



NEWSLETTER

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
CLIFTON STREET, LYTHAM, FY8 5EP
Parish Website www.stpeterslytham.co.uk



Sunday 10th December 2023, 2nd Sunday of Advent - Year 'B'
Parish Priest: Rev Peter D. Clarke - 01253 737037
Deacons: Rev Michael Harrison - 01253 730508, Rev David Pope 07950844747
& Rev William Riley (Retired)

Weekend 9th / 10th December - 2nd Sunday of Advent

Sat 9th Dec 6pm St. Joseph's People of the Parishes

Sun 10th Dec 9:15am St. Joseph's Intentions of Nolan Family

Sun 10th Dec 10:30am St. Peter's Martin Francis Gannon

Monday 11th 9am St. Peter's Graham Smith followed by Exposition & Confessions

Tues 12th Dec 11am St. Joseph's Requiem Mass for Joy Warwick

Wed 13th 9am St. Peter's In Loving Memory of a Dear Mother

Thurs 14th Dec 11.30am St. Joseph's Requiem Mass for Fr. Billy Bootle

2pm Lytham Crematorium Service for Thelma Gallagher

Weekend 16th / 17th December - 3rd Sunday of Advent

Sat 16th Dec 6pm St. Joseph's Chris Salisbury

Sun 17th Dec 9:15am St. Joseph's People of the Parishes

Sun 17th Dec 10:30am St. Peter's Deceased of the O'Dea Family

Sacrament of Reconciliation with Exposition: Monday 9:30-10am at St. Peter's.

Confession is also available by arrangement with Fr. Peter. Tel: 737037.

This week's readings: The coming of God's kingdom is a truly liberating event. We are called to prepare the way by turning daily to the Lord who sends his Spirit to help us.

1st Reading Isaiah 40:1-5, 9:11 - The exiles in Babylon are being led by God, as by a shepherd, back to their own land, with great rejoicing.

2nd Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14 - The kingdom of God will break fully into the world when Christ returns, at an unknown time. The writer encourages the people to be found leading good lives.

Gospel Mark 1:1-8 - John prepares the people by baptism for the kingdom of God, which will be ushered in by the one who will send the Holy Spirit upon them. Preparation requires a change of life and a radical break from sin.

Message from Fr. Peter: Every year I say that Advent is my favourite season in the life of the Church, and the important words there are 'in the Church'. Whilst everything outside can be a frenzy of busy-ness and a Christmas which seeks to replace Christ with party food and presents, within the Church the liturgies are so beautiful, and filled with hope. And not just the hope of the coming Messiah, but of the better world that the Messiah will bring about, and which we are called to bring about with words and actions with the teaching and presence of Jesus in our lives. The first nine days of Advent focused on the great prophecies of Messiah and how they were fulfilled in the person of Jesus. We then move this coming week to look at John the Baptist and his great role in heralding the public ministry of God's son. Finally, from the 17th we start to read the Christmas narrative, which takes us up to the fourth Sunday of Advent - on the evening of the 23rd and morning of the 24th, with the usual Sunday Masses, before our great celebrations beginning with a mass for our children at 6pm at SJ's, a CandleLit mass at SP's at 8pm, and the Christmas Morning Masses. Please take one of the Parish Mass Time Cards, but perhaps hand it to someone else to invite them to our Christmas celebrations, and remind them of what Christmas is truly about. And don't forget that on the afternoon of the 17th at 4pm at SJ's we'll have a half hour's singing of Carols and Readings, before going out to the newly erected Calvary to sing 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel' (and then coming into the presbytery for a drink and a mince pie). In the midst of the busy-ness of the next few weeks, let's give a little time to what it's really about. Incidentally, *did you know that a mince pie in Jamaica costs £1.50, a mince pie in Barbados costs £1.60 and a mince pie in Trinidad costs £1.80. These are the pie rates of the Caribbean.* I'll get my coat. And Santa hat.

DURING ADVENT (and hopefully once again beyond), St. Peter's will be open for private prayer after masses, or from mid morning, to 3pm in the afternoon, for private prayer and devotion, and a little time for silence and respite in this busiest of busy times. Please take the opportunity for a time of prayer.

See overleaf for South Sudan Baby Feeding Appeal 2023

'Thank You'

Collection Sunday 3rd December:- **£443.20.**

Diocesan Poor Missions:- **£127.50.**

Standing Orders and Online Donations
received in November:- **£1291.00.**

Many thanks for your generosity.

