

THIS WEEKEND	Third Sunday of Advent		Year A
Sat 10th December	5.00pm	St O	Holy Souls
	6.30pm	St T	Marion Salisbury (LD)
Sun 11th December	8:30am	St O	Parishioners
	9.30am	St T	Priest's Intention Karen Cassidy (A)
	11.00am	ST MM	Dave Baldwin: Full recovery after surgery, Geoffrey Lock (LD)
Divine Office Week 3			
Mon 12th Dec	9.30am	St O	Priest's Intention
	1.00pm	St O	Requiem Mass Frances Maureen Colmar
Tues 13th Dec <i>St Lucy</i>	9.30am	St O	Priest's Intention
	6.15pm	St T	Adoration + opportunity for Confession concluding with evening prayer
	7.00pm	St T	Chris Howell
Wed 14th Dec <i>St John of the Cross</i>	9.40am	St MM	Recitation of the Rosary
	10.00am	St MM	Joan Peters
Thu 15th Dec	9.30am	St O	Bernadette Wilson (A)
	10.00am	St T	Parishioners
Fri 16th Dec	10.00am	St T	Bernard Henderson
	10.30am	St O	Requiem Mass: Viola Margaret Bewley
NEXT WEEKEND	Fourth Sunday of Advent		Year A
Sat 17th December	5.00pm	St O	Frances Duignan & Roy Tilling
	6.30pm	St T	Peter Westmancoat (A)
Sun 18th December	8:30am	St O	Parishioners
	9.30am	St T	Francis Michael Ferns Rev Fr Malcolm Rodrigues SJ (LD)
	11.00am	ST MM	Eileen Leahy (A)

St Mary Magdalen + St Teresa Offertory Collection 26th/27th November £845.06

The CATHOLIC CHURCH

in PENWORTHAM + LONGTON

St Mary Magdalen, St Oswald, St Teresa

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<https://www.catholic-penwortham-longton.co.uk>



Third Sunday of Advent

11th December 2022

Rejoice, the Lord is near!

On this 'Gaudete' Sunday, the liturgy begins with an invitation to 'rejoice!' Just as in the darkness of midwinter we long for light, so in the darkness of a world suffering the consequences of war and human greed, we long for the transforming light of Christ. But all around us are prophetic signs of God's love at work, bringing us hope in darkness, and reminding us of the joyful life we are called to live. Today the Scriptures encourage us to listen, and to see the prophetic voices and signs of our times.

In the **First Reading**, Isaiah acclaims a joyful vision of Christ's coming. Dimmed eyes will be opened; the lame will leap for joy; and we can have courage because the Lord is near.

The **Psalmist** shares a vision of the Lord overcoming our human hardship, bringing justice and healing to the world.

The **Second Reading** is a letter of encouragement, counselling us to be watchful and patient. The Lord is close at hand.

The **Gospel** describes a meeting between Jesus and the followers of the imprisoned John. Jesus answers their questions by referencing both the prophecies of Isaiah and today's Psalm. John is a prophet of their time, and Jesus encourages John's disciples not to lose faith. Jesus himself is the one of whom the ancient prophets spoke.

As followers of Christ, let us take courage, and prayerfully support one another to be patient and faithful to the liberating message of the Good News. We belong to a loving community that longs for, and trusts in, the light of Christ, even in the midst of long winter nights and during these challenging times.

New St Mary Magdalen + St Teresa New Parish Phone Number:

01772 370539



Online Giving / Text giving: If you wish to make a donation, please follow this link <https://www.catholic-penwortham-longton.co.uk/finance/> or the QR code on the right:

Mass Notices: Please can any items for the newsletter for dates between 18th Dec—8th January 2023 be submitted by Monday 12th December 2022.

Mass Intentions: Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day Masses will be offered for Parish-ioners. If any Mass intentions are for dates between 18th Dec—8th January 2023 please can they be submitted by Monday 12th December 2022.

Christmas Mass times:

Christmas Eve: St Oswald 5.00pm, St Teresa 6:30pm, St Oswald: 7.00pm

St Mary Magdalen : 8.30pm

Christmas Day: St Oswald 8.30am, St Teresa: 9:30am St Mary Magdalen: 11.00am

St Mary Magdalen: Bingo every Tuesday. Doors 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Tea/coffee with biscuits half time 20p. Who knows you might even win!

December Foodbank: Donations for the month of December will be added to the 'Mini Vinnie' project 'Reverse Advent calendar'. Any donations of food or toiletries will go towards making up boxes which will be distributed to needy families. Christmas items need to be donated before December 16th. Many thanks for your continued generosity.

Church Piety Shop: Christmas cards now on sale and don't forget your advent calendars and candles.

St O Service of Reconciliation: There will be a Service of Reconciliation leading to confession on Saturday 10th December at 10.30am.

St. O Missio RED BOXES; We will be collecting and emptying the red

Mission boxes in December so can all holders please leave their boxes in the side room in the next week or two.

With cash now used less by many people, please consider donating directly to MISSIO. You can find details in the Magazine."

St. O Thank you to all those who hand delivered the Christmas cards to houses in Longton from our church, St. Andrew's, All Saints' and Hope Methodist Church. Fr. M

Recently Deceased: Rev Fr Malcolm Rodrigues SJ who celebrated Mass at St Teresa's when covering for Fr Griffin has sadly passed away.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

Senior Citizens Christmas Afternoon Tea at All Hallows' High School on Wednesday 14th December Those who have signed up for this should be at the school by 1:30pm.

Date for the social diary: **Hotpot Supper and Penwortham Catholics Have Talent Evening** in the parish centre on Friday 20th January at 7:30pm. This evening is a thank you to all parish helpers for what they do throughout the year for our parish community. