



St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
Altrincham



DONATE



The Third Sunday of Advent Sunday 11th December 2022

Intention for December

For Children Who Suffer: We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans and victims of war. May they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

During Advent & Christmastime:

We are asked to pray for Migrants and Refugees & Expectant Mothers.

Pope Francis's Catechesis on the Mass

Now let us try asking ourselves a few simple questions. For example, why do we make the sign of the Cross and perform the Penitential Rite at the beginning of Mass? And here I would like to add another side note. Have you seen how children make the sign of the Cross? You do not know what they are doing, whether it is the sign of the Cross or an outline. They do this [gesturing]. Children must be taught how to make the sign of the Cross properly. This is how the Mass begins; this is how life begins; this is how the day begins. This means that we are redeemed by the Lord's Cross. Watch the children and teach them how to make the sign of the Cross properly. And those Readings, during Mass, why are they there? Why are there three Readings on Sunday and two on the other days? Why are they read? What do the Readings at Mass mean? Why are they read and what is their purpose? Or, why does the priest presiding at the celebration say at a certain point: "Lift up our hearts"? He does not say: "Lift up your cell phones to take a photo!." No, that's bad! I tell you, it makes me sad when I am celebrating here in Saint Peter's Square or in the Basilica to see many mobiles lifted up, not only by the faithful but also by some priests and even bishops! But please! Mass is not a spectacle: it is going to encounter the Passion and his Resurrection of the Lord. This is why the priest says: "Lift up our hearts." What does this mean? Remember: no phones.

It is really important to return to the basics, to rediscover what is essential, through what we touch and see in the celebration of the Sacraments. The question of the Apostle Saint Thomas (cf. Jn 20:25), seeking to see and touch the nail wounds in Jesus' body, and the desire to be able in some way to "touch" God in order to believe in him. What Saint Thomas asks of the Lord is what we all need: to see him, to touch him so that we may be able to know him. The Sacraments meet this human need. The Sacraments, the Eucharistic celebration in a particular way, are signs of God's love, the privileged ways for us to encounter him.

DEACON GODLOVE

Congratulations to Godlove Amungwa who was ordained Deacon on Thursday 8th December, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Many of you will know Godlove from his placement and holidays here. Please keep Godlove in your prayers as he begins his ministry as Deacon and looks forward, in due course, to being ordained priest.

RETIRING COLLECTION

There will be a retiring collection next weekend, 17th/18th December, for the work of the SVP. Thank you for your support.

URGENT - WE NEED YOUR HELP

Our recent Parish meeting highlighted areas of opportunity to develop our Parish in faith and engage effectively with ALL our community. Thank you to those who attended but we need more support and input to make this happen.

The Communications group is developing action plans and priorities to maximise engagement with all parishioners and help inspire and grow our faith community. The work will include looking at how our Parish Groups communicate, re-introduction of The Vineyard, the effectiveness of current communications such as the Parish newsletter and website, and ideas for improvement.

The Communications meeting is on Wednesday 14th December from 6.30-7.30pm at Westleigh - please come along.

The meeting for the group to support the mission for Youth will be on Tuesday 10th January at 7.30pm. This is not a youth meeting but young people are very welcome.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE: CHANGE OF TIME - Now at 2pm on Sunday 18th December

Our annual carol service will take place on Sunday 18 December at 2pm. Please note that we have changed the time to an hour earlier, now starting at 2pm. This is to allow the football fans to still come to the Carol Service before going to watch the World Cup Final.

We would like to invite parishioners to join a scratch choir to lead the singing at this event. The remaining rehearsals will be at 4pm on Sunday 11th, 7pm Thursday 15th and 1.30pm Sunday 18th before the concert at 2pm. Everyone is welcome – the only requirement is enthusiasm!

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE - 7pm MONDAY 19th DECEMBER

Our Parish Advent Reconciliation Service will take place on Monday 19th December at 7pm in church. There will be the opportunity for individual confessions at the end of the service.

ADVENT SERVICE - 7.30pm WEDNESDAY 21st DECEMBER

In preparation for the birth of Our Saviour the season of Advent calls us to seek the light of Christ in the midst of darkness. As we reach the final week of Advent we invite parishioners to take a little time out to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas in a service of prayer, reflection and music at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21 December.

HOME VISITS

As we now approach Christmas we wanted to ask if you know someone who needs a home visit or to receive Communion at home please email or call the parish office or speak to one of our priests.

PARKING NEAR CHURCH

Congestion and parking around church has been made worse due to the road closure on Bentinck Road. Please be considerate to others and our neighbours when parking or waiting to collect from church to ensure the safety of all.

ACTION BY CHRISTIANS AGAINST TORTURE - CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

The ACAT Christmas campaign, containing details of prisoners of conscience, would appreciate messages of support to those imprisoned ([ACAT newsletter](#) pp 27-37). Closely follow the instructions about whether messages may or may not contain religious themes, to avoid causing worse punishment to be inflicted on those suffering imprisonment.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

We are arranging a Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Wednesday 27th to Friday 29th September 2023. It will be £239 pp based on a twin room; limited single rooms available. To find out more speak to one of our priests.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND DIARIES & ADVENT WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS

Christmas cards and Diaries on sale in church after Masses, proceeds given to Cornerstone. Advent 'Walk With Me' booklets (£1) and 'Christmas Voices from the Holy Land' (supporting Christians in the Holy Land) and available from the Sacristy.

