



Saint Vincent de Paul
Catholic Church, Altrincham



The First Sunday of Advent

1st December 2024

We can see this week's Gospel as Jesus' guidance on how to live the season of Advent. Following the directives of Jesus is crucial if our hearts are not to become weighed down with the cares of this life (Lk 21, 34). What we must do is stay awake, praying for the strength (Lk 21, 36) to resist the distractions of this world and so keep our minds fixed on heaven (Col 3, 2) where Christ is. Whilst we must straighten up and raise our heads (Lk 21, 28) to welcome the drawing near of our redemption this Christmas, we can only do this through prayer. As St John Damascene tells us, prayer is the "raising of one's mind and heart to God". The strength to do this, much like our redemption, comes from above. Faith is what gives us the supernatural strength to pray in this way, and it is also faith that gives us victory over this world (1 Jn 5, 4). Moreover, the very fact we can be 'raised up to God' is a mark of our dignity. This dignity is linked to our supernatural vocation, which we can only fulfil through supernatural faith, expressed through prayer. As such, we can be confident and not fearful when confronting the distractions and temptations the secular world presents at this time of year, because God has given us the weapons we require to live according to this exalted dignity. As St Paul reminds us, "you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship" (Rom 8,15). Our dignity is that we are children of the Father, we have become Sons in the Son, the one whom we await with hope and expectation during this great season. Even if we pray with hearts and minds filled with faith, we should not become discouraged if the busyness of our lives in this world becomes too much for us. This is because "the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for when we do not know how to pray, the spirit himself intercedes for us" (Rom 8, 26). The same Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance (Eph 1, 14), redemption in Christ Jesus. Because of our life in the Spirit and our faith, "there is no need for us to be a nation in perplexity" (Lk 21, 25) because the Holy Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God (1 Cor 2, 10). In this sense, it is through the Spirit, that it will be revealed to us at the end of time, "what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, or heart conceived" (1 Cor 2, 9) when we come to stand before the Son of Man (Lk 21, 36).

Pope Francis' Intention for December

For Pilgrims of Hope: We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for these intentions:

Openness to the Word of God, Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.

CAKE SALE AFTER 10AM MASS FOR CAFOD

This Sunday 1st December, Alice Gough (Year 8 at Loreto), will be selling delicious cakes after the 10am Mass. This is to raise funds for CAFOD. Please bring cash in exchange for treats!

CONFIRMATION MEETING SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER 4.30-6.30PM

Candidates will be learning about the power of prayer with relation to Advent. All candidates to meet their families at 6.15pm to attend Mass or to get collected at 6.30pm. Please let your child know what your plan is! Candidates are asked to bring non-perishable goods such as toiletries and canned food for the Foodbank.

LET US PRAY ADVENT: second session – PEACE

The second of the Let us Pray series for Advent this week is based around the theme of Peace. Please join us in Westleigh on Tuesday 3rd at 2pm or Thursday 5th at 7.30 pm to enjoy an hour's oasis of peace to pray, rest, reflect and dream together as we prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Subsequent sessions will be held on Tuesdays at 2pm, repeated on Thursdays at 7.30pm. All are welcome, even if you missed last week's session.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND ADVENT CALENDARS

These will be on sale in church after the 5.30pm Vigil & Sunday Masses. All proceeds will be given to Cornerstone.

ADVENT DAY BY DAY BOOKLETS

The Advent Day by Day booklets are available to be purchased from the sacristy for £1.15. There are booklets for adults, junior and infant children. The new Sunday Missal is also on sale for £9.95 in the sacristy.

ADVENT ALMS

Our Advent Alms charity this year is St Ann's Hospice, Heald Green. St Ann's Hospice provides specialist care for people impacted by life-limiting illness, including patients, families and loved ones. To support the work that they do, you can donate via the wall box in the church porch. Thank you for any support you can give.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE - JOIN THE CHOIR!

The St Vincent's annual Carol Service will take place on Sunday 22nd December at 3pm. Similar to previous years, we are forming a scratch choir to which anyone of any age is welcome to join, with no previous singing or musical experience required. Rehearsals are 4-5.15pm on Sunday 1st, 8th and 15th December and will take place in the church. There will be a further rehearsal at 2pm on the day, before the Carol Service starts at 3pm. Attending at least 2 rehearsals would be helpful. We look forward to seeing and singing with you!

CHRISTMAS SPARKLE

Extra help needed by the usual Friday clean team to give the church a special Christmas clean. Have you got 20 minutes to spare on Friday 13 December at 10.00am to come and help us. Nothing strenuous. All are welcome.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIME

Due to Advent and Christmas services over the next month, there will now be no Monday 6pm Eucharistic Adoration, this will recommence at 6pm on Monday 13th January 2025. There will be no Thursday 6pm Eucharistic Adoration on 5th December but it will take place on 12th and 19th December. Thursday Eucharistic Adoration will then stop for Christmastime and will recommence at 6pm on Thursday 9th January 2025.

