

Prepare the way

SUNDAY *Plus*

7 DECEMBER 2025

2nd Sunday of Advent **Divine Office Week II** Year A

E & W: Bible Sunday

The Advent messenger



You cannot tell the story of Jesus without first speaking about John the Baptist. He introduces the adult Jesus in all the Gospels. John worked no miracles, held no office, belonged to no religious party. Yet his importance for Jesus was unique: he stands as the only religious leader whom Jesus ever sought out and spoke of with deep affection and admiration. He is described as a voice crying in the wilderness, a large presence that dominates the emptiness of the wasteland.

The purpose of this energetic renewal movement is to prepare for the one who is to come. And we know that "one" to be Jesus of Nazareth. Although John has his own group of disciples, he does not make himself the focus of his prophetic witness; he does not claim that he is the way, the truth and the life. John understands his own powerful place within the larger context of God's plan, and this frees him to defer to the one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit. Jesus' greatness does not

diminish John's importance: John is important precisely because of who Jesus is.

John challenges all of us to foster the greatness in others without feeling threatened about the value of our own contribution; to celebrate the importance of others because we have a sense of our own worth and value before God.

As the relationship between John and Jesus teaches us, the generosity in recognising the goodness in others can help them call out the good that is in ourselves. When that happens, there are no losers.

Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R.,
Jesus and the Gospels

God of surprises, open my eyes to see you at work. Surprise me this Advent as I try to make more space for you in my life. Let me celebrate your goodness.  Amen.

Try to be good

People sometimes say: "We are in a society that is all rotten, all dishonest." That is not true. There are still so many good people, so many honest people. Rather, what can be done to improve society? I would say: let each of us try to be good and to infect others with a goodness imbued with the meekness and love taught by Christ. Christ's golden rule

was: "Do not do to others what you do not want done to yourself. Do to others what you want done to yourself." And he always gave. Put on the cross, not only did he forgive those who crucified him, but he excused them. He said: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." This is Christianity, these are sentiments which, if put into practice would help society so much.

Pope John Paul I

The way we communicate is of fundamental importance: we must say "no" to the war of words and images, we must reject the paradigm of war.

Pope Leo



Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope Search for peace

The first sign of hope should be the desire for peace in our world, which once more finds itself immersed in the tragedy of war. Heedless of the horrors of the past, humanity is confronting yet another ordeal, as many peoples are prey to brutality and violence. What does the future hold for those peoples, who have already endured so much? How is it possible that their desperate plea for help is not motivating world leaders to resolve the numerous regional conflicts in view of their possible consequences at the global level? Is it too much to dream that arms can fall silent and cease to rain down destruction and death? May the Jubilee remind us that those who are peacemakers will be called "children of God". The need for peace challenges us all, and demands that concrete steps be taken. May diplomacy be tireless in its commitment to seek, with courage and creativity, every opportunity to undertake negotiations aimed at a lasting peace.

Pope Francis, Spes non confundit, 8

READINGS

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

Monday:
Genesis 3:9-15, 20
Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12
Luke 1:26-38

Tuesday:
Isaiah 40:1-11
Matthew 18:12-14

Wednesday:
Isaiah 40:25-31
Matthew 11:28-30

Thursday:
Isaiah 41:13-20
Matthew 11:11-15

Friday:
Isaiah 48:17-19
Matthew 11:16-19

Saturday:
Ecclesiasticus 48:1-4, 9-11
Matthew 17:10-13

Next Sunday:
Isaiah 35:1-6, 10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11



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2nd Sunday of Advent 7th December 2025

The Word This Week

Again we hear about the coming "Day of Christ", and meet the character of John the Baptist. Just as once before he "prepared the way" for the coming of Christ, so today he does the same for us. Our hearts should be open to his voice, as he calls us to repentance, and asks us to make the way straight for the coming of our Lord.

The imagery of this Sunday is particularly rich: the dominant image is of a vast population moving together - the return from exile in the first reading, the going and coming of the sowers in the psalm, the community of the Church preparing together in Paul's letter. We prepare for the coming of the Lord as His people - a community who cooperate to make the "processional way" of the Holy One - flattening the hills of opposition and ridicule, filling in the valleys of doubt and despair, so that "all mankind shall see the salvation of God."



Mass Times 7th December 2025		
Sunday 7th	Vigil - Saturday 6th Sunday Morning	4pm - Parish & deceased members of the parish 11am - Vittorio Forgetta
Monday 8th	Mass	9.30am- Holy Souls
Tuesday 9th	No Mass	7pm- St Josephs Reddish Reconciliation service
Wednesday 10th	Mass	9.30am- Tom Lally (RIP) 7pm-St Marys Reconciliation service
Thursday 11th	Mass	6pm MASS -Forgotten Souls 7pm Holy Family Reconciliation service
Friday 12th	Mass	9.30 - Margaret Corney (RIP)
Saturday 13th Sunday 14th	Vigil Mass	4pm-Teresa Mitchell(A) 11am - Parish
Saturday & Sunday	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Available 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass



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

Wednesday 17th December **YOUTH 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:
2026 28th January; 11th February; 4th March; 1st April (Holy Week); 6th May; 11th June

Red Mission Boxes

Any Parishioners who have a red mission box please bring them in to be emptied. The Mill Hill Fathers rely on the money raised from these boxes to finance their missionary work overseas and very much appreciate your support and generosity. Thank you, Paula & Dorothy

Mass Offerings :- Frank Collins; Sheila Collins; Anthony White; Eileen O’Callaghan; Tom Lally; Alan Appleton; Irene Griffin; Fr. Paul Fletcher

Please obtain permission from any living

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Wed : 24th December
4.30pm Carols
5pm First Mass of Christmas
VIGIL
Thur : 25th Christmas Day
11am Mass



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

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.

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 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 11am at **Denton Cemetery Chapel**. 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.

E	D	U	J	O	N	H	E	A	E	TIBERIUS
I	O	A	S	N	P	R	E	E	S	PILATE
P	R	S	U	H	J	D	N	L	S	JUDEA
L	E	Y	I	O	U	E	Y	A	A	HEROD
I	H	L	R	J	L	S	N	E	E	PHILIP
H	I	A	E	I	A	N	S	T	A	ITURAEA
P	I	L	B	N	A	N	A	L	R	LYSANIAS
I	S	A	I	A	H	L	N	I	U	ABILENE
E	T	A	T	R	I	U	N	P	T	ANNAS
M	S	A	H	P	A	I	A	C	I	CAIAPHAS
										JOHN
										ISAIAH



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**