



St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
Altrincham

The First Sunday of Advent **30th November 2025**

Parish Mass book (page 83)

HOPE



Pope Leo has published his first official teaching document. It is an Apostolic Exhortation, *Dilexi Te* (I have loved you) on Christian love for the poor. We continue the excerpts:

Christians too, on a number of occasions, have succumbed to attitudes shaped by secular ideologies or political and economic approaches that lead to gross generalisations and mistaken conclusions. The fact that some dismiss or ridicule charitable works, as if they were an obsession on the part of a few and not the burning heart of the Church's mission, convinces me of the need to go back and re-read the Gospel, lest we risk replacing it with the wisdom of this world. The poor cannot be neglected if we are to remain within the great current of the Church's life that has its source in the Gospel and bears fruit in every time and place.

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

Pope's Intention for December

For Christians in areas of conflict. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

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

Migrants, Refugees and Expectant Mothers.

NEW PARISH MASS BOOKS

You will notice that on this First Sunday of Advent the Parish Mass book is replacing the CTS Sunday Missal. This is because many people found the CTS Missal difficult to use. The new Parish Mass books will be reusable and will be used year by year. In the long run this will save the parish money and in terms of our environmental commitment is more responsible than throwing away books that we only use for a year. The disadvantage is these books are not dated so you will need to pay attention to which Sunday of the year or Feast we are celebrating. There will be a notice on the bookstands indicating the Sunday and page number as well as noted in the newsletter.

PRAY AND REFLECT ADVENT RESOURCES

The parish Pray and Reflect Group has put together some resources to help prepare for the season of Advent. An 4-page [leaflet](#) will be available this weekend for parishioners to take home, containing a line from scripture, two short reflections and a prayer for each of the four weeks of Advent on the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. We invite you to use one page each week as an aid to personal prayer.

There will be a parish **Advent Service on Wednesday 3rd December 7.30–8.10pm in church** drawing on these themes and offering a time of stillness and quiet in the midst of our busy lives.

Finally, the group invites parishioners to ***The Path We Travel***, an opportunity to journey together as we draw close to God in a peaceful time of prayer and reflection with art and music. The same session will be offered on Tuesday 9th Dec 1.45–2.45pm & Thursday 11th Dec 7.30–8.30pm downstairs in Westleigh, come to which ever suits you best.

ADVENT BOOKLETS: The Advent Day by Day booklets are available to buy from the sacristy for £1.

ADVENT ALMS

As is customary we dedicate one of the wallboxes at the back of church to alms. This year we are supporting St Francis Leprosy Guild, the UK's Catholic leprosy charity. Inspired by, St Francis of Assisi, they have cared for people with leprosy for 130 years. They operate in 12 countries in Africa, Asia and in Brazil where leprosy is endemic. By supporting over 30 leprosy centres and projects, they care for those affected by the disease and working towards a leprosy-free world. They fund Active Case-Finding, a programme that finds, diagnoses and treats people with leprosy before it causes disability and spreads into communities. To donate visit www.stfrancisleprosy.org

ADVENT CALENDARS AND CHRISTMAS CARDS are now available to buy after Mass. All calendars are £2. Cash payment only. All proceeds will be donated to Cornerstone.

PARISH CAROL SERVICE - JOIN THE CHOIR!

The St Vincent's annual Carol Service will take place on Sunday 21st December at 3pm. Similar to previous years, we are forming a scratch choir which anyone of any age is invited to come along and join in. Children are very welcome. You don't need any previous singing or musical experience required. Rehearsals are 4-5pm on Sunday 30th November, 7th and 14th 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. Please do come along and enjoy singing some familiar carols and some that may be new to you. We look forward to seeing and singing with you!

LIBRARY OPEN MORNING

If you're looking for some Christian reading material for Advent call in at our parish library on Sat 6th December. Between 10am & 12.00noon, upstairs in Westleigh, there will be free coffee & home-made cake to help you choose.

CONFIRMATION: The third Confirmation session takes place in Westleigh 4.30pm on Sunday 7th December.

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM MINUTES are available on the [website](#) and at the back of church.

TUESDAY COFFEE & CHAT: A sociable, relaxed gathering Tuesdays 2–4pm in Holy Angels parish hall. All welcome!

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

- ♦ **Children's Liturgy** - 14th 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** - Meets 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
- ♦ **Knit and Natter** - 10am in Westleigh: 6th and 20th November (every fortnight)
- ♦ **Mothers' Prayers** - Every Thursday 11.15am in Westleigh
- ♦ **Study Group for Men** - 7.15-8.30pm, Thursdays (fortnightly) in Westleigh: 27th November and 11th December.
- ♦ **Friday Club** - First Friday of every month, 2pm in Westleigh. Entertainment & refreshments organised by SVP.
- ♦ **Windows Group (for widows)** - meets second Friday of the month 3pm-4.30pm: 14th Nov & 12th Dec.
- ♦ **Young Adults Group (18-35 years)** - Saturday 29th November. Come along for 5.30pm Mass followed by Adoration & Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Talk, food, time to socialise etc.