JOURNEY WITH JESUS IN MANDARIN

Our next 'Journey with Jesus in Mandarin' meeting will take place on Friday, December 6th, at 7:30 PM at Westleigh. Everyone is warmly invited to join us.

Please contact Nati Chang (natiwenyuchang@gmail.com) or Sha Hu (annachrist999@yahoo.com)

“我們下一次的‘與耶穌同行’中文聚會將於12月6日星期五下午7:30在西萊舉行。誠邀大家參加。

請聯絡 張玟鈺 (natiwenyuchang@gmail.com) 或 胡沙 (annachrist999@yahoo.com)

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

- ◆ **Children's Liturgy** - Sundays 1st and 15th December at the 10am Mass.
- ◆ **Tea and Coffee after 10am Mass** - every Sunday, with video games (FIFA, tennis, etc), table tennis and other games, all for parents and children.
- ◆ **Playgroup** - Every Monday and Friday in term time from 9.30am - 11.30am in Westleigh
- ◆ **Bridge** - Every Monday at 2.00pm in Westleigh
- ◆ **SVP** - 9th December (not 23rd) resumes 6th January. Meet fortnightly on Mondays at 7pm in Westleigh.
- ◆ **Emmaus Prayer Group** - 7-8pm Mondays in Westleigh. Everybody welcome, please just come along.
- ◆ **Brownies** - Tuesdays in term time at 5.45-7.15pm in Westleigh
- ◆ **Rainbows** - Wednesdays in term time at 6-7pm in Westleigh
- ◆ **Knit and Natter** - 10am in Westleigh— Thursdays 5th & 19th December
- ◆ **Mothers' Prayers** - Every Thursday 11.15am in Westleigh
- ◆ **Young Adults Group (18-35 years)** - Saturdays 30th November and 14th December (every fortnight). Come along for 5.30pm Mass followed by Adoration & Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Talk, food, time to socialise etc.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Vigil Masses:

4.00pm Christmas Vigil Mass for the vulnerable and elderly and their families
5.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass for children
7.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass
11.30pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Masses:

8.30am, 10.00am and 11.30am - No Evening Mass

FRIDAY CLUB

Our next get-together (all parishioners and friends welcome) will be on Friday December 6th in Westleigh, starting (and finishing) slightly earlier than usual; from 1.30 to 4pm. We will be entertained by the young students from St. Vincent's Primary School before having a tea party with a Christmassy flavour - including mince pies and mulled wine, following by a bingo session and a free raffle.

CORNERSTONE

Cornerstone Day Centre, would be very grateful for donations of either Lynx or Nivea gift sets which they can give as Christmas gifts to the people who come to Cornerstone. Please do not wrap these gifts. If you would like to donate please place these in the box at the back of church by 16th December, thank you.

BLESSED THOMAS HOLFORD CATHOLIC COLLEGE ADVENT SERVICE - 9th DECEMBER

All welcome to attend this Advent Service led by BTH College at 6pm on Monday 9th December in St Vincent's Church, followed by refreshments and mince pies.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS AT HOLY ANGELS, HALE BARNES

The Diocese invites you to a series of talks and Reflection in Advent at 7pm on Wednesday 4th, 11th and 18th in the parish hall at Holy Angels Church. For more information see the poster in our church porch or contact natalie.orefice@dioceseofshrewsbury.org / 077305 526826.

CHRISTMAS PAST AND PRESENT - 1ST DECEMBER

Celebrate the holiday season with Di Voci Women's Choir featuring the Ashton-on-Mersey band at 2.30pm on Sunday 1st December at St George's Church, WA14 4DB. Adults £10, children £5.

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT SUPPORTING YOUNG LIVES VS CANCER - 7.30PM 2ND & 3RD DEC

Everyone is very welcome to attend this annual Christmas Carol concert at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester, to support the charity Young Lives Vs Cancer. Come and enjoy a great night out during Advent. Tickets from Box office 0161 907 9000 or buy on the evening. See poster on the church noticeboard.

DECEMBER LIVE SIMPLY MESSAGE

If you are hosting a party or event, consider how you can reduce waste. Use washable napkins, plates, mugs & cutlery.

