

St Clare's Catholic Church

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

24<sup>th</sup> December 2017



### The House of David

In the first reading today, we hear the prophet Nathan tell King David, "The Lord Himself will make you a house." This is a prophecy that God Himself would create a royal line of succession from David, a line that would eventually include God's own Son, Jesus. On this last day of Advent, we prepare to welcome Jesus, the Son of David and promised Messiah.

### FOCUS ON... the Christmas Octave

Christmas is not a day – it is a season in which we celebrate the birth of our Saviour. Although people have been having Christmas meals and parties for weeks, really the celebration begins this weekend, on the evening of Christmas Eve, and runs through to the feast of the Baptism of the Lord – this year, on 8<sup>th</sup> January.



The season starts with an 'octave' – a period of eight days in which we are invited to celebrate every day as though it were Christmas Day itself. That doesn't mean daily presents and turkey, but it does invite us to extend our joy at Jesus' birth beyond a single day! From Christmas Day onwards there is Mass at 10am each day until the following weekend. Why not come along and continue the celebration? The last day of the octave, New Year's Day, is also the feast of Mary, the Mother of God, so is a good day to entrust the coming year to the intercession of Mary. Mass on New Year's Day is celebrated at 12 noon. It'll give us all chance for a lie in!

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## MASSES THIS WEEK – Mass Book Page 90

Office: of the Christmas Octave; Sundays: Year B; Weekdays: Year 2

Date	Time	Occasion	Intention/Details
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	6pm	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	Gerry O'Neil RIP
	7pm		<i>NeoCatechumenal Way</i>
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am		<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>
	6pm	Thomas & Jenny Wilson RIP	
Monday	Midnight	People of the Parish	
	10am		
Tuesday	<b>10am</b>	<b>St Stephen</b>	Intentions of Fr Loughran
Wednesday	<b>10am</b>	<b>St John</b>	Intentions of Fr Anselm
Thursday	<b>10am</b>	<b>The Holy Innocents</b>	Intentions of Fr Darren
Friday	<b>10am</b>	<b>St Thomas Becket</b>	Geoffrey Craven RIP
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup>	10am	<b>Christmas Octave</b>	Oastler Family
	6pm (vigil)	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY</b>	Thanksgiving
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup>	9:30am		Michael Frost RIP
	6pm		People of the Parish
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> January	<b>12 noon</b>	<b>MARY, MOTHER OF GOD</b>	Esther Naylor RIP

**LATELY DEAD:** Please remember in your prayers all who have died recently.

### **EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Wednesday-Friday, 8am-9am; Saturday 10:30am-12noon (for vocations).

**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:** Vin Miller, Yolande Schofield, Richard Burkhardt, Michael Frost, Reginald Brown, Tom Gill, Sheila Borrill, Jean Andrew, Annie Rawcliffe, Michael Swift, Lois Swarbrick, Jean Hull, Mark Cartmell, Madge Collard, Mary Judge, Cesare Innocenzi, Thomas Rutter, Joan Foster, Derrick Sharpe, Stanley Turpin.

**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.

**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

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:** Christmas Masses will be celebrated at 6pm on Christmas Eve, then at Midnight (with carols from 11:30pm) and at 10am on Christmas Morning. Please be aware that the 6pm Mass in particular is likely to be very full, so consider Midnight or the morning Mass if you can.

**MASS TIMES THIS WEEK:** Please note that Tuesday-Saturday this week, **Mass will be celebrated at 10am each day.** Next weekend, Masses will be as normal (except that there will be no NeoCatechumate Mass on Saturday evening). On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January, Mass will be celebrated at 12 noon, and the normal weekday times resume from January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**ALTAR SERVERS' GUILD OF ST STEPHEN:** all servers are encouraged to attend Mass on St Stephen's day (26<sup>th</sup> December) at 10am. New servers will be presented with their guild medals at this Mass.

**EPIPHANY FOR CHILDREN:** 10:30am on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January in the Parish Hall. Some songs and a chance to learn about the visit of the kings, and the Wise Men themselves may even come to say hello... For children up to 10 years old. No need to book – just turn up.

**NO NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEKEND:** The office is closed all this week, and there will be no newsletter next weekend, but a list of Mass intentions for the following week will be displayed in the church entrance and posted online.

**200 CLUB:** December draw: £163-no. 16 Lucy Slater; £98-no. 113 Margaret Devine; £65-no. 81 Val Day. Total to Narthex £8,621. Thank you for your support.

**THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOOL:** thanks to St Clare's school for providing a nativity scene at the back of the church, to cover up the boarded-up area which backs on to the building site. It is a lovely addition to the church for Christmas. We wish all the pupils and staff of all our schools a very restful and enjoyable break.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR HOMELESS:** Thank you for your contributions. A total of £1054.52 was raised from the collection and donations earlier in the year. Further donations are accepted in marked envelopes.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** thank you for the donations. A list of prayer intentions will be displayed by the parish prayer book.

**DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES 2018:** now available in the chapel, at weekends only. Cost £3. Please put money in the collection box slot marked 'directories'.

**ACN SYRIA APPEAL:** Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the appeal so far. We have already raised £10,857.71 – more than enough to support five families for the year, which is an amazing achievement.

**LAST WEEK:** Attended: 400; Collection: £1044.27; Thank you.

## 2018 at St Clare's: what can we expect?

It's never a good idea to predict the future – only the Lord knows what lies ahead! But here's a quick look at some of the things we expect to take place:

In late **January**, God willing, the **narthex** will open, and there will be a blessing and official opening of the new building soon after its completion. Look out for more details early in the new year.



**February 14<sup>th</sup>** is **Ash Wednesday**, so best to get the Valentine's Day meal in early. During **Lent** and **Easter tide** there will be opportunities to discover more about the **seven sacraments**, in the homily at Sunday Mass and on other occasions too. **Easter Sunday** falls on **1<sup>st</sup> April**.

The **Ascension** moves back to its proper day, 40 days after Easter (for the last few years we have been celebrating this feast on the nearest Sunday), so this Holy Day will fall on **10<sup>th</sup> May** in 2018. In **May** there will be an opportunity to discover the '**Franciscan Crown**' – a prayer similar to the Rosary, but based on the Seven Joys of Mary. Also in May, members of the **NeoCatechumenal Way** will gather in Rome to celebrate the **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the foundation of 'the Way'.

**Confirmations** and **First Communions** will take place in **June**, and in **July** the annual **40 Hours Eucharistic Devotion (Quarant'Ore)** will take place (**12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>**).

**August 11<sup>th</sup>** is the feast of our patroness, **St Clare**, and alongside the Mass for her feast day, we will again celebrate her '**Transitus**' – her entry into eternal life.

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In **September (8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>)** there is a national **Eucharistic Congress** taking place in Liverpool, and there will be related events (talks on the Eucharist, times of prayer) throughout the year, in our parish, our diocese and nationwide.

**Throughout the year** we will be continuing to raise money for displaced families, in association with **Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)**. In 2017 we have raised close to £11,000 for families in **Syria**; midway through the coming year we will shift focus to raise money for families facing similar problems in **Iraq**.

**Finally...** it's likely that in 2018 we will bid **farewell to Bishop Michael**, who is due to retire shortly, and **welcome his successor** to the Diocese. As yet, no decision has been made. Keep those involved in your prayers!