VOLUNTEER STEWARDS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

Adult volunteers are being sought to act as Church fire stewards at Christmas masses, providing evacuation assistance to the congregation in the unlikely event of a fire emergency. This appeal arises from an ongoing review of Church fire precautions, including emergency arrangements during the busy Christmas period. If you are interested in helping and can commit to attend one of the masses on 24 or 25 December, and a one hour introduction to the stewarding role (date TBC), please provide your name and contact details to the Parish Office.

FRIDAY CLUB - 5TH DECEMBER 2PM TO 4PM IN WESTLEIGH

Among other activities we will be entertained by the children from St. Vincent's Primary School with a lively mixture of music, dance and story telling. We will be getting into the Christmas spirit with mince pies and mulled wine and some super raffle prizes. All parishioners and friends welcome as usual for our last meeting before Christmas.

REQUEST FOR WARM CLOTHING, SLEEPING BAGS, TENTS ETC

Some parishioners, have started tending to rough sleepers in the surrounding areas. Many of those are desperate for warm clothing, such as shoes, hats, gloves, socks, tents, sleeping bags. If you have any second-hand unwanted items, that you no longer need & could donate them to the rough sleepers in the area, we would be so grateful & we can collect. If you are aware of any rough sleepers in the area, please let us know on 07946 633776. Many thanks

ALTRINCHAM FRIENDS OF REFUGEES CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Can you help to provide Christmas gifts and vouchers for 170 children and refugee families? We need educational toys, puzzles, books, art and craft materials or toiletries appropriate for age groups, 0-4yrs, 5-8yrs, 9-13yrs and 14+. As a guide we suggest a value of around £10 - £15. We also hope to provide as many families as possible with an One4All <https://www.one4all.com/> voucher, to spend on food, clothes, toiletries and treats as they choose. **Donations can be dropped into Westleigh on Sat 6th Dec 2.30pm-5.30pm** but if you are unable to drop off during this window, you can drop gifts off to Christina O'Connor or Katherine Smith before 6th Dec. Contact us on the Facebook hello@mediagurutv.com

CARITAS AT CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2025 "Your kindness brought hope when I had none."

There will be a collection the weekend of 29th/30th November in support of the Caritas at Christmas Appeal. Thank you for your generosity. Every penny you give goes directly to help those most in need within our Diocese, providing crisis food vouchers, practical support, and the reassurance of care and compassion when it matters most. If you know someone in need of assistance, please contact Trish Spencer: info@caritasshrewsbury.org.uk 0151 651281.

ACTION BY CHRISTIANS AGAINST TORTURE

Please take a look at the [ACAT Advent / Christmas newsletter](#). Many parishioners write letters of appeal on behalf of prisoners of conscience of all faiths at this time of year as well as messages of support to prisoners themselves. Details of appeals for specific prisoners are on pp16-25 and details for the Christmas greetings campaign are on pp 25-40. If you are sending a greeting please follow the instructions closely 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.

The [WINTER 2025-2026 MOUTHPEACE NEWSLETTER](#) is available to read on the J&P page of the parish website.

THE BRIXI SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT - A DECEMBER JOURNEY - 7pm Sunday 7th December

Come along and enjoy a festive musical evening with seasonal refreshments at St Hugh & St John's. Entrance fee £12 for adults and under 16s free. Refreshments included. A donation will be made to help cover the parish heating costs.

