

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT 24TH DECEMBER

MARY



The **Fourth Sunday of Advent** in St Paul's Church on:
▫ Saturday 23rd Dec:
Vigil Mass at 6:30pm.
▫ Sunday 24th Dec:
Mass at 10:00am.

We are the people of Advent, for Advent is now, not just back then.

Therefore we can see all the characters of then here and now! Where in our lives is our John the Baptist, provoking us to be aware of new things happening in our lives? Where is Zachariah not open immediately to what is new or hard to understand? Where is Elizabeth so ready to appreciate the Lord's coming through the wisdom of living? Where is Joseph so gracious when all was so strange? And where is Mary in us trusting God and welcoming the word in her heart? For where we find Mary in ourselves, there we find Christ being born in our souls. Come Lord Jesus come!

The words for this leaflet have been drawn from two sources:
▫ The introduction of the booklet *My Day by Day - Advent 2017* by Fr Stephen Fawcett, the booklet published by Arch Publishing Ltd.
▫ *Prayer for Parish Groups: Preparing and Leading Prayer for Group Meetings* by Donal Harrington and Julie Kavanagh, published by St Mary's Press, U.S.
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Published by St Paul's RC Church, 33 Bulkeley Road, Poynton, Cheshire SK12 1NR. Further information can be sought from the parish website www.stpaulspoynton.org.uk, or by contacting the Parish Office team, either on stpaulspoynton@gmail.com or by telephone on 01625 872606.

ST PAUL'S POYNTON ADVENT 2017

In this season of Advent we blend our hope of Christ returning to fashion a new heaven and a new earth with our remembrance of Christ taking on human flesh in history. We need to remember that because Jesus became fully human, everything that is fully human is also holy now! Are you festive and frantic, or poignant and pensive, about our preparations for Christmas? Whichever way you prepare and wait for the coming of Christ everything we do is holy because "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us". Come Lord Jesus come!

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT 3RD DECEMBER TO 9TH DECEMBER

The **First Sunday of Advent** at St Paul's Church on:
▫ Saturday 2nd Dec:
Vigil Mass at 6:30pm.
▫ Sunday 3rd Dec:
Mass at 10:00am.



Advent is a waiting time. We await the celebration of the birth of Christ and his second coming.

But God waits for us too. God lives today and so our first challenge is to bring Jesus to life in our own living, to be aware of his presence; his Spirit within us, prompting us, sustaining us, working through us, waiting for us. Come Lord Jesus come!

CONFESSIONS

Fr Peter Burke is available for confessions at St Paul's Church on each Saturday of Advent, from 5:30pm until 6:15pm.



SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT 10TH TO 16TH DECEMBER

PREPARATION



- Thursday 7th December, in Macclesfield
 - 5:30 – 6:30pm: Tree of Light Service with Carols and Readings, in the Marketplace
 - 7.30pm: Carol Service in St Alban's Church, led by All Hallows.
- Friday 8th Dec: Feast of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated at a Service of Word and Communion at 9:30am in St Paul's Church.
- The **Second Sunday of Advent** in St Paul's Church:
 - › Saturday 9th Dec: Vigil Mass at 6:30pm.
 - › Sunday 10th Dec: Mass at 10.00am, led by the pupils of St Paul's school, with a celebration of recommitment of the ministries. Mass will be followed by the making of a **Christingle** in the Conservatory for our younger parishioners..

- › Monday 11th December 7.00pm Carol Service in St Alban's Church led by St Alban's Primary School.
- › Thursday 14th December 6.00pm Carols in Macclesfield Hospital

At the heart of our salvation is the love of our faithful God who sent his Son to show us how to be holy. Through his son we are we are graced, enriched and transformed.

So stay awake - do not ignore his calling, or miss his return.

Having received all this from his first coming, we should prepare for his second coming by emulating John the Baptist. If you knew for certain that all the royal family were about to walk down your High Street in five minutes time, you would have no qualms about going into every shop and cafe, hurriedly telling everyone. But what about if you'd heard they might be coming. Sometime soon. Would you be a bit more nervous and circumspect? Isaiah tells us to announce God's arrival - with a loud voice, without fear. Do you act as if he is coming, or only that he might be? Come Lord Jesus come!

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT 17TH TO 23RD DECEMBER

CHRIST



- The **Third Sunday of Advent**, Gaudete Sunday, in St Paul's Church on:
 - › Saturday 16th Dec: Vigil Mass at 6:30pm.
 - › Sunday 17th Dec: Mass at 10:00am.
- Tuesday 19th Dec: **Forgiveness Service** at 7:30pm. This service celebrates the meaning of Forgiveness, allowing time for us to repent of those things we know are wrong and ask for God's forgiveness. We are then reconciled, and celebrate God's mercy and our peace of mind that comes with making a fresh start at the beginning of the new year of the Church in Advent.

All are welcome to this ecumenical service.

We have to be patient because we know that God is being patient. But, that's different to being tentative, lukewarm or half-hearted. He is coming; and that changes everything. And the delay is because of the preparation needed, not to postpone it. This Sunday adds the dimension of joy. If we were truly joyful about salvation, we would show it. It is nigh impossible for someone to be happy and not show it, not share it. But we can be like John the Baptist. He prepared the way for the Lord. The Lord came. But then, John doubted. In prison, he felt trapped and in darkness, and wasn't experiencing the promised abundance. Jesus did not tell him off, but merely reminded him what he has seen: the sick are healed; the dead raised and the poor given hope. And he reminded his listeners that, instinctively, we know we have to enter the wilderness to hear the voice of God, and understand the reality of salvation. Come Lord Jesus come!

LITTLE CHURCH – ADVENT PRAYERS AND ANGELS

On each Sunday of Advent in the 10.00am Mass at St Paul's Church, the Little Church group is creating Advent angels that depict Gospel related words or pictures. Little Church will then hang the angels on a tree in church. A basket will be in church for parishioners to add their prayers too. Any children between 2½ to 7 year old are welcome to be at Little Church, which is part of our celebrations at the 10.00am Mass each Sunday.