WHAT'S ON THIS MONTH

- ◆ Children's Liturgy - Sunday 11th December
- ◆ Bridge - Every Monday at 2.00pm in Westleigh
- ◆ Knit and Natter - Thursday 8th and 22nd December at 10am in Westleigh
- ◆ Mothers Prayers - Every Thursday 11.15am in Westleigh
- ◆ Playgroup - Every Monday and Friday in term time from 9.30am - 11.30am in Westleigh
- ◆ Tea and Coffee after 10am Mass - First and Second Sunday of each month
- ◆ Brownies— Tuesdays in term time at 5.45-7.15pm in Westleigh
- ◆ Rainbows— Wednesdays in term time at 6-7pm in Westleigh (last meeting 14th Dec, returns 11th Jan)

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Saturday 24th December: 12.15pm Last Mass of Advent
4.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass for the vulnerable and elderly
5.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass for children
7.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass
11.30pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass
Sunday 25th December 8.30am, 10.00am and 11.30am - No Evening Mass

DECEMBER'S LIVESIMPLY MESSAGE: Help local foodbanks distribute surplus food to people in need

THANK YOU

Fr Dermot, Fr Joseph and the Mill Hill Missionaries thank all our parishioners for their warm welcome and hospitality shown when they visited the weekend of 26/27 November. They were so pleased that so many people signed up to be Box Holders and are very grateful for the support and donations.

JUSTICE AND PEACE RESOURCES: ADVENT REFLECTIONS

In the [J&P section of the parish website](#) you will find two documents to help prepare for Christmas - Advent Reflections and An Advent Journey - a practical advent calendar. The December NW NJPN bulletin is also available.

CORNERSTONE CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL

We are pleased to announce our annual Advent appeal for the Cornerstone drop-in centre in Manchester. We suggest any of the following items: For men-woolly hat, gloves, socks, razors, shaving cream, shower gel, shampoo, biscuits and chocolates. For women (fewer boxes needed)-woolly hat, gloves, socks, toiletries, ladies briefs, sweets and chocolates. Single items also very welcome. We ask that filled shoeboxes or treats are brought to any Mass or to the presbytery. Thank you for your support.

ADVENT ALMS THIS YEAR FOR TRAFFORD SOUTH FOODBANK - 2 WAYS TO HELP

- 1) The Foodbank is always grateful for donations of money; they allow them to purchase the food items they need when they need them. Such donations can be made via the collection box at the back of church, or directly via the Trafford South Foodbank website <https://traffordsouth.foodbank.org.uk/> from which you can access our 'Local Giving' page for a quick and easy way to donate: <https://localgiving.org/charity/traffordsouthfoodbank/>
- 2) Donations of food items are most welcome and can be placed in the box at the back of Church - particularly from our "most-needed" list: Pasta Sauce; Sponge/Rice Puddings; Jam; Tinned/Dried custard; Tinned - fruit, veg (carrots/peas/sweetcorn) ham, rice, potatoes; UHT Milk - Green/Blue, Instant Coffee, Cordial/Long Life Fruit Juice, Treats, Chocolates and Toiletries. Note that we have plenty of Beans, Soup and Pasta. During the next few weeks the Foodbank will be making up special Christmas Parcels to be distributed to their clients in the weeks before Christmas. These will include, for example, a Christmas pudding, mince pies, chocolate treats, crackers, etc. We can't include items that contain alcohol. We are unable to accept perishable items (fresh/chilled/frozen) or out of date.

PACT: OPERATION ELF

The Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT), the national Catholic charity providing support to prisoners and their families is calling for help for their Christmas appeal. Details at <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/operation-elf>

