



Saint Vincent de Paul

Catholic Church, Altrincham



The Third Sunday of Advent

15th December 2024

There are three interesting points for us to consider in this week's Gospel. The first is, how the people who dialogue with John the Baptist model for us what our interior disposition should be in our relationship with God, especially during the season of Advent. "The people were filled with expectation" (Lk 3, 15). We should always be expectant in our disposition towards God, because He never fails to make good on the things he promises. This is because, God is by his very nature faithful and so is not able to deny himself (2 Tim 2, 13). Therefore, any infidelity on the part of God is impossible, for God is Truth (Jn 14, 6) and therefore cannot lie. As such, if we ask for anything that is in accord with His perfect will, we should expect to receive it. "Ask, and it will be given, knock and it will be opened to you (Mt 7, 7). The second point of consideration is that whilst John's answers to the questions of the people are truly 'Christlike', even more so is his capacity to read the thoughts of their inmost hearts. Both the Old and New Testaments show us this. "Man looks on outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart (1 Sam 16, 7). "He knew all men and needed no one to bear witness of man; for he himself knew what was in man" (Jn 2, 25). This shows us not only that John points us towards Christ as his great forerunner and as the foremost of all the prophets, but also that seeing the heart is reserved for God and to those of whom he imparts this gift, who are themselves especially close to him. Yet, for us this is important because it tells us something significant about our relationship with God. God can read the human heart because as St. Augustine of Hippo reminds us, "God is closer to us than we are to ourselves". This points us once more towards the Nativity of Jesus which we recall and celebrate again this Christmas. It should also lead us to reflect upon the mystery of our Lord's Incarnation, where he becomes a God who is with us (Mt 1, 23) and a God who is one of us, through being born of the Virgin Mary. The third thing for us to ponder more deeply is the reality of the 'wheat' Jesus will gather into his barn. The 'wheat' is clearly an allegory for those who have shown themselves capable of self-renunciation and self-denial. The barn on the other hand, is an allegory for the Kingdom of Heaven. If we wish to possess within ourselves even now, the life of heaven, the resurrection life, we must like the grain of wheat fall to the ground and die, if we are to bear fruit (Jn 2, 24). It is only by hating our lives in this world, that we will gain eternal life (Jn 2, 25). This demonstrates once again, how the season of Advent not only asks us to recall Christ's first coming in human flesh, but also to cast our minds forward to his second coming in power and glory (Lk 21, 27).

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.

VINEYARD AND CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Christmas edition of the Vineyard is available for you to collect from church and read on the [website](#). Please can we ask that you assist us in distributing the magazine to parishioners who live on your roads and the roads nearby. We want to make sure that everyone receives their copy, especially those who are unable to come to church themselves. Please also take a copy of the Christmas Card with every Vineyard that you take. This gives you all the details of the services and Masses over Christmas.

LET US PRAY ADVENT: final session – LOVE

The final session of the Let us Pray series for Advent this week is based around the theme of Love. Please join us in Westleigh on Tuesday 17th at 2pm or Thursday 19th at 7.30 pm for a final chance to enjoy a time of peace to pray, rest, reflect and dream together as we continue our preparations for the coming of Christ at Christmas. All are welcome, even if you missed previous sessions.

CHRISTMAS CARDS are on sale in church after the 5.30pm & Sunday Masses. All proceeds go to Cornerstone.

LORETO CHRISTMAS PARTY

From 2pm on Wednesday 18th December, Loreto students are organising a party for parishioners, mainly Senior Citizens. To receive a letter of invitation please ask a member of the SVP or tel. 0161 941 3498. Admission is only for those who have completed and submitted reply slips as indicated on the forms.

SVP COLLECTION ON 21st/22nd DECEMBER

Please note that all the money raised in this collection will be sent to the SOUTH SUDAN APPEAL to provide much needed help in this country.

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 - 3PM SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER

The next rehearsal is **3pm - 4.15pm** this Sunday 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!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIME

Due to Advent and Christmas services over the next month, there will be no Monday 6pm Eucharistic Adoration, this will recommence at 6pm on Monday 13th January 2025. Thursday 6pm Eucharistic Adoration 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.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS BROCHURE

Please take a CAFOD World Gifts Brochure from the church porch. By buying 'World Gifts' you can make a difference to families fleeing conflict, farmers battling the climate crisis and a community protecting the Amazon.

