advent we are reintroduced to the figure of John the Baptist. Today we hear Mark's account of his ministry, which comes right at the very start of Mark's Gospel. John forms a kind of bridge between the Old and New Testaments – he is the last of the great prophets who announced the coming of the Saviour. In fact, he is so great that even his own ministry was foretold, as we hear in today's first reading – a voice will cry in the wilderness, “Prepare a way for the Lord”. This prophecy comes in the midst of many consoling images which speak of the tenderness of God. Today's second reading, from the second letter of St Peter, reminds us that this world will end one day, and that we should use our time on earth to prepare well for the Lord's coming at the end of time, or indeed the end of our earthly lives.

Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Allman **Deacon:** Rev. Fred Sanderson (retired)
Presbytery: Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9HH
Tel: 01772 719604 email: enquiries@saintclares.co.uk
www.saintclares.co.uk Social Media: @StClareFulwood
Lancaster RC Diocesan Trustees Registered – Registered Charity No. 234331

St Clare's Primary School – Headteacher: Mrs A. Charnley
Tel: 01772 787037 Fax: 01772 787016 email: head@st-clares.lancs.sch.uk

MASSES THIS WEEK

Office: Psalter Week 2; Sundays: Year B; Weekdays: Year 1, week 2 of Advent

Morning Mass is livestreamed each day and will be available for viewing later in the day on our YouTube channel. All information and links at www.saintclares.co.uk

Public Masses have now resumed (more information on next page).

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday	6pm (vigil)	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Bob Tierney RIP
Sunday 6 th	9:30am		Ruane Family
	11:30am		Fr Michael Lakeland RIP
	6pm		People of the Parish
Monday	9:30am	St Ambrose	Ronald and Margaret Culshaw RIP
Tuesday	9:30am	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	Special Intention (SC)
Wednesday	9:30am		Fr James Fegan RIP
Thursday	9:30am		Myra Simson RIP
Friday	9:30am		Neil Byrne RIP
Saturday	9:30am	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Joan Walbank RIP
	6pm (vigil)		Sr Claire O'Brien (Sr Virgilius) RIP
Sunday 6 th	9:30am		Margaret Curry RIP
	11:30am		Martin Malone RIP
	6pm	People of the Parish	

LATELY DEAD: Please pray for **Frank Higgins, Roy Rawlinson** and all who have died recently.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 11am-12noon and on request.

ROSARY: Prayed after 9:30am Mass, Monday-Friday.

ANNIVERSARIES: Teresa Cunniff, Arthur Beesley, Thomas Calverley, Dorothy Higgins, Ken Penswick, Ken Tuson, Evelyn Spiro, Martin Brown, Mariel Hubbersty, Marie Hughes, Thomas Turberfield, Catherine Bradley.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: That our personal relationship with Jesus Christ may be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Supporting your parish financially

If you would like to support the parish using standing order/BACS, please contact us for the details. If you don't use online banking, we can send you a mandate which you can fill in and post to your bank. Thank you for supporting our parish.

CHRISTMAS MASSES: Please see information on the back of the newsletter about Christmas Mass times and arrangements. Booking is absolutely essential for all Masses on Christmas Day and the evening of Christmas Eve.

REOPENING FOR PUBLIC MASS: The church is now open again for Mass. Booking is not required for weekday Mass. For Saturday evening and Sunday Masses, all those who had spaces booked before the lockdown may resume coming immediately, without contacting us. If you don't have a regular space but would like to come to Sunday Mass, please get in touch with us.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Confessions are available each Saturday, 11am-12noon in the side chapel. Face coverings must be worn. Extra measures will be in place to keep everyone safe.

SATURDAY PRIVATE PRAYER: Please note the revised opening times for Saturday: the church is open 11am-12noon, with confessions available.

KS2 ADVENT SERVICE: The Key Stage 2 children at St Clare's have put together their Advent service, which was recorded. If you'd like to watch it, please contact school, who can give you a link for download in exchange for a small donation to ACN. The recording must not be shared on social media or elsewhere.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: Donations are welcome, as usual, in memory of loved ones. Please put any donation in a marked envelope, with the name of those you are remembering. A list of prayer intentions will be displayed at Christmas.

CRIB BLESSINGS 2020: There will be a livestreamed service for the blessing of your home cribs on Tuesday 22nd December at 7:30pm. More details to follow.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS: Volunteers are welcome to help distribute some cards to homes within the parish. Please let us know if you can help with this.

METANOIA PROJECT are hosting various online events with opportunities for prayer, worship and growing in faith. Visit www.metanoiaproject.co.uk for more.

RWANDA GOATS: Rwanda is suffering greatly at present. One way to help is to buy a goat! They cost £30 and are considered extremely useful in Rwanda. They eat anything and provide milk, milk products and meat and their skins have many other uses. If you can help, contact Michael Donlan of the Rwanda Group Trust on 07864 990941 or e mail rwandagrouptrust.org@gmail.com

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS: World Gifts make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas. Visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts

Events this week (occasional/one-off events in bold type)

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Every day	Anytime	Food Bank Collection	House Porch
Sunday 6 th	3pm-4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Mon-Fri	5-6pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
Tuesday	7:30pm	Parish Council	Narthex
Saturday	11am-12noon	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions available	Church
Sunday 6 th	3pm-4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	Church

All events marked 'YouTube' are streamed live on our channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/StClaresChurch>

A prayer of spiritual communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Christmas Masses at St Clare's 2020

Booking is absolutely essential for all the Christmas Masses. If you are forming a 'Christmas Bubble', please attend Mass as a bubble also, if at all possible. To book, please send the following information (enquiries@saintclares.co.uk):

1. **Your name and contact details (email, or phone number)**
2. **How many adults in your bubble**
3. **How many children in your bubble**
4. **Which Mass you would like to attend**

Mass will be at the following times: Christmas Eve at 5:30pm and 7:30pm; Midnight Mass (at Midnight); 9:30am and 11:30am on Christmas morning. At the 5:30pm and 9:30am Masses, priority will be given to families with children. Otherwise, requests will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis.

When you have submitted your request, you will not receive an immediate response, but confirmation of places will be sent out **on or before Wednesday 16th December**.

The 5:30pm, Midnight and 9:30am Masses will also be livestreamed on YouTube.