



Saint Vincent de Paul

Catholic Church, Altrincham

JOY



The Third Sunday of Advent

14th December 2025

(Parish Mass book - page 88)

No one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord. The great joy announced by the angel on Christmas night is truly for all the people, both for the people of Israel then anxiously awaiting a Saviour, and for the numberless people made up of all those who, in time to come, would receive its message and strive to live by it. The Blessed Virgin Mary was the first to have received its announcement, from the angel Gabriel, and her Magnificat was already the exultant hymn of all the humble. Whenever we say the rosary, the joyful mysteries thus place us once more before the inexpressible event which is the centre and summit of history: the coming on earth of Emmanuel, God with us. John the Baptist, whose mission is to point Him out to the expectation of Israel, had himself leapt for joy, in His presence, in the womb of his mother. When Jesus begins His ministry, John "rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice."

Let us now pause to contemplate the person of Jesus during His earthly life. In His humanity He had experienced our joys. He has manifestly known, appreciated, and celebrated a whole range of human joys, those simple daily joys within the reach of everyone. The depth of His interior life did not blunt His concrete attitude or His sensitivity. He admires the birds of heaven, the lilies of the field. He immediately grasps God's attitude towards creation at the dawn of history. He willingly extols the joy of the sower and the harvester, the joy of the man who finds a hidden treasure, the joy of the shepherd who recovers his sheep or of the woman who finds her lost coin, the joy of those invited to the feast, the joy of a marriage celebration, the joy of the father who embraces his son returning from a prodigal life, and the joy of the woman who has just brought her child into the world. For Jesus, these joys are real because for Him they are the signs of the spiritual joys of the kingdom of God: the joy of people who enter this kingdom return there or work there, the joy of the Father who welcomes them. And for His part Jesus Himself manifests His satisfaction and His tenderness when He meets children wishing to approach Him, a rich young man who is faithful and wants to do more, friends who open their home to Him, like Martha, Mary and Lazarus. His happiness is above all to see the Word accepted, the possessed delivered, a sinful woman or a publican like Zacchaeus converted, a widow taking from her poverty and giving. He even exults with joy when He states that the little ones have the revelation of the kingdom which remains hidden from the wise and able. Yes, because Christ was "a man like us in all things but sin," He accepted and experienced affective and spiritual joys, as a gift of God. And He did not rest until "to the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation...and to those in sorrow, joy." The Gospel of Saint Luke particularly gives witness to this seed of joy. The miracles of Jesus and His words of pardon are so many signs of divine goodness: all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him, and gave glory to God. For the Christian as for Jesus, it is a question of living, in thanksgiving to the Father, the human joys, that the Creator gives him.

Pope St Paul VI, Apostolic Exhortation, Gaudete Domino- On Christian Joy

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.

SVP CHRSTIMAS COLLECTION FOR SOUTH SUDAN 13/14 DECEMBER

SVP are holding a special Christmas collection this weekend, 13/14th December, in aid of the South Sudan Appeal - further details in attached Appeal Poster. On behalf of all those that the SVP have supported this year we wish to thank the parishioners for the continued outstanding generosity in this and all of the collections we had in 2025.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS on sale as you leave church this weekend. You can buy a gift for only a few pounds for someone in a far off country. You will never meet them but can be sure you will be giving them & their family a little Christmas joy.

ST BEDE'S COLLEGE WILL BE VISITING ST VINCENTS ON SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER

After 10am Mass, families are invited to enjoy a free coffee from the St Bede's team. If you're thinking about secondary school options, come and have a chat with us. We'd love to tell you more about life at St Bede's and what it means to be part of our community. Discover more, book a visit or register for our upcoming entrance exam: <https://qrco.de/SBCM>

VINEYARD MAGAZINE AND PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD

The Vineyard Magazine and Parish Christmas Card are available to collect from the front of church. Please assist us in distributing them to all our parishioners, especially those unable to come to church, by helping with the delivery of the magazines. Thank you to Christina Harrison Stirling who has worked incredibly hard in producing this excellent magazine and thank you to Kay & the team who have labelled every magazine to ensure everyone gets a copy.

ADVENT BOOKLETS & CHRISTMAS CARDS & GIFTS: Advent Day by Day booklets are available to buy from the sacristy for £1. Cards and Gifts are available to buy after Mass. Cash only please. All proceeds will go to Cornerstone.

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. By supporting over 30 leprosy centres and projects, they care for those affected by the disease and work towards a leprosy-free world. They fund a programme that finds, diagnoses and treats people with leprosy before it causes disability and spreads into communities. To donate visit www.stfrancisleprosy.org

PARISH CAROL SERVICE - 3PM 21ST DECEMBER

Our Parish Carol Service is Sunday 21st December at 3pm in church, followed by refreshments in Westleigh. All parishioners are very welcome to come along for this very special occasion.

Final rehearsals are 4-5pm on 14th Dec in church and at 2pm on the day, before the Carol Service starts at 3pm.

