



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



Sunday 17th December 2023, 3rd 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 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

Monday 18th 9am St. Peter's Alan Hesketh

Tues 19th Dec 10am St. Joseph's Imelda MacGee *followed by Exposition & Confessions*

2pm Carleton Crematorium Service for Patricia Heffey

3:30pm Carleton Crematorium Service for Ian Houseby

Wed 20th 9am St. Peter's For One in Great Distress

Thurs 21st **No Mass today**

Fri 22nd Dec 11am St. Joseph's Requiem Mass for Mary Davies

Weekend 23rd / 24th December - 4th Sunday of Advent

Sat 23rd Dec 6pm St. Joseph's George McKeon

Sun 24th 9:15am St. Joseph's People of the Parishes

Sun 24th Dec 10.30am St. Peter's Intentions of Simon Waddington

Christmas Masses:

Sun 24th 6pm St. Joseph's Robert "Bob" Cookson

8pm St. Peter's Deceased of Murphy and Mason Families

Mon 25th 9.15am St. Joseph's Harrison Bretherton

Sun 10.30am St. Peter's Sister Teresa Malone

12noon Mass at Stella Matutina

Sacrament of Reconciliation with Exposition: Tues 10.30am - 11am St. Joseph's
This week Fr. P will be available for Confessions for half an hour before 9am Mass at St. Peter's
 Confession is also available by arrangement with Fr. Peter. Tel: 737037.

This Week's Readings: In a spirit of profound joy and gratitude to God we gather to celebrate our Eucharist. It is the presence of the Messiah among us, Jesus Christ, that fills our hearts with hope on this day of Advent.

1st Reading *Isaiah 61:1-2, 10:11* - In the joy of the Lord, the prophet Isaiah calls on the people to help build a new kingdom of justice and peace for all.

2nd Reading *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24* - St. Paul exhorts the community to be happy and grateful in the Lord, as they await the return of Jesus.

Gospel *John 1:6-8, 19-28* - The prophetic mission of John the Baptist is to point to the saving presence of the Messiah, who already stands among the people.

Message from Fr. Peter: With Christmas Day being on a Monday, this year's season of Advent could not be any shorter - really just three weeks and a day, that last day being the weekend of the 23rd/24th, which, incidentally, is still an obligatory Sunday for us all (for which masses are at the usual weekend times). But however long or short Advent is, the last seven days of Advent are always the same, because on the 17th of December the Church moves into what is called 'Advent II' in which our readings follow closely the supernatural events taking place which lead us to the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. Using the 'infancy narratives', as they are called from the Gospel's of Matthew and Luke, we hear on Monday how Joseph was encouraged in a dream to take Mary as his wife, on Tuesday of the annunciation of the birth of John, to his disbelieving Father, Zachariah; Wednesday gives us the beautiful story of the Annunciation of Jesus and Mary's wonderful ascent to being the Mother of God; Thursday the Visitation; Friday Mary's exultant song of praise at the impending birth of her Son in the Magnificat, and Saturday the birth and naming of John the Baptist, while the Gospel of the 24th being a Sunday morning, gives us once again a reminder of the Annunciation. And thus liturgically everything is ready for our celebrations of the birth of Jesus; let's make sure that we are spiritually prepared too, as we look forward to our wonderful Christmas masses. Maybe as part of your spiritual preparation you might like to invite someone to our services, perhaps using your social media. And we have a short Advent Celebration on Sunday at SJ's at 4pm. It's one celebration that everyone is invited to - let's help everyone to respond. Incidentally, *how did Scrooge win the football match? The Ghost of Christmas passed. I'll get my coat... and my Christmas cracker...*

St. Peter's School Advent Service: Tuesday at 6pm at St. Joseph's. All Welcome.

TODAY Sunday 17 Dec 4pm at SJ's: Short Advent Meditation and 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 and SP's 10.30am.

Christmas Mass Times:

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.

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

Last week we launched 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.**

**Responsorial Psalm for
3rd Sunday of Advent
and the response is:**

"MY SOUL REJOICES IN MY GOD"

'Thank You'

Collection Sunday 10th December:- **£426.00.**
Envelopes received via SJ'S:- **£275.00.**
Further donations, Poor Missions Fund:- **£22.00.**
South Sudan Appeal:- **£145.00.**
Many thanks to all who contributed.

Sanctuary Lamp Bookings -

Red Lamps: *"Chris - training for ministry"
and "In memory of Mark William Pollard"*

Our Lady's Lamp: *"In memory of Mamie Heyworth"*

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* -
Patricia Heffey, Ian Houseby, Mary Davies
and those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Robert Sutton, Frank Molloy, Margaret Hothersall, Elsie M. Ashton, James M. Ashton, Frances M. Ashton, Sr. Compassionata, Gordon Turner, Rose Marsden, Dorothy Bentham, Coral Bell, Michael Murphy, Joan Thornton, Rose Moss, Simon Hargreave, Mamie Heyworth. **May they rest in peace. Amen**

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!

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)