OUR PARISH FAMILY

We welcome into God's Family Reuben Jolly and Olivia Wellman 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 Sr Mary Kathleen Clarke, Roy Kontny, Gerard Gallagher, Patricia Boardman, Matthew Stephens and all those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Please pray for the sick who include James Ainsworth, Michael Anderson, Robert Anderson, Margaret B, Antoni Baranowski, Janet Barnes, M Barnes, George Bell, Pat Bell, Antaolii Benzo, Dave Berry, Stephen Birchall, Helen Boardman, Jackie Body, Laura Body, John Breen, Daniel Brennan, Susan Brennan, Broadfoot, Jozef Broilo, Denise Brooks, Michael Byrne, Jo Carter, John Cawfield, Christopher Choo, Anne Coghlan, Murray Craig, Tommy Cresham, Peter Cresswell, Eileen Davies, Luke Dennett, David Michael Devine, Richard Doherty, Max Dunn, Ross Dwyer, Sean Dwyer, Joyce Eaton, Lynda Edwards, Christine Elliott, Peter Elliott, Freddie Fenton, Marie Ford, John Gardener, Ann Gately, Toby Gimson, Mary Good, Vicky Gosnold, Stella Gould, Niel Halsall, Rufus Hasler & family, Mary Heanue, Catherine Heraghty, Thomas Higginbotham, Gavin Hill, Hayley Hill, Nick, Hennis, Peter Heywood, Gavin Hill, Jane Hollingworth, Katie Holmes, Lucy Hunter, Janet, Martin Jones, Ava Kendrick, H Khan, Ann-marie Kelly, H & R Kelly, Nancy Kelly, John Newton, Amelia Kennedy, Anne Killeen, Thomas Killeen, Elizabeth and Henry Kluck, Marcin and Teresa Kluck, Bernadette Lancaster, Neil Lancaster, David Lawley, Barbara Lee, Betty Leeson, Willy Leeson, Klaudia Linert, Bob Lloyd, Chloe Logan, Laura MacGinn, Sian Manley, Margaret, Erin Marks, Claire McAllister, Martin McConnell, Rupert McDermott, Maria, Mary McLoughlin, Carol McLoughlin, Brian Morris, Luke Murphy, Mary Murphy, Charles Musumali, Elaine Neary, John Newton, Oliver, Maureen O'Hara, Anne O'Neill, Andrea Ottley, Marjorie Owens, Michalis and Karen Papangelis, Anna Perry, Krzysztof Pietrzak, Sue Power, Paul Raybede, Reece, Jackie Reed, Dave Renshaw, Helen Reynolds, Rose, Stuart Royle, Margaret Russell, Adrian Ryan, David Ryan and Frank, Mary Ryan, Melinda Ryan, Steve Ryan, Camille Sanders, Jacky Scaife, Richard Sheryll, Julie Taylor, Ralph Taylor, Tomlinson family, Christy Toye, Joe Traynor, Joseph Tumpang, Jed Wainwright, Janina Wardzinska, Joan Watson, Isabella Webb, Neil Wilkinson, Mason Williams, Maria Winthrop, Louise Withers, and all in our hospitals and homes.

MONEY MATTERS Offertory Collection 23rd November £2161.15. Many thanks to the parishioners for your generosity. Thank you to the anonymous donor who donated £200 to the SVP. *The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity No. 234025*



DONATE

Mass Schedule

Sunday 30th November <i>The First Sunday of Advent</i>	8:30 10:00 11:30 18:30	Peter Collard (ann) Those who are placed before our altar Bernard Elliott (RIP) Louis Gervis, Mary Gervis & Michael Gervis (ann)
Monday 1st December <i>Ferial</i>	11:30 12:15 18:00	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> John Scotson (ann) <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
Tuesday 2nd December <i>Ferial</i>	10:00 BV 11:30 12:15	Agnesa <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> John Worthington (ann)
Wednesday 3rd December <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	11:30 12:15 19:00	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Irene Burke (ann) Parish Advent Service
Thursday 4th December <i>Optional Memorial: St John Damascus</i>	10:00 BV 11:30 12:15 18:00 19:00	NO Mass due to 11.15am Requiem Mass for Sr Mary Kathleen Clarke NO <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Requiem Mass for Patricia Boardman NO <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i> Loreto Grammar School Advent Prayer service - Parishioners are welcome to attend this service
Friday 5th December <i>Ferial</i>	11:30 12:15 18:30 19:00	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Norah Scully (ann) <i>Confessions after Mass</i> <i>Rosary</i> Sybil Lavin (RIP)
Saturday 6th December <i>Optional Memorial: St Nicholas</i>	11:00 11:00-12:00 12:15 16:15-17:00 17:00 17:30	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> <i>Confessions</i> Alice Bickers (birthday memories) <i>Confessions</i> <i>Rosary</i> Alan Mortimore (ann)
Sunday 7th December <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	8:30 10:00 11:30 18:30	Patricia Mimnagh (RIP) For the People of the Parish Gerard Galloway (ann) Sarah Bishop and Margaret Keary

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

NOVEMBER RETIRING COLLECTIONS: 2nd SVP, 16th Clergy Education & Training Fund & 30th Caritas

MASS READING CYCLE: Sundays Year A, Weekdays Cycle 2; Psalter Week 1

PARISH CLERGY - Parish Priest: Canon Jonathan Brandon **Assistant Priest:** Fr Joseph Fawcett Wood

CONTACTS

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Assistant Priest: Joseph.Fawcett@stvincentsaltrincham.org.uk

Parish Office: parishoffice@stvincentsaltrincham.org.uk

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

Website: stvincentsaltrincham.org.uk

Facebook/Instagram/Twitter: @svpaltrincham

Parish Safeguarding Representative Helen Norwood: 07800 656966

DECEMBER LIVE SIMPLY MESSAGE Close windows, curtains and doors to keep heat in.

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