OUR PARISH FAMILY

We welcome into God's Family Lexi Stone and Lily McCann who were recently baptised here. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Requiescant in Pace Please pray for those who have died recently including Peter Gough, Michael Street, Gerard Galloway, Mavis Jenkins and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Please pray for the sick who include James Ainsworth, Michael Anderson, Margaret B, Antoni Baranowski, M Barnes, George Bell, Pat Bell, Helen Boardman, Jane Broadfoot, Jozef Broilo, Denise Brooks, Michael Byrne, Jo Carter, Raymond Carter, John Cawfield, Michael Cornwell, Peter Cresswell, Marjorie & Simon De Maria, Luke Dennett, Max Dunn, Ken Dwyer, Ross Dwyer, Joyce Eaton, Lynda Edwards, Peter Elliott, Sean Gallagher, Vicky Gosnold, Stella Gould, Rufus Hasler & family, Mary Heanue, Thomas Higginbotham, Hayley Hill, Joe Holleran, Katie Holmes, Sarah Hrybyk, Lucy Hunter, Martin Jones, H & R Kelly, Amelia Kennedy, Anne Killeen, Thomas Killeen, Elizabeth and Henry Kluck, Marcin and Teresa Kluck, Barbara Lamb, Neil Lancaster, David Lawley, Betty Leeson, Willy Leeson, Klaudia Linert, , Bob Lloyd, Laura MacGinn, Margaret, Erin Marks, Joe Marshall, Marianne Martin, Claire McAllister, Rupert McDermott, Mary McLoughlin, Luke Murphy, Paul Murrell, Mary Murphy, Elaine Neary, Oliver, Anne O'Neill, Andrea Ottley, Majorie Owens, Michalis and Karen Papangelis, Krzysztof Pietrzak, Patricia Ravening, Paul Raybede, Tony Redhead, Reece, Glen Reed, Jackie Reed, Mark Reed, Keith Robertshaw, Rose, Margaret Russell, Adrian Ryan, David Ryan and Frank, Mary Ryan, Donal Scally, Richard Sheryll, June Telfer, Anthony Tomlinson, Christopher Tomlinson, Leo Tomlinson, Philip Tomlinson, Christy Toye, Joe Traynor, Joeseph Tumpang, Jed Wainwright, Janina Wardzinska, Isabella Webb, Neil Wilkinson, Mason Williams, Maria Winthrop, Louise Withers and all in our hospitals and homes.

Parish Safeguarding
Representatives

Helen Norwood: 07800 656966
Sheila Carr 0161 928 7432

MONEY MATTERS

Offertory Collection 4th December £1801.75 plus standing orders.

Thank you for your generosity.

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity No. 234025

Mass Schedule this coming week

Sunday 11th December 2022 The Third Sunday of Advent	08:30 10:00 11:30 16.00 18.30	Brian Websdell (RIP) For the people of the parish Bernadette Maher (ann) Carol Service Rehearsal Thanksgiving for the life of Rosemary Paxton. Confirmation candidates receive certificates.
Monday 12th December 2022 <i>Optional Memorial</i> <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	08:45-09:00 11:00 12:15	<i>Morning Prayer of the Church</i> <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Claire Crossan (RIP)
Tuesday 13th December 2022 <i>St Lucy</i>	08:45-09:00 10.00 BV 12:15	<i>Morning Prayer of the Church</i> Therese Kelly (RIP) <i>NO Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Colm Rothwell (RIP)
Wednesday 14th December 2022 <i>St John of the Cross</i>	08:45-09:00 12:15	<i>Morning Prayer of the Church</i> <i>NO Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Paul Morris (ann)
Thursday 15th December 2022 <i>Ferial</i>	08:45-09:00 10.00 BV 11:00 12:15 19:00	<i>Morning Prayer of the Church</i> Fr Michael Cupit (RIP) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Requiem Mass for Mavis Jenkins Carol Service Rehearsal
Friday 16th December 2022 <i>Ferial</i>	08:45-09:00 11.00 12:15 18.30 19.00	<i>Morning Prayer of the Church</i> <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Thanksgiving for the life of Fr Michael Cupit <i>Rosary for peace in the world</i> Mrs Landen (RIP)
Saturday 17th December 2022 <i>Ferial</i>	11:00 11:00-12:00 12:15 16:30-17:15 17:30	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> <i>Confessions</i> Elizabeth & Brian Carroll (RIP) <i>Confessions</i> Alice Ruth Jackson
Sunday 18th December 2022 The Fourth Sunday of Advent	08:30 10:00 11:30 13:30 14.00 18.30	Liam Higgins (RIP) Therese Kelly (RIP) Brien McDermott (ann) Carol Service Rehearsal Carol Service For the people of the parish

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - 10am Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month

BOWDON VALE MASSES: 10am Tuesday and Thursday

RETIRING COLLECTIONS IN DECEMBER: 4th - CAFOD; 18th SVP

MASS READING CYCLE: Sundays year A, weekdays cycle 1; Psalter Week 3

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: In Confessionals, *see confession times in the mass schedule above, or by appointment*

PARISH CLERGY

Parish Priest: Canon Jonathan Brandon, Assistant Priest: Fr. Robert Dykes, Retired Priest: Fr. Keith Butterworth

CONTACTS

Address: Parish of St. Vincent de Paul, 2 Bentinck Road, Altrincham, WA14 2BP

Telephone: 0161 928 1689

Parish mobile for emergency calls only: 07311 604583

Parish Priest: parishpriest@stvincentsaltrincham.org.uk Assistant Priest: curate@stvincentsaltrincham.org.uk

Parish Office: parishoffice@stvincentsaltrincham.org.uk

WESTLEIGH PARISH CENTRE- Westleigh Bookings: svpwestleigh@outlook.com / 07915 129832

The parish of St Vincent's, Altrincham sometimes collects personal information about parishioners. All personal information is collected, processed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations. This is retained only as necessary and used by the Parish/Diocese for the benefit of the Parish and for legitimate reasons such as administrative and religious purposes. You can read our full privacy notice at www.dioceseofshrewsbury.org/about-us/privacy-notice.

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity No. 234025