



# PARISH OF ST JOHN XXIII, PRESTON

## *St Joseph's and English Martyrs' Churches*

Incorporating the districts of St Augustine, English Martyrs, St Ignatius, St Joseph & St Teresa

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Gaudete/Third Sunday of Advent [A]

Upcoming Masses & Services this week:

	Time	Church	
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Gaudete</i>	5.20pm	EM	<i>First Confession Preparation Session [2]</i>
	5.30 - 5.50pm	EM	Sacrament of Penance [ <i>Confessions</i> ]
	6.00pm	EM	Mass   <i>Lisa &amp; Giuseppe</i>
	10.30am	SJ	<i>First Confession Preparation Session [2]</i>
	11.15am	SJ	Mass   <i>In Thanksgiving</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30 - 4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [ <i>Confessions</i> ]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass   <i>People of the Parish</i>
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Monday of Advent III</i>	<b>1.30pm</b>	Crem	Funeral Service   <i>Christine Mellor</i>
	6.00pm	EM	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	6.30pm	EM	Mass   <i>Allan Brown</i>
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Tuesday of Advent III</i>	9:00am	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am	SJ	Mass   <i>Peter Anthony Beirne</i>
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Wednesday of Advent III</i> <i>O Sapientia</i>			<i>No Public Mass in the Parish</i>
	<b>2.00pm</b>	SJ	<i>St Joseph's School Carol Service in Church</i>
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Thursday of Advent III/ O Adonai</i>	9.00am	SJ	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
	9.30am	SJ	Mass   <i>Peggy Jeffery</i>
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Friday of Advent III/ O Radix Jesse</i>	6.00pm	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	6.30pm	SJ	Mass   <i>PA Francis</i>
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b> <i>Saturday of Advent III</i> <i>O Clavis David</i>	9.30am	SJ	Mass   <i>LISCF</i>
	10.00-10.30am	SJ	Exposition & Sacrament of Penance
	5.30 - 5.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [ <i>Confessions</i> ]
	6.00pm	SJ	Mass   <i>Elizabeth Wignall</i>
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> <i>O Oriens</i> <i>Day of Prayer: Expectant Mothers</i>	11.15am	SJ	Mass   <i>Wilf Kellett</i>
	4.00pm	SJ	Rosary & Benediction
	4.30 - 4.50pm	SJ	Sacrament of Penance [ <i>Confessions</i> ]
	5.00pm	SJ	Mass   <i>Andrei</i>
<b>EM = English Martyrs [PR1 1NA]</b>		<b>SJ = St Joseph [PR1 5UQ]</b>	

### THE O ANTIPHONS

As you will notice from the Mass list above, we have some curious titles attached to some days; the last days of Advent leading up to Christmas. Beginning 17<sup>th</sup> December through to 23<sup>rd</sup> December, the Church's Liturgy invites us to pray with a particular beauty and intensity as we journey towards Bethlehem.

Tradition proposes that the 'O' Antiphons have been invoked by the Church since the fifth century, we can say with certainty they have been officially prayed for at least thirteen hundred years. The medieval monasteries would ring their largest bell as the choirs of monks intoned Mary's Magnificat and these Advent antiphons. They are rich meditations on the One who is to come. All seven can be found in the oracles of the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah. Isaiah, which was called the Fifth Gospel by the earliest Christians, gives us many memorable images of the Messiah.

The 'O' antiphons are glorious addresses to the living God who comes to us. O Wisdom [*O Sapientia*], O Lord Most High [*O Adonai*], O Root of Jesse [*O Radix Jesse*], O Key of David [*O Clavis David*], O Radiant Dawn [*O Oriens*], O King of Nations [*O Rex Gentium*], O Emmanuel [*O Emmanuel*]. Perhaps you could use them in your daily prayer at home as we hasten towards Christmas Day.

You are probably more familiar with the 'O' Antiphons as enshrined for us commonly in the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," so you have prayed them even if you didn't first recognize them.

## OUR PRAYERS

We pray for all our sick and housebound parishioners and those who care for them. We also pray for all the lately dead: Christine Mellor, John Galway, and all whose anniversaries occur: Adam Murphy, and James Matthews.

## SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL [SVP]

Thank you to everyone who recently listened to Peter Dilworth on behalf of the SVP. The initial response has been encouraging. A meeting of the Parish SVP Conference will take place at St Joseph's presbytery on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00pm – all are welcome to attend.

**Please do consider joining the SVP!**

## SUNDAY BENEDICTION

As from Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December there will be a pause in the celebration of Benediction on Sundays at St Joseph's. Benediction will resume, with Stations of the Cross on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

## TEA & COFFEE ON SUNDAYS

A few more recruits are needed for Tea & Coffee at St Joseph's on Sundays. Any costs incurred can be recouped from donations. Sign up on the sheet in the Lancaster Room. Thank you to our volunteers!

## COLLECTION FOR THOSE IN NEED

Non-perishable food goods for those in need can be placed in the buckets found in the porches of our two churches. Thank you for your contributions!

## SHRINE CHURCH OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

The impromptu announcements on English Martyrs church last weekend is followed by a short statement from Bishop Swarbrick, to be read this weekend. Temporarily, from next weekend, awaiting further reflection and consideration, the Vigil [Saturday evening] Mass of the Parish will be moved to St Joseph's. I would be pleased to have those who fulfil any ministry at Mass to do so in the same way at St Joseph's. At this time, Mass in the War Memorial Chapel on Monday evenings, will continue. Thank you for your understanding! *Fr E*

## EXTRA CONFESSION TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

- On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at English Martyrs [Memorial Chapel], 5.45pm – 6.20pm.
- On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December at St Joseph's, 6.00pm – 7.00pm. [Holy Hour]

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December | Christmas Eve**  
*Given our current situation, this year there will be one Christmas Eve Mass.*

[6.30pm Proclamation & Carols - St Joseph's]  
7.00pm - St Joseph's [sung Mass]

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December | Christmas Day**  
10.00am - St Joseph's

## SANCTUARY LAMPS FOR CHRISTMAS

Sanctuary Lamps in memory of a loved one will be lit for the Christmas Masses and used beside the Tabernacle throughout the year. Please place a donation of £5.00 in an envelope marked 'Sanctuary Lamps for Christmas' with the name[s] you wish to be remembered.

**N.B.** These are **not** the Votive Saint lamps found in the Holy Shop.

## BLESSING OF THE BAMBINELLI

**This Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> December**, do bring the baby Jesus from your crib sets to Mass to be blessed at the end of our Masses. If it is a fixed set, you can bring the whole crib. This beautiful, yet simple, tradition connects our celebration of Christmas in church to your celebrations at home.

If children are without a crib scene and would like one [which they can decorate] do collect one from Fr Etienne.

## CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

The Christmas raffle will be drawn after Sunday morning Mass at St Joseph's **this Sunday, on 14<sup>th</sup> December**, in the Lancaster Room. First prize, £75.00 and many more prizes to be won.

## 'CHRISTMAS FLOWERS' FOR CHURCH

To contribute to 'Christmas Flowers' donations please use the brown envelopes in the church porch. These can be placed in the collection basket.

## CLEANING CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

A Parish "big clean" of St Joseph's and brasses will take place Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December after Adoration at 10.30am.

## GUILD OF ST STEPHEN FOR ALTAR SERVERS

On St Stephen's Day [Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December] Altar Servers who have served for more than a year are invited to enrol in the Guild and receive their bronze medal. Mass will be at 10.00am at St Joseph's. Renewed thanks to all our Altar Servers!

## The Catholic Parish of St John XXIII, Preston

[www.stjohnxxiiipreston.com](http://www.stjohnxxiiipreston.com)

St. Joseph's Presbytery, Caroline Street, Preston, PR1 5UY

Email: [stjohnxxiii.preston@lrcd.org.uk](mailto:stjohnxxiii.preston@lrcd.org.uk) Telephone: 01772 796053

**Parish Priest:** Fr Daniel Etienne | Email: [daniel.etienne@lrcd.org.uk](mailto:daniel.etienne@lrcd.org.uk)

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Stuart Chapple | Email: [stuart.chapple@lrcd.org.uk](mailto:stuart.chapple@lrcd.org.uk)

**Parish Safeguarding Representative:** Anthony Sudell: [anthony.sudell@lrcd.org.uk](mailto:anthony.sudell@lrcd.org.uk) t. 07948 493237

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