

St Clare's Catholic Church

## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017



### Advent: stay awake for the Lord's return

Today's Gospel reminds us to stay awake, ready for the day when we meet the Lord face-to-face. Advent reminds us: He will return! Let us await His second coming not with fear, but with joyful expectation.

### FOCUS ON... a crib in your home

As we begin Advent, many people will be preparing for Christmas: shopping, food etc. But what about our spiritual preparations? Will you have a Christmas crib in your home?

The crib was 'invented' by St Francis of Assisi – the friend and mentor of our patron, St Clare – on Christmas Eve in 1223. Francis wanted us to have the opportunity to place ourselves in Bethlehem and see for ourselves how Jesus – the Son of God – made His home among us.



Will He also be visible in your home this Christmas? Many different cribs are available – different styles, sizes, prices – or even just an image of the crib scene would do! There are many cribs on sale at Covenant Books (Holy Family Pastoral Centre, Whitby Avenue, Ingol – open Thursdays and Fridays, 10am-4pm; Saturdays 10am-12noon; Sundays 11:45am-12noon). Or you can choose from a large selection available online on Catholic gift websites, for example: [www.cenacle.co.uk](http://www.cenacle.co.uk) / [www.pilgrimgifts.co.uk](http://www.pilgrimgifts.co.uk) or search online 'Christmas crib'.

**On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm, bring your cribs to Mass** and they will be blessed, ready for use in your homes when we celebrate the Lord's birth.

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

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## MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass Book Page 82

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

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details	
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6pm (vigil)	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	Frank & Molly Sinnott RIP	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	9:30am		People of the Parish	
	6pm		Jeff Poole RIP	
Monday	9:15am		<b>Requiem</b>	Peter Taylor RIP
	5:15pm			<i>Mass in hospital chapel</i>
Tuesday	12noon		Margaret Panasiewicz RIP	
	7pm		Sheila Gahan RIP	
Wednesday	9:15am		Joe Hampson RIP	
Thursday	9:15am	<b>St Ambrose</b>	Teresa & Ray Hodges RIP	
Friday	12noon	<b>THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</b>	Special Intention	
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup>	10am	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	Teresa Meek RIP	
	6pm (vigil)		Julina Menezes (Thanksgiving)	
	7pm (vigil)		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>	
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		Rodger & Mary Furey RIP	
	6pm		People of the Parish	

**LATELY DEAD:** Please remember in your prayers **Margaret Panasiewicz**, whose Requiem will take place here on Tuesday at 12noon, **Monsignor Paddy O’Dea**, and all who have died recently.

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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

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

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

**ROSARY:** Mysteries of Light prayed after 9:15am Mass, and before 12noon Mass on Fridays. These prayers are offered for the protection of life at all stages.

**ANGELUS:** said at 12noon on Fridays, at the start of Mass.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Mary Slater, Sheila Gahan, James Ryan, Teresa Cunniff, Arthur Beesley, Thomas Calverley, Dorothy Higgins, Ken Tuson, Evelyn Spiro, Lucille Flaherty.

**POPE’S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER:** that the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

**ADVENT TALKS:** a chance to discover more about the Gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus. This week: The Nativity in Matthew. Tuesday at 7:30pm in the side chapel. Next week (12<sup>th</sup>) we will explore St Luke's account.

**SCHOOL ADVENT SERVICE:** This Monday at 7pm in church, an Advent service led by pupils of our primary school. All are very welcome.

**MESSY CHURCH:** A great opportunity for families to explore Advent through art, craft and Bible stories. In the parish hall next Saturday (9<sup>th</sup>), 1:30-3pm. No need to book: just turn up and enjoy growing in faith as a family!

**CHRISTMAS FAIR:** Taking place **this Sunday** (3<sup>rd</sup> December) at 10:30am. Hot drinks, bacon & sausage rolls and the chance to meet Father Christmas, after Mass in the parish hall, with other stalls and children's games in the school. Donations of cakes welcome on the day – please bring them to the parish hall. Please return all raffle tickets as soon as possible.

