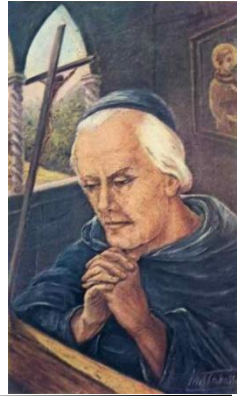


Franciscan of the Week: Thomas of Celano

Thomas was one of the very first Franciscans. He is best known to us as the author of three works describing the life of St Francis, and also an account of the life of St Clare. His writings are the most important source of information about their lives. He is also thought to be the author of the famous hymn *Dies Irae* which forms part of the traditional text of the Requiem Mass. Thomas died a few years after St Clare, and is now declared a 'Servant of God' – one of the early stages on the path to canonisation.



FOCUS ON... Advent

Today we begin a new Church year, and with it, the season of Advent. Far from being simply a countdown to Christmas, Advent is a season which invites us to prepare for the Lord's coming in our lives, both in the present and in the future, when we will see Him face to face. How can we prepare our hearts to meet Him?



Prayer is key to this. Perhaps we could each make a little extra time for private prayer, or prayerfully reading a short passage from the Gospel each day. We could also take part in the extra opportunities for prayer in church: Sunday afternoons, 4-5pm there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, including sung Vespers at 4:30pm, ending with Benediction. We also celebrate Lauds (Morning Prayer) Monday-Friday at 7:45am. However we mark Advent, let's make sure we use this opportunity to spend some time with the Lord.

Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Allman **Deacon:** Rev. Fred Sanderson (retired)

Presbytery: Sharoe Green Lane, Fulwood, Preston, PR2 9HH

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MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass book page 82

Office: Psalter Week 1; Sundays: Year C; Weekdays: Week 1 of Advent, Year 1

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday 1 st Dec.	6pm (vigil)	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Mary and Eddie Sinnott RIP
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 2 nd Dec.	9:30am		Doris & Jim Mattinson RIP
	6pm		People of the Parish
Monday	9:15am	St Francis Xavier	Bill Singleton RIP
	5:15pm		<i>Mass in hospital chapel</i>
Tuesday	7pm		Ints of Canon Loughran
Wednesday	9:15am		Frank Rogerson RIP
Thursday	9:15am		Josie Melling RIP
Friday	12noon	St Ambrose	Duncan Campbell RIP
Saturday 8 th Dec.	10am	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF OUR LADY	Ronald and Margaret Culshaw RIP
	6pm (vigil)	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Special Intention (SC)
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 9 th Dec.	9:30am		Ints of Christine Troger
	6pm		People of the Parish

LATELY DEAD: Please remember in your prayers **Harold Ellison**, whose funeral took place last week, and all who have died recently.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday-Friday 7am-8am; Saturday 10:30am-12noon (for vocations).

Sundays 4-5pm during Advent, including sung Vespers and Benediction at 4:30pm.

MORNING PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Monday-Friday at 7:45am during Advent.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 11am-12noon and on request.

ROSARY: Prayed after 9:15am Mass and before 12noon Mass. Mondays: Joyful; Wednesdays: Glorious; Thursdays: Luminous; Fridays: Sorrowful mysteries.

ST ANTHONY: November wall box donations go to the crib appeal.

ANNIVERSARIES: Ann Thompson, Mary Slater, Sheila Gahan, James Ryan, Teresa Cunniff, Arthur Beesley, Thomas Calverley, Dorothy Higgins, Lucille Flaherty.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: That people, who are involved in service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

ADVENT: A beautiful season of preparation for the Lord. Holy Hour each Sunday afternoon 4-5pm, and Morning Prayer Monday-Friday at 7:45am. See front page.

WALK WITH ME books for Advent available free in the narthex. One per family.

FIRST CONFESSIONS: Congratulations to the children who received the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this weekend. Please keep them in your prayers.

