

THIS WEEKEND		Third Sunday of Advent		Year C
Sat 11th December	5.00pm	St O	Jack Gillibrand (A)	
	6.30pm	St T	Parishioners	
Sun 12th December	8:30am	St O	John Dewhurst LD	
	9.30am	St T	Parishioners	
	11.00am	St MM	Eileen Leahy (A), Parishioners Robert Clarke (LD)	
<b>Divine Office Week 3</b>				
Mon 13th Dec <i>St Lucy</i>	9.30am	St O	June O' Donoghue (Operation)	
Tues 14th Dec <i>St John of the Cross</i>	9.15am	St T	Bernadette Wilson (A) Margaret + Don Goodwin (A)	
	9.30am	St O	Bernadette Wilson (A)	
Wed 15th Dec	9.30am	St MM	No Mass	
Thu 16th Dec	9.30am	St O	Successful Operation, Hilda Mann Birthday	
	7.00pm	St T	Priest's Intention	
Fri 17th December	9.15am	St T	Patricia Bishop (RIP)	
	9.30am	St O	Rita & Bill Dodding Emerald Wedding Anniversary , Adam Mercer (ill)	
	11.00am	St T	Requiem Mass: Pauline Margison	
NEXT WEEKEND		Fourth Sunday of Advent		Year C
Sat 18th December	5.00pm	St O	Winifred, Frank & Terry Jones	
	6.30pm	St T	Parishioners	
Sun 19th December	8:30am	St O	Mrs Worthington (LD)	
	9.30am	St T	Parishioners	
	11.00am	St MM	Kath Evans, Parishioners	

**Mass Intentions: Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day Masses will be offered for Parishioners. If any Mass intentions are for dates between 18th Dec—2nd January 2022 please can they be submitted by 15th December 2021.**



Mass at St Teresa's can be viewed live through the webcam:  
<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-teresas-penwortham> Or by scanning the QR code left.

## The CATHOLIC CHURCH

in PENWORTHAM + LONGTON

St Mary Magdalen, St Oswald, St Teresa

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## Third Sunday of Advent 12th December 2021

*The Lord is very near: Rejoice!*

This Third Sunday of Advent is often called 'Gaudete Sunday' from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon in Latin: 'Gaudete!' – that is, 'Rejoice!'

It is as though, like small children, we can barely wait to celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas, the coming of Christ Jesus into our world. Indeed, we rejoice now because he is already here in the midst of us. We see that God exults in us, his people, renewing us by his love (**First Reading**).

We might want to pray using the words of the **Psalms**: 'The Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour'. 'Give thanks to the Lord, Praise his name!'. 'Sing and shout for joy!'

St Paul (**Second Reading**) encourages us to have confidence in God, to be happy in the Lord. We do not need to worry, because if there is anything we need, we can ask God for it. God will give us a peace of heart and mind that is far greater than we can grasp or understand, keeping us safe in Christ Jesus.

In the **Gospel**, the people come to John the Baptist to ask him, 'What must we do?' to prepare for the coming of the Christ. The answer is not the same for everyone, but all are asked to share with those who have less than themselves.

Perhaps I ask the Lord: What must I do to prepare for your coming this Christmas?

**Honouring Sunday:** During the pandemic, public worship was suspended for a time and there have been restrictions on parish life. As people begin returning to more regular patterns of parish life and following the first face to face meeting of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales in Leeds, the bishops have issued the following statement about the importance of honouring Sunday where they strongly encourage returning to Mass if able:

*"We recognise that for some people there may be certain factors that hinder attendance at Sunday mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday mass. However, we now encourage all Catholics to look again at the patterns they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays. This would include consideration and reflection about what we might do on Sundays, such as sports or shopping, or other leisure and social activities. This review, and the decisions which arise from it, fall to every Catholic and we trust this will be done with honesty, motivated by a real love for the Lord whom we encounter in the mass."*

Please adhere to guidelines when entering and leaving the church.

\*Face coverings will remain mandatory for all those coming to a church service. (Exemptions for medical reasons excluded.)

\* Hand sanitising will remain in place as people arrive.

\*Weddings, funerals and baptisms guests will be limited by the capacity of each building.

**St. Oswald's Reconciliation Service with confession.** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 10am.

**Foodbank Request:** During Christmas donations be made in the first 2 weeks of December to enable distribution by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December. All donations will be welcome but some suggestions are tinned ham, tinned salmon ,mince pies with good sell by dates and any other Christmas 'goodies'. Thank you for your continued generosity.

**The SVP** Rosary Group will next meet at St Mary Magdalen's church on Thurs 16th December

**The SVP** would like to thank everyone attending our SVP Christmas Hotpot, the ladies association for their hospitality, the preparation of the raffle prizes, donations received and Paul for our entertainment. An enjoyable afternoon for everyone.

**St Mary Magdalen's Bingo** Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm. All Welcome.

**St Teresa's Ladies Association**

\*Meeting Tuesday 14th Dec 10.00am after Mass to finish crafting our Christmas Puddings or just come along for coffee, scones and a chat.

**Christmas Mass times** have now been arranged, and application forms will be available this weekend with the printed newsletters, in church or on the parish website. Applications must be in by Sunday 19th December. Christmas Eve Vigil, Christmas Day and the following days leading up to the 'Epiphany', are known as the 'Octave of Christmas', and consequently, all of these are celebrated as Christmas Masses. Therefore, any one of these Masses would fulfil any obligation, you feel, you may have.

**Lourdes 2022** - Be part of the Liverpool Archdiocese Youth Pilgrimage to Lourdes Thursday 21st July 2022- Saturday 30th July 2022 Ages 15 (or in year 10)- 22 years old Cost- £540 Deposit- £40. Online applications at: [liverpoolourdesyouth.co.uk](http://liverpoolourdesyouth.co.uk)

**St. Oswald's RED BOXES** --- Please bring your RED Mission boxes and leave them in the side room. They will be collected, emptied and replaced before Christmas. Circumstances have greatly reduced the amounts donated so we are asking that you donate directly if you no longer use your RED BOX. Please use the following: Bank Ref. 20-80-33, Account No. 70635529 please quote Ref. 1014 (St Oswald's). Many Thanks, Anthony Chappell

**Joseph Tipping Bulb Sales to support** The Sons of Divine Providence missions in Kenya. If you would like to order any bulbs please email : [tipping.joseph@gmail.com](mailto:tipping.joseph@gmail.com) or ring on 01772 743637. Collections or delivery can be arranged. Thank you for all your support.

**Mini-daffodils** £6, **Hyacinths** (Pink, Blue, White) £6, **Mixed Narcissi** £6, **Cheerfulness** £6, **Mixed Crocuses** £6, **Mixed Iris** £6, **Mini Tulips** £6, **Large Tulips** £8, **Snowdrops** £6, **2 bowls of bulbs** £10 and **Amaryllis** (Red, Apple Blossom, White) £8. Also, baskets £12 each of **Mini-Daffodils, Crocus and White Daffodils**.

**Prayer for the Week**

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day,

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.



Rev. 22: 20