REVIVE CHRISTMAS PRESENT APPEAL

Thank you everybody who donated to Revive's Christmas present appeal. We made our target of 199 presents and they were handed to Father Christmas for distribution at Revive's Christmas party. The children (and adults) had a wonderful time. There was music, food, a free raffle and games at the party. The arrival of Father Christmas was the absolute highlight and every child received a wonderful gift. This is thanks to your generosity and kindness.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

- ◆ **Children's Liturgy** - Sunday 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** - 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— Thursday 19th December
- ◆ **Mothers' Prayers** - Every Thursday 11.15am in Westleigh
- ◆ **Young Adults Group (18-35 years)** - Saturdays 14th December and 28th 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

ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE

Congratulations to Theo Sharrock who will be ordained a Deacon for the Salford Diocese on the 28th of December, 12 noon in St Mary's Church, Burnley (parking - BB10 4AU). Those who have known Theo are very welcome to attend his Diaconate Ordination. If you intend to attend please email alisonrsharrock@gmail.com. Congratulations to Joseph Fawcett-Wood who will be ordained a Deacon on 14th December. Many of you will remember Joseph from when he was on placement with us. We are pleased to let you know that Joseph will be placed in our parish for his time as a Deacon, we look forward to welcoming him before Christmas.

WINTER MOUTHPEACE NEWSLETTER

The [Mouthpeace newsletter for winter](#) is on the parish website. As usual, it is full of details of local and online resources and activities for advent and Christmas. Please give it a look.

ACTION BY CHRISTIANS AGAINST TORTURE

Please take a look at the [ACAT Advent / Christmas newsletter 2024](#). Many parishioners write letters & greeting cards of support to prisoners of conscience around the world. Details of appeals for specific prisoners are on pp21-28 and details for the Christmas greetings campaign are on pp29-46. If you are sending a greeting please follow the instructions closely in order to avoid additional torture being inflicted on prisoners as a result of receiving openly Christian greetings. Please keep these prisoners in your prayers over Christmas.

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.

VACANCIES

- St James' Catholic High School, Cheadle wishes to appoint an outstanding, dynamic and highly motivated Lay Chaplain to begin in February 2025 or sooner. For information visit: <https://www.stjamescheadle.co.uk/jobs>

- Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Baguley M23 1HP) is seeking to appoint a School Business Manager. For information please visit <https://www.sacredheart-baguley.manchester.sch.uk/page/vacancies/144322> for information or telephone the school on 0161 998 3419.

OUR PARISH FAMILY

We welcome into God's Family Stanley Thompson and Jude Rowbotham 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 Irene Burke, Margaret Chisnall, 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, 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, Joephen Tumpang, Peter Walsh, Jed

Parish Safeguarding Representatives

Helen Norwood:
07800 656966
Sheila Carr:
0161 928 7432

MONEY MATTERS

Offertory Collection 8th December £2088.59 plus standing orders.
The retiring Cafod collection for December totalled £538.98. The focus at this time is to support cold weather victims in Ukraine with cooking and heating resources.
Many thanks to parishioners for their generosity.
The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity No. 234025

Mass Schedule

Sunday 15th December <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	8:30 10:00 11:30 18:30	Rifloe Dube (Speedy Recovery) Richard Kerrigan (RIP) Bernadette Maher (ann) Paul Morris (ann)
Monday 16th December <i>Ferial</i>	11:00 12:15 18:00	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> John Starkey (birthday memories) NO Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesday 17th December <i>Ferial</i>	10:00 BV 11:00 12:15 14:00	Paddy Graham (RIP) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Elizabeth and Brian Carroll (RIP) Let Us Pray: Advent Retreat (in Westleigh)
Wednesday 18th December <i>Ferial</i>	11:00 12:15	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Tom Finnigan (RIP)
Thursday 19th December <i>Ferial</i>	10:00 BV 11:00 12:15 18:00 -19:00 19:30	Simon Lees-Jones (RIP) <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Grace Kinloch (RIP) <i>Eucharistic Adoration (Confessions available)</i> Let Us Pray: Advent Retreat (in Westleigh)
Friday 20th December <i>Ferial</i>	11:00 12:15 18:30 19:00	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction (Confessions)</i> Souls in Purgatory <i>Rosary</i> Sheelagh Gilligan (RIP)
Saturday 21st December <i>Optional Memorial: St Peter Canisius</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> Joseph & Winnie Cheetham & Frances O’Gorman & family <i>Confessions</i> <i>Rosary</i> Griffiths Family <i>Confessions available after Mass</i>
Sunday 22nd December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	8:30 10:00 11:30 15:00 18:30	Confessions available after every Mass Elykulty Mathew & P. J. Chacko (RIP) The McCann family (intentions) Christina Myers (RIP) Parish 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 **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 3

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

CONTACTS

Address: Parish of St. Vincent de Paul, 2 Bentinck Road, Altrincham, WA14 2BP **Telephone:** 0161 928 1689

Parish Priest: frjonathan.brandon@dioceseofshrewsbury.org

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

DECEMBER LIVE SIMPLY MESSAGE

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

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