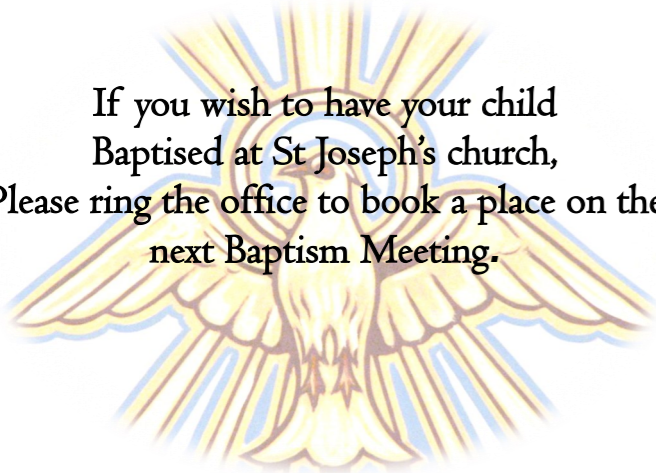


If you wish to have your child Baptised at St Joseph's church, Please ring the office to book a place on the next Baptism Meeting.



**Tea and Coffee.**  
Tea and coffee will be served after the 9.30 am Holy Mass on the **Second and Fourth Sunday of each month in the Parish Hall.**



**Church Cleaning Rota**  
This week it is Group 4. Thank you to **ALL** our volunteers who help to clean and prepare our church throughout the year.



**How to Save your Children through the Rosary.**  
Pray the Rosary and every time you pray the Rosary say;  
**'With this Rosary, I bind all my children to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for her guidance and protection'.**  
In doing so, Our Lady promised to see to their souls.  
**Mother Mary to Fr. Gobbi.**

**Metropolitan Cathedral Concerts over Advent/Christmas Season**  
Each year the Cathedral produces a poster advertising the principal services and concerts that take place during the Advent/ Christmas season. Attached is the 2023 poster. Below is a short text about each event which can be used on social media as each event approaches:  
**Choral Evening Prayer** on the Feast of Christ the King - beginning at 3pm, this will be presided by Canon Anthony O'Brien, and feature music by Mozart, Leighton, Howells and Parsons (poster attached).  
**Advent Sequence** - As the season of Advent begins, the cathedral choir and clergy offer a sequence of music and readings to prepare us for the Advent journey. The service lasts around 70 minutes and features the choir singing from a variety of places around the cathedral.  
**A Ceremony of Carols** - The boy choristers join harpist Elizabeth McNulty to perform Benjamin Britten's sequence of carol texts by English poets. The performance lasts around 40 minutes and is free to attend, with a retiring collection.  
**A Celebration of Christmas** - All are welcome to the Metropolitan Cathedral for a family Christmas concert with music ([www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral.org.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral.org.uk))  
**Festival Carol Service** - A traditional carol service with carols for all to sing, and seasonal music sung by the choir. from the choirs and carols for all to sing. [www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral.org.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral.org.uk)

**Last weeks Collection.**  
**Total Collection for the last weekend.**  
Gift Aid: £284.00  
Loose Plate: £342.05  
Total: £626.05

Thank You!

Thank you for your wonderful generosity!



**Holy Mass Intentions.**  
If you would like to request a Mass to be celebrated here at St Joseph's church, there are envelopes at the back of church.  
**Please state clearly** for whom your Mass intention is for **and the date you wish to have the Mass** celebrated on. **We will try to meet your requests**, Please enclose your offering and pass to the parish office.  
*The great Doctor of the Church St Anselm declared that a single Mass offered for oneself during life may be worth more than a thousand celebrated for the same intention after your death.*

**St Joseph's Catholic Church**  
Crow Orchard Road, Wrightington WN6 9PA  
Parish Priest and Episcopal Vicar for Clergy: Fr. Philip Gregory  
Tel: 01257 676 027  
E-mail: [stjwrightington@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:stjwrightington@rcaol.org.uk)



<b>Third Sunday of Advent.</b>		
<b>Gaudete Sunday</b>		
<b>17th December 2023</b>		
<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>	9.30 am 5 pm	Jane Riley Sheerin People of the Parish
Monday	9.30 am	Brenda Harmer (Speedy recovery)
Tuesday	No public Mass	
Wednesday	7.00 pm	<b>Advent Service of Reconciliation</b>
Thursday	9.30 am	Albert Harmer (Birthday Remembrance)
Friday	No public Mass	
Saturday	No public Mass	
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	9.30 am <b>NO 5pm MASS</b>	Fr John Johnson