CANON LOUGHRAN would like to thank all those parishioners who attended his installation at the Cathedral last week and to all those who sent him greetings.

CHRISTMAS FAIR: This Sunday immediately after 9:30am Mass. A wide variety of stalls, and Father Christmas in attendance. Bacon sandwiches, and other food and drink. Cake donations on the day are welcome, directly to the parish hall.

SCHOOL ADVENT SERVICE: This Monday at 7pm in church. All welcome.

'PORTIUNCULA' PARISH MAGAZINE: Free copies available in the narthex and hall.

CTS BOOK CLUB: Meeting next Sunday (9th December) at 7pm. The booklet for this month is "Understanding the Story of the Bible". Copies available from Fr Andrew.

MESSY CHURCH: Next Saturday (8th), 1:30-3pm. Exploring Advent and Christmas through activities, games and Bible stories. All ages and denominations welcome.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION: This weekend (1st/2nd), in place of the third weekend of the month, to give the Food Bank time to prepare Christmas parcels. Please leave donations at the house porchway. **Cenacolo collection** next weekend (8th/9th).

HOME CRIB BLESSINGS: Tuesday 18th December at 7:30pm, bring your home crib to be blessed. Make sure Jesus is at the heart of Christmas in your home!

LOVE NEEDS TO BE ORGANISED: A talk by former MP John Battle at Tabor, Monday 10th December at 7:30pm. See poster in narthex. Free, but please book in advance.

ADVENT VIGIL: This Tuesday, 6:30pm at Cardinal Newman College. All Welcome.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS: 'The true spirit of Christmas giving' brochures in the narthex.

PRESTON ORPHEUS CHOIR: Concert at St Michael & All Angels, Egerton Road, on 8th December at 7pm. Christmas music old and new, audience participation. Adults £10, under-18s £5. Tickets available on the door.

GLOBAL HEALING: A DVD presentation - how our faith helps us care for our common home. This Sunday, 7pm at Our Lady and St Edward's. All welcome.

CTFB CAROL SINGING: in RPH entrance, Saturday 15th, 2-4pm. All welcome.

SPECIAL COLLECTION: this weekend for the Diocesan Poor Mission Fund.

LAST SUNDAY: At Mass: 524; Collection: £909.72; Youth: £257.95. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sat/Sun	At Mass	Food Bank Collection	House porch
Sunday	10:30am	Christmas Fair	Hall and School
	4pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
	4:30pm	Sung Vespers and Benediction	Church
	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall
Mon-Fri	9am	Pre-school	Parish Hall
	3:20pm	After-school club	Parish Hall
Monday	6:15pm	Cubs	Parish Hall
	7pm	St Clare's School Advent Service	Church
	7:30pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
Tuesday	6pm	Journey in Faith Group	Chapel
	7:30pm	Prayer Group	Chapel
Wednesday	9:45am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Narthex
	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
	8pm	NCW Advent Announcement	Parish Hall
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Sat/Sun	At Mass	Cenacolo Collection	House porch
Saturday	8:30am	Pilates	Parish Hall
	10:30am	Spanish Class	Parish Hall
	1:30pm	Messy Church	Parish Hall
Sunday	9:30am	Children's Liturgy	At Mass
	10:30am	After-Mass tea/coffee	Parish Hall
	4pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Church
	4:30pm	Sung Vespers and Benediction	Church
	7pm	Anointed/Sent groups (years 7-11)	Parish Hall
	7pm	CTS Book Club	Chapel

Advance Diary Dates

Tuesday 25th December: Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Wednesday 26th December: Altar servers' Mass for St Stephen's Day, 10am

Sunday 30th December: Stations of the Crib, 3pm

Assisi Pilgrimage: 27 May-1 June 2019

The pilgrimage is now open to people from other parishes. We only have twin or double rooms available. If you want to go, or know anyone else who would like to travel with the parish, please let us know. It promises to be a wonderful trip and a great opportunity to grow in friendship with St Clare, St Francis and each other.