

Do not be afraid

SUNDAY *Plus*

30 NOVEMBER 2025

1st Sunday of Advent **Divine Office Week I** Year A

Accept me

Jesus, I dare to ask you one thing: speak to me about your mother...

"Do you want to become heaven? Do as my mother did: accept me to dwell with you.

Do you want to become God's tent? Accept me within you, as my mother did.

Here is the summary of the whole plan of salvation; here is God's secret; here is the sign of his infinite mercy; here is the greatness of the human vocation. To be God's dwelling place yourselves, to live in union with the eternal, to make heaven in man, to make the kingdom of the Creator out of a creature.

My mother is the origin of all this; she inaugurated this divine reality in her flesh.

Whoever wants to enter this divine reality must follow her. That is how my mother is your mother.

Accept her and you will be holy, because holiness is nothing more than God dwelling within you and the conscious acceptance of being the dwelling place of God. That is what my mother did fully...

Nothing will ever be able to make you afraid again, since you carry God himself and his omnipotence within yourselves. Nothing will ever be able to upset you again, since, being God's heaven, you already have the Kingdom within yourselves, unailing and eternal, established since time began and forever by my father."

Carlo Carretto, The God Who Comes



The Church must face the challenges posed by the times...
St Augustine reminds of this when he said, "Let us live well, and the times will be good. We are the times".

Pope Leo

Jesus is coming

Look up, you whose gaze is fixed on this earth, who are spellbound by the little events and changes on the face of the earth. Look up to these words, you who have turned away from heaven disappointed. Look up, you whose eyes are heavy with tears and who are heavy and who are crying over the fact that the earth has gracelessly torn us away. Look up, you who, burdened with guilt, cannot lift your eyes. Look up,

your redemption is drawing near. something different from what you see daily will happen. Just be aware, be watchful, wait just another short moment. Wait and something quite new will break over you: God will come...

As long as there are people, Christ will walk the earth as your neighbour, as the one through whom God calls you, speaks to you, makes demands on you. That is the great seriousness and great blessedness of the Advent message.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, God is in the Manger

Loving Lord, sometimes I'm more afraid of the silly little things than the big ones which I can take in my stride. Why is that? Only you know the answer. Help me to feel confident, knowing because you are beside me, giving encouragement.  Amen.

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope Sowers of hope

Hope is not an empty word, or a vague desire of ours that things may turn out for the best; hope is a certainty, because it is founded on God's fidelity to his promises... It is not a passive virtue, which merely waits for things to happen. It is a supremely active virtue that helps make them happen. Someone who fought for the liberation of the poor wrote these words: "The Holy Spirit is at the origin of the cry of the poor. He is the strength given to those who have no strength. He leads the struggle for the emancipation and full realisation of the people of the oppressed". The Christian cannot be satisfied with having hope; he or she must also radiate hope, be a sower of hope. It is the most beautiful gift that the Church can give to all of humanity, especially at times in which everything seems to be dragging down the sails.

Pope Francis, General Audience, 11 December 2024



READINGS

Today:
Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:37-44

Monday:
Romans 10:9-18
Matthew 4:18-22

Scotland (Solemnity)
Wisdom 3:1-9
Romans 10:9-18
Matthew 4:18-22

Tuesday:
Isaiah 11:1-10
Luke 10:21-24

Wednesday:
Isaiah 25:6-10
Matthew 15:29-37

Thursday:
Isaiah 26:1-6
Matthew 7:21, 24-27

Friday:
Isaiah 29:17-24
Matthew 9:27-31

Saturday:
Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26
Matthew 9:35 - 10:1, 6-8

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-9
Matthew 3:1-12



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**1st Sunday of Advent
30th November 2025**

The Word This Week

As usual, the great Season of Advent begins, not by talking about Christmas, but about the Second Coming. We have had this theme already for the past two weeks, but there is a slight change of emphasis in the Scripture readings offered for this Sunday: here the tone is positive: it is the "promise" of what is to come that we contemplate. Even in the Gospel, though it talks of the dreadful signs that mark the end times, we hear of a promise - "liberation". For this we should stand erect and hold our heads high. The central theme is that we welcome the coming of a person - Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, and this is what links this Sunday to the coming feast of his birth: we are now preparing to celebrate how he once came: may these preparations also help us to prepare for him when he comes again.



Mass Times 30th November 2025		
Sunday 30th	Vigil - Saturday 22nd Sunday Morning	4pm - Parish & deceased members of the parish 11am - Angela Howard
Monday 1st	No Mass	
Tuesday 2nd	No Mas	
Wednesday 3rd	Mass	9.30am- Sick and infirm clergy 6.30pm Scripture course
Thursday 4th	Mass	6pm Exposition 6.30pm- Andy Clancy (LD)
Friday 5th	Mass	9.30 - The O'Connell family
Saturday 6th Sunday 7th	Vigil Mass	4pm—Parish 11am – Vittorio Forgetta
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass

Mass Offerings :- These Masses will be offered by **Fr Laurence Gambella, on behalf of the Parish**

John Walsh (LD); Sr Perpetua (LD); Mr T Murray (LD); Don Miller (LD); Tom Lally x 2; Forgotten Souls Lois Upton (special intention);

Please obtain permission from any living beneficiary of a Mass offering before sending it in.)