**Advent Service of Reconciliation - Wednesday 7pm**

<b>Readings for Third Sunday of Advent</b>	
<b>First Reading</b>	A reading from the prophet Isaiah Is 61:1-2.10-11
<b>Psalm Response</b>	My soul rejoices in my God.
<b>Second Reading</b>	A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.
<b>The Gospel Acclamation</b>	Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!
<b>Gospel</b>	A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. Jn 1:6-8. 19-28
<b>Communion Antiphon</b>	Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



### The Third Sunday of Advent

In the words of John's Gospel, John the Baptist came as a witness, to speak for the light, the true light who was coming into the world. In the season of Advent, he points us towards the coming one and he invites us to reflect on our need of the light of Jesus in the darkness of our lives, Darkness means many things: a sense of being lost, a lack of direction, helplessness, sin or indeed lack of faith. This Christmas, may the God who said: "Let the light shine out of darkness," shine in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Cor 4:6).



Fr Phil would like to thank **everyone** involved in making the Christmas Fair such a great success. Thank you to Jill Maguire and her fabulous team of volunteers who worked so hard to obtain donations of gifts and prizes and organise activities throughout the event. Thanks to all our parishioners, families and friends who came along to support the event.

The amount raised came to a grand total of **£2055.73**. We would also like to thank the organisers of the tea/coffee mornings for raising an amazing **£1100.00**

Thank you to everybody for your generosity!

**God Bless you and Our Blessed Mother Protect you Always!**

### Christmas Masses 2024

Christmas Eve Sunday 24th December

First Mass of Christmas 6.30pm  
and

12am Mass of Midnight

Christmas Day Monday 25th December

9.30am



Fr Phil would be very grateful for any donations towards the Christmas flowers. Please place any donations in the basket at the back of church. Thank you as always for your generosity.

### Sick in our Parish

Please pray the sick of our community, especially Phil Waterhouse, Fr John Johnson, Pauline Fowler and remembering all the patients in Wrightington and Wigan hospital and our local Hospice. Heal thy servants, O Lord, who are sick and put their trust in Thee. Send them help O Lord, and comfort from thy Holy Place.



### Pray for all those who have died

In your charity please pray for Kirsty Aspinall who has died and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time. In this month we particularly remember the Holy Souls.

Eternal rest grant on to them,  
O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in your peace. Amen.



### Right To Life UK Pro Life Prayers

*"As we await the coming of the Child Jesus at Christmas, we ask God to fill our hearts with joy for the gift of new life. Lord hear us".*



### Christian Aid Middle East Crisis Appeal

International development charity Christian Aid is appealing for more help in boosting funds to continue to support its local partners. Church leaders are being urged to renew appeals for donations - every amount will make a difference; £6 will pay for a basic hygiene kit while a donation of £37 will pay for a food parcel for a family of five in Gaza.

Further details on what is being done with the money is in the press release attached. **To make a donation, please visit the Middle East Crisis Appeal page on the [Christian Aid website](#).**

### Christmas Fair –Raffle results

- Luxury Hamper Green ticket **144** was claimed
- Double Air Fryer Blue ticket **71** was claimed
- The winner of the signed 2023 Super League Champions and League Winners shirt was Ann Banks  
**But the following are outstanding;**
- Green ticket **106** £60 Voucher
- Green ticket **198** £30 M&S Voucher



### Feeding Liverpool

Deacon Andrew Cleary, who is a Trustee of Feeding Liverpool, has asked if we could share this information with you.

"This Christmas, we are asking people to join together to support Feeding Liverpool's Christmas Appeal to help us and the 70 member charities we support that provide emergency and community food support in the region as we work towards #GoodFoodForAll. Your support will help us continue to put good food on tables this winter and beyond, at a time when Government Statistics indicate that 132,000 people in the Liverpool City Region– or 9% of the population – are having to turn to emergency food charities to feed themselves or their family." Launch Day: Tuesday 28th November 2023 · Feeding Liverpool's donation page: [Help Feed Liverpool this Christmas - JustGiving](#)

### **Volunteers required for Christmas Church Cleaning**

**9.30am onwards Friday  
22nd December 2023.**

Can you help us to prepare our church for Christmas? We are looking for volunteers to clean the church and the brasses.

Thank you in anticipation,  
Fr Phil.

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11:28



**+ DON'T BE AFRAID +**

### **MISSION STATEMENT OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL**

"Taking to heart the last words of the Lord Jesus, we will go into the world to proclaim the Good News to the whole of Creation"