

**ADVENT FRIDAY MORNINGS
EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION**

This Friday 20th There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction after the 10 am Mass. Please take the opportunity to pray before the Blessed Sacrament and reflect upon Matthew's Gospel.

Bambinelli Sunday

The Third Sunday of Advent—Gaudete Sunday—thousands of people go to St. Peter's Square bringing the Baby Jesus figurines from their cribs and nativity scenes to have them blessed. The children are encouraged to bring up their Jesus figurines and they will be blessed.



ADVENT

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICES

This Wednesday 18th. December at Our Lady of the Angels 7 pm or Thursday 19th December at St. Maries Rugby 7 pm

**MEN'S BREAKFAST ON MONDAY
A.M. & LADIES AFTERNOON TEA
ON MONDAY P.M.**

**ADVANCE NOTICE
"SPECIAL"CHURCH CLEANING
FOR CHRISTMAS**

**Wednesday 18th December after
mass**

**EXTRA PAIRS OF HANDS REQUIRED
"Many hands make light work"
ALSO FLOWERS FOR CHURCH
Donations for Christmas flowers
will be gratefully received.**

MARRIAGE MATTERS

(www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk) Third Sunday of Advent (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11)

Cherish the gift

John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus' coming. When Jesus came, the Magi brought gifts. We are preparing gifts for family and friends. When you married, and every day since, you have gifted yourself...entrusted yourselves ...to each other; do you still cherish the gift? How much has trust helped you on your journey together? Thank the Lord!

A big THANK YOU to all who made the Little Fair so successful last Saturday. The youngsters and teenagers on the stalls, the adults who supported them. It was a great social occasion and the Church benefitted to the wonderful sum of £351. Thanks too to those who donated items and came and supported the fair.

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE
NATIVITY OF JESUS, THE SON
OF GOD 2019**



Tuesday 24th.

Family Vigil Mass at 5.30 pm

(During this Mass the children's Liturgy group will tell us about the birth of Jesus)

Vigil Mass for the Solemnity

8.30 pm Carols and Readings

leading into Mass at
9 pm



Wednesday 25th.

CHRISTMAS DAY Mass at 9.30 am



**Prayer for the
Sick & Housebound**

May the Communion we share today with the members of our parish family who are at home or in hospital, remind us to live for one another and give them a sense of belonging to our family and to this celebration.

The sick... please pray for the sick and housebound in particular Sandra, Grace, Val and John who all need our prayers at this time.

Joy

"The Blind see again, and the lame walk, ... and the good news is proclaimed to the poor."

(Matthew 11:5)

God of all,

You sent your Son to be with us,

and bring good news

To those who are poor.

**Work through us now
and lead us to reach out**

to those who are in need,

so that together we may

proclaim the good news

in all that we do.

Amen.

**Song as we light Advent Wreath candles
(Tune—Away in a Manger)**

A candle is burning, a candle of Joy;
a candle of hope which no ill could destroy.
The prophets proclaiming an end to all strife;
the desert once barren, will now spring to life.

Reflection

THE ADVENT SEASON is basically a penitential period. And therefore the colour of the vestments, as in Lent, is purple or violet. It is a time when we are invited through fasting or some other form of self-denial to prepare ourselves to celebrate Christmas by a genuine experience of repentance and renewal. However, in Advent as in Lent, the Church cannot refrain from "jumping the gun", so to speak, by anticipating, if only briefly, the coming mood of celebration.

So this Sunday is often referred to as "Gaudete Sunday" from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon in the Latin original, Gaudete ("Rejoice!"). And indeed today's Mass text is suffused with expressions of joy and jubilation. Even the colour of the vestments can be modified from penitential purple to a pinkish colour (officially termed "rose").

"Rejoice in the Lord always," says the Entrance Antiphon. (If we sing our opening hymn, it should reflect the same mood.) "Shout for joy... Rejoice, exult with all your heart" is the invitation of the First Reading from the prophet Zephaniah. "[The Lord] will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival..."

"Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel" is the response to the Psalm and, in the Second Reading, Paul invites the Christians of Philippi: "I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness..."

The Gospel is more low-key but there also it tells us that "a feeling of expectancy had grown among the people..."

Joy should, in fact, be the basic mood of the Christian. It should not be something artificial or forced but something that bubbles up naturally from our sharing Christ's vision of life. Joy should be the normal experience of the Christian but there are quite a few who unfortunately do not have that experience or conviction.

At times one gets the impression that it is not the experience of many Christians, who somehow have come to believe that religion is a serious business, that one is not living a good Christian life unless it is full of sacrifices, that Christianity means giving up many of the pleasures that are available to non-Christians. They seem to think that being a Christian means living a half life as the price for a better one to come.

All this is a great pity because the whole purpose of Jesus' coming was to bring freedom, joy and peace to people not only in the future but here and now. No one is meant to be more free than the Christian who follows Christ not in pain but in joy and enthusiasm. I am not a Catholic because I have to be; I am a Catholic because I could not imagine myself being anything else. We share the words of Peter to Jesus: "Where can we go? You have the words that give life."



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Yr A)

VIGIL MASS

14th DECEMBER 2019

4.00 pm

SUNDAY MASS

15th DECEMBER 2019

9.30 am



MASS THIS WEEK

Sunday	15th	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Mass 9.30 am Allan & Gemma Burton RIP
Monday	16th	3rd Monday in Advent	NO MASS
Tuesday	17th	3rd Tuesday in Advent	Mass 10am Jane, Daniel, Elias O'Grady RIP
Wednesday	18th	3rd Wednesday of Advent	Mass 10 am John Daniels RIP
Thursday	19th	3rd Thursday of Advent	IN SCHOOL Mass 9.30 am The children
Friday	20th	3rd Friday of Advent	Mass 10 am Alan Wilkins Anniv RIP
Saturday	21st	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	Vigil Mass 4 pm Nash & Morris families RIP



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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Fr. Paul will be in the confessional Saturday 11.30 to 12 noon during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Confessions before the Vigil mass between 3.30– 3.50 pm. At other times by arrangement. If you can't manage a Saturday then ask Fr. Paul.



Next Week—FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

VIGIL MASS (21st) 4.00 pm SUNDAY (22nd December) MASS 9.30 am