Altar Prayer Candles W/C 30th November 2025	
The Sanctuary	Deceased Members of the Parish.
Sacred Heart	Bereaved Families and Friends.
Our Lady	Anthony Scanlon

Vigil Mass; 4pm St Mary's, Denton ; 5pm St Josephs, Reddish; and 6.30pm Holy Family, Dane Bank

Sunday Morning; 9am St Joseph's, Reddish; 10am Holy Family, Dane Bank and 11am St Mary's, Denton

What’s coming up in our parish

December

Wednesday 3rd December **Scripture Course**
6.30pm in Parish Hall

Wednesday 17th December **Faith in Action**
6.30pm to 8.30pm in the Parish Hall

*****ADVENT Reconciliation Services*****

Tuesday 9th December. 7pm at **St Josephs,**

Wednesday 10th December 7pm **St Mary’s**

Thursday 11th December 7pm **Holy Family**

Scripture Course

Wednesday Evening from 6.30m in the Parish Hall. The dates are:

2025 3rd December

2026 28th January; 11th February; 4th March; 1st April (Holy Week); 6th May; 11th June

Parish Christmas Raffle

There is a Christmas Hamper on display at the back of church for which raffle tickets will be sold after each Mass. Your support for this will raise much needed money for Church Funds. The draw will take place on Sunday 7th December.

Thank you for your support.

Food Bank Donations

Please donate something for the food bank at this time of heavy demand. There is a box at the back of church.

Suggested items needed:

Tinned Vegetables; corned Beef; Curry; stew’ spaghetti; soup; etc

Other Items:

Long life milk; tea; coffee; sugar Jars of Pasta or Curry sauces; Rice; Savoury Rice; Noodles; Smash; Baked Beans’ Jam; Cordial; etc

Christmas Treats for Children

Thank you for your continued support



December Carol Services: Diocese of Salford Schools' Singing Programme

The Diocese of Salford Schools’ Singing Programme will be hosting a series of free carol services in churches across the diocese this December. Each service begins at 6.30pm and includes traditional carols and readings as part of a one-hour programme. Find your nearest service at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/whats-on/>

Sustainable Wreath Making Workshops at Laudato Si' Centre

If you are interested in learning how to make your own Advent decorations using sustainable materials, why not sign up for one of the Laudato Si' Centre's upcoming wreath making workshops? The workshops are taking place on the below dates:

- Friday 28th November from 1:00pm - 3:00pm
- Friday 5th December from 10:00am - 12:00pm

Please email laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk for pricing, further information, and to book your place!

Recent deaths in our Parish

The death has occurred of **John Walsh** . Our prayers and condolences go to his family and friends. His Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 17th December at 10am. May he rest in peace.

The death has occurred of **Madeline Sartori**. Our prayers and condolences go to her family and friends. Her funeral service will be on Friday 12th December at 11.30am. May she rest in peace.



Mass Intentions.

All the December Masses have now been allocated, we will now forward any intentions to Fr Laurence Gambella, to be said on our behalf. We will start allocating Masses again from the 1st January 2026.

Y	N	O	G	A	R	T	S	O	L
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SUN
OCEAN
DEBAUCHERY
SURVIVE
LIBERATION
HEAVEN
HEARTS
AWAKE
NATIONS
AGONY
EARTH
STARS

New Monthly youth Group for Yr4,5 & 6

As part of our young people's Faith in Action programme, from 22nd October 2025, **we will be offering a group for children in school years 4, 5 and 6.**

The group will take place monthly and be from 6:30pm until 7:30pm.

Our Faith in Action young people will run it (though there will be adult supervision as well) and it will consist of liturgy alongside games and activities.

There is a maximum of 20 places and this will be on a first come first serve basis. The dates are as follows: 17/12/25; 21/01/26; 25/02/26; 18/03/26; 22/04/26; 20/05/26; 17/06/26

This is a lovely opportunity to allow our Faith in Action young people to develop their skills further as well as bringing the young of the Parish together.

If you are interested in your child attending or would like any further information please could you speak to Claire Cull after Sunday mass for a parental application form.

Christmas Day—Meal



Anyone who will be on their own on Christmas day, will be very welcome to join Councillor Denise Ward at **Victoria Park Community Centre**, between 12 and 3pm for a Christmas lunch. **Please let Councillor Ward know if you wish to attend phone 0161 336 6121 or email Denise.ward@tameside.gov.uk**