YEARBOOKS AND MISSALS FOR SALE

The Diocese of Shrewsbury Yearbook is available to buy from the Sacristy for £9. The Parish Mass Book is available to buy from the Sacristy - £6.50 for the normal size and £16.00 for the large print (A4) size. Please pay with cash.

A SAFE WATER SUPPLY FOR CHRISTMAS, WITH LOVE FROM ALTRINCHAM

Our CAFOD/Justice and Peace group invite you to consider contributing to a "group gift" on CAFOD's World Gifts system. Our goal is £750, which would pay for Community Water Supply to help a remote community establish their own supply of clean, safe water. By providing materials and training, local experts can work with communities to build and maintain new hand pumps and water tanks, meaning less disease and fuller crops! To help us reach our goal, please visit donors.cafod.org.uk or use this QR code. Together we can make a difference! If you would like to contribute but prefer to do so by cash, please add your gift to the CAFOD wall box in the church. Throughout Advent, contributions donated there will be added to the Community Water Supply gift from us all at St Vincent's.



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. (Not on 14th December due to St Bede's Coffee Van).
- ♦ **Playgroup** - Every 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: 4th and 18th December (every fortnight)
- ♦ **Mothers' Prayers** - Every Thursday 11.15am in Westleigh
- ♦ **Study Group for Men** - 7.15-8.30pm, Thursdays (fortnightly) in Westleigh: 8th and 22nd January 2026.
- ♦ **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
- ♦ **Young Adults Group (18-35 years)** - Saturday 6th & 20th December. 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 (Children's and Families Mass) and 11.30am - No Evening Mass

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.

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.

CORNERSTONE—REQUEST FOR DONATIONS AND SUPPORT

This year Cornerstone have said they are need of shower gel or very small bars of soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorants, gels for shaving and disposable razors. They are also desperate for brand new underwear for men and for women in all sizes, and jogging bottoms and sweatshirts. If anyone would like to make a financial donation to help with the operating costs of the centre (keeping it warm and cosy, hot meals served, washing machines on, etc) then donations online at our website are very gratefully received. Just mention 'Cornerstone' in the comments box: www.caritassalford.org.uk/donate Please leave any donations for Cornerstone at the back of church.

BLESSED THOMAS HOLFORD CATHOLIC COLLEGE ADVENT SERVICE All parishioners are welcome to attend this Advent Service in church at 6pm on Tuesday 16th December, followed with refreshments in Westleigh.

CHRISTMAS FUN RUN SATURDAY 27TH DECEMBER IN BOLLINGTON

Join CAFOD for the annual Christmas Fun Run in Bollington! An opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors over the Christmas period, whilst also supporting communities around the world to lift themselves out of poverty. Adult, child and family entrance fees available; runners and walkers welcome. We are also really in need of volunteers to help out on the day. If you can spare a few hours, please contact events@cafod.org.uk for more information. To find out more info visit the website: cafod.org.uk/Bollington

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

OUR PARISH FAMILY

We welcome into God's Family Riley McCann and Darcy Stevenson 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 Brian Magee, Carmen Fabiola Southworth, Sr Philo McConn, Sheila Taylor (known as Anne), Alan Johnson, Matthew Rawling 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, Marion O'Neil, 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 7th December £2114.79. Many thanks to the parishioners for your generosity.

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity No. 234025



DONATE

Mass Schedule

Sunday 14th December <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	8:30 10:00 11:30 18:30	Agnesa For the People of the Parish Bernadette Maher (ann) Paul Morris (ann)
Monday 15th December <i>Ferial</i>	11:30 12:15 18:00	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Bridgid Murphy (RIP) NO Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesday 16th December <i>Ferial</i>	10:00 BV 11:30 12:15 18:00	Peter Walsh (RIP) NO Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction Requiem Mass for Sheila Anne Taylor Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College Advent Service - all parishioners welcome
Wednesday 17th December <i>Ferial</i>	11:30 12:15	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Elizabeth and Brian Carroll (RIP)
Thursday 18th December <i>Ferial</i>	10:00 BV 11:30 12:15 13:30 18:00	Shrewsbury Seminarians and those discerning a vocation <i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Matthew Stephens (RIP) Funeral Service for Matthew Rawling <i>Eucharistic Adoration</i>
Friday 19th December <i>Ferial</i>	11:30 12:15 18:30 19:00	<i>Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction</i> Brien McDermott (ann) <i>Confessions after Mass</i> <i>Rosary</i> Alessandro Bregolato (RIP)
Saturday 20th December <i>Ferial</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> Marite Ming (RIP) <i>Confessions</i> <i>Rosary</i> Audrey O'Donnell (RIP) <i>Confessions available after Mass</i>
Sunday 21st December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	8:30 10:00 11:30 15:00 18:30	<i>Confessions will be available after all Masses today</i> Peter Walsh (RIP) Kathleen Judge (RIP) For the People of the Parish Parsh Carol Service Dr Brian Coghlan (RIP)

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 2

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

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: 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

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