**St. Vincent de Paul Society
South Sudan Baby Feeding Appeal 2023**

Today we launch our annual appeal on behalf of the SVP for your help for the people of South Sudan and in particular for the feeding of destitute babies and children. South Sudan, independent from Sudan since 2011 after its own gruesome and long civil war has a population of 11.5 million. With 70% of the population experiencing shortages, the SVP Baby Feeding Centres provide daily meals to babies and young children in some of the poorest communities, but they need our help to fund this vital lifesaving work. Over the years you have generously supported the SVP in this work and we cannot thank you enough. Sadly, these poor people continue to need our help to keep their babies and young children alive, so once again we raise our voices on behalf of them and ask for your support. SVP members will be handing out donation forms as you leave church today. These can be returned with your kind donations up to Christmas and into the New Year. Cheques should be made payable to 'Twinning - South Sudan Appeal' and please do Gift Aid your donation if you are a taxpayer. Thank you and God bless, Deacon Michael.

Message from Andy Cross
MISSIO RED BOXES

Please could any **RED BOXES** that need emptying for the end of year collection be brought into church and passed to Andy over the next 2/3 weeks. **Thank you in advance.**

Christmas Family Coffee Morning

BIG thanks to all who attended this amazing event, donated items for raffle, tombola, Christmas decorations, cakes etc - and to all who volunteered their time and efforts to make this event so successful. We made a staggering **£436.10** towards repairs to our beautiful stained glass windows. **Thank you again! Ali Croft**

Children's Christmas Present Appeal: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us remember the true spirit of Christmas - the spirit of giving love, and compassion. We are humbly asking for you to participate in our **Children's Christmas Present Appeal**. We are collecting **new** toys and gifts for children to be given to Amazing Graze in Blackpool who are well-positioned to identify families in need during the festive season. **Donations can be left at the back of church, in SJ's hall, and in the Presbytery, or brought to The Ansdell Institute** (please drop with Emma Cox at Lytham Candles). We kindly ask that you consider gifts for all age groups, especially teenagers who are often overlooked (and, from previous experience, teenage boys in particular, Fr P). Thank you for your generosity and may God bless you abundantly. Emma Cox. (If anyone wants to leave money or gift vouchers with me, I can sort them out and pass them on. Fr P)

SJSP Ukulele Orchestra in St. Joseph's Hall at 7pm this week. All Welcome.

Sanctuary Lamp Bookings -

Red Lamps: *"David Murray - in loving memory"*
and

"Blessings for all the Nicholas family & RIP"

Sue has room in her diary for new bookings. To book, email Sue on info@stpeterslytham.co.uk (or speak to her). Suggested **minimum** donation - £5 each lamp.

Please pray for all who have died *recently* -
Joy Warwick, Fr. Billy Bootle, Thelma Gallagher
and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

William Ashton, Mary Read, Bridget Coogan, Mary Coogan, Susan Horan, Winifred Moss, Elsie Hodgson, Margaret A. Figgess, Ethel Craig, Austin McTeague, Bernard McKenna, Sheila Russell, Connie Gillett, Brian Parkinson, Margaret M. Hanby, Mabel Tomlinson, Margaret Malcolm. **May they rest in peace. Amen**

Advent & Christmas at SJ's & SP's

Sun 17 Dec 4pm at SJ's: Short Advent Meditation & Carols followed by a Carol Around Calvary with a drink and mince pie in the Presbytery afterwards.

Sun 24 Dec 4th Sunday of Advent: Masses the usual weekend times: SJ's Vigil at 6pm. SJ's at 9.15am & SP's 10.30am.

Sun 24 Dec 6pm at SJ's: Children's Christmas Mass - All children are asked to come dressed as a character from the Christmas Story: Mary, Joseph, an Angel, a Shepherd, a King, or an Ox, Donkey, or sheep, to create a 'living crib'. All Welcome!

8pm at St Peter's: CandleLit Christmas Mass with Carols and Readings from 7.30pm.

Mon 25 Dec: 9:15am at SJ's and

10.30am at St Peter's: Christmas Morning Mass.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: Please continue to pray for: Jennie Antoine, Anne Jones, Graham Bentley, Fred & Mary Wylie, Anne Smith, Kath Hywel-Buckley, John Lavelle, Jean Bolton, Tony Bolton, Patrick Gilligan, Michael Golowicz, Brian Craig, Greta Turner, Anne Hayes, Deacon William Riley, Dorothy Riley, Winefred Byrnes, Judith Cross, Red Wood Farago, and all those in the Hospice, Hospital, Rest Homes & Convents. **May God give them His healing grace.**

2024 Diocesan Directories are available at the back of Church priced £6. See where the Bishop has moved all your favourite priests to!

**Responsorial Psalm for
2nd Sunday of Advent**

and the response is:

**"LET US SEE, O LORD, YOUR MERCY
AND GIVE US YOUR SAVING HELP."**