**DECEMBER FOOD BANK:** Collection will be **this weekend** (2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> December) – two weeks early. Please leave donations in the Presbytery porch. **Children's toys** are also welcome, as these are distributed by the Food Bank at Christmas.

**WALK WITH ME:** Prayer books for Advent available in the Chapel (1 per family).

**DURING ADVENT** there will be Morning Prayer in church, Monday-Friday at 7:45am. This is a great way to prepare spiritually for the Lord's coming.

**THIS FRIDAY** is the feast of the Immaculate Conception, so **not** a day of abstinence. Mass will be celebrated at 12noon; please come and celebrate this great feast!

**ST CLARE'S ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER:** Regular parish news and pictures: to keep up-to-date, don't forget to 'like' or 'follow' us: Facebook: St Clare's Catholic Church Fulwood; Twitter: @StClareFulwood

**MUSIC PRACTICE** for Advent/Christmas, in church on 13<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm.

**SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY:** at Corpus Christi High School on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December, 12noon-2:30pm. Sign-up sheet in the chapel.

**CANTICLES:** Advent Series of talks on Thursdays, 7:30pm at St Wilfrid's Parish Centre. This week: Fr Christopher Joseph CFR: The Song of John the Baptist.

**ADVENT VIGIL** in the chapel at Cardinal Newman College this Tuesday (5<sup>th</sup> December) at 6.30pm. All are welcome to this time of prayer in this holy season.

**CAFOD – WORLD GIFTS:** Catalogues are available in the chapel. A good way of helping those in need as we approach Christmas.

**PRESTON ORPHEUS CHOIR:** Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December at St Michael and All Angels C of E church. Festive music. Adults £10; under 18s £5; call 01772 735197.

**LAST WEEK:** Attended: 632; Collection: £1201.06; Special: £289.90. Thank you.

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

Day	Time	What?	Where?
Sat/Sun	At Mass	<b>Food Bank collection</b>	House porch
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10:30am	<b>Christmas Fair</b>	School / Hall
	7pm	Anointed/Sent Youth Groups (yrs 7-11)	Parish Hall
Mon-Fri	9am	Pre-school	Parish Hall
	3:20pm	After-school club	Parish Hall
Monday	6pm	Cubs	Parish Hall
	7pm	<b>School Advent Service</b>	Church
	7:30pm	Scouts	Parish Hall
Tuesday	7:30pm	<b>Advent Talk: The Nativity in Matthew</b>	Chapel
	7:45pm	<b>NCW Advent Announcement</b>	Parish Hall
Wednesday	6pm	Seekers (school years 4-6)	Parish Hall
Thursday	6:15pm	Beavers	Parish Hall
Saturday	9am	Pilates	Parish Hall
	10:30am	Spanish Class	Parish Hall
	1:30pm	<b>Messy Church</b>	Parish Hall
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Children's Liturgy	At Mass
	7pm	Anointed/Sent Youth Groups (yrs 7-11)	Parish Hall

### Advance Diary Dates

15<sup>th</sup> December: Joint Advent reconciliation service with OLSE, 7pm

17<sup>th</sup> December: Advent Carol Service by candlelight, 3:30pm

16<sup>th</sup> December: Carols at RPH 2-4pm.

19<sup>th</sup> December: Blessing of your cribs for use at home, 7pm

### Further ahead and further afield...

**"Come and See"** – spiritual weekend for women and men in their 20s and 30s: at Hyning Monastery near Carnforth, 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Contact Sister Mary Bernard: [hyningbookings@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hyningbookings@yahoo.co.uk) or call 01524 732684.

### Appeal regarding Catholic Education

The Government is making a critical decision on whether or not to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it; now we need your help in preventing a U-turn.

Visit [catholicnews.org.uk](http://catholicnews.org.uk) or search 'Catholic Education' to write to the government and urge them to keep their promise. You can also write to the Education Secretary, Justine Greening MP, to show your support for Catholic schools.