OUR PARISH FAMILY

We welcome into God's Family James Beard and Imogen Buckley 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 Warren Walton, Margaret Chisnall, Kathleen Rock, Iris Short, Jacqueline Robinson, Roy Lewis and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Please pray for the sick who include James Ainsworth, Helen Altson, Michael Anderson, Robert Anderson, Margaret B, Antoni Baranowski, M Barnes, George Bell, Pat Bell, Stephen Birchall, Helen Boardman, Jackie Body, Laura Body, John Breen, Daniel Brennan, Susan Brennan, Jane Broadfoot, Jozef Broilo, Denise Brooks, Michael Byrne, Jo Carter, Olivia Cashmore, John Cawfield, Peter Cresswell, Marjorie De Maria, Luke Dennett, David Michael Devine, Richard Doherty, Max Dunn, Ken Dwyer, Ross Dwyer, Joyce Eaton, Lynda Edwards, Peter Elliott, Freddie Fenton, John Gardener, Vicky Gosnold, Stella Gould, Jane Grimshaw, Niel Halsall, Rufus Hasler & family, Mary Heanue, Catherine Heraghty, Thomas Higginbotham, Hayley Hill, Nick, Hennis, Katie Holmes, Lucy Hunter, James Ireland, Martin Jones, Ava Kendrick, H Khan, H & R Kelly, Nancy Kelly, Amelia Kennedy, Anne Killeen, Thomas Killeen, Elizabeth and Henry Kluck, Marcin and Teresa Kluck, Neil Lancaster, David Lawley, Barbara Lee, Betty Leeson, Willy Leeson, Klaudia Linert, Bob Lloyd, Chloe Logan, Laura MacGinn, Margaret, Erin Marks, Claire McAllister, Martin McConnell, Rupert McDermott, Maria, Mary McLoughlin, Luke Murphy, Mary Murphy, Charles Musumali, Elaine Neary, Oliver, Anne O'Neill, Andrea Ottley, Marjorie Owens, Michalis and Karen Papangelis, Krzysztof Pietrzak, Paul Raybede, Reece, Glen Reed, Jackie Reed, Mark Reed, Rose, Stuart Royle, Margaret Russell, Adrian Ryan, David Ryan and Frank, Mary Ryan, Melinda Ryan, Jacky Scaife, Richard Sheryll, John Shuttleworth, Julie Taylor, Ralph Taylor, June Telfer, Anthony Tomlinson, Christopher Tomlinson, Leo Tomlinson, Philip Tomlinson, Christy Toye, Joe Traynor, Joceph Tumpang, Peter Walsh, 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 24th November £1935.69 plus standing orders.
Thank you for your generosity.

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity No. 234025

Mass Schedule

Sunday 1st December <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>	8:30 10:00 11:30 18:30	John Scotson (ann) Alice Bickers (birthday memories) For the People of the Parish David Fenton (RIP)
Monday 2nd December <i>Ferial</i>	11:00 12:15 18:00	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> John Worthington (RIP) NO Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesday 3rd December <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	10:00 BV 11:00 12:15 14:00	NO MASS <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Norah Scully (ann) Let Us Pray: Advent Retreat (in Westleigh)
Wednesday 4th December <i>Optional Memorial: St John Damascus</i>	11:00 12:15	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Requiem Mass for Kathleen Rock
Thursday 5th December <i>Ferial</i>	10:00 BV 11:00 12:15 18:00 -19:00 19:30	Alastiar (intentions) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Thanksgiving SL (60th birthday) NO Eucharistic Adoration (Confessions available) Let Us Pray: Advent Retreat (in Westleigh)
Friday 6th December <i>Optional Memorial: St Nicholas</i>	11:00 12:15 18:30 19:00	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction (No Confessions)</i> Requiem Mass for Margaret Chisnall NO Confessions after Mass <i>Rosary</i> Gerald Batty (ann)
Saturday 7th December <i>St Ambrose</i>	11:00 11:00-12:00 12:15 16:30-17:15 17:00 17:30	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> <i>Confessions</i> Danny Reynolds (ann) <i>Confessions</i> <i>Rosary</i> Alan Mortimore (ann)
Sunday 8th December <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	8:30 10:00 11:30 18:30	Thanksgiving SL (60th birthday) Olive King (RIP) Gerard Galloway (RIP) 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 **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** - as above & by request

DECEMBER RETIRING COLLECTIONS:

8th - CAFOD; 22nd - SVP for Sudan Appeal

MASS READING CYCLE: Sundays Year C, Weekdays Cycle 1; Psalter Week 1

PARISH CLERGY - Parish Priest: Canon Jonathan Brandon **Assistant Priest:** Fr. Godlove Amungwa

CONTACTS

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Assistant Priest: frgodlove.amungwa@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

Parish Office: parishoffice@stvincentsaltrincham.org.uk

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

Website: stvincentsaltrincham.org.uk

Facebook/Instagram/Twitter: @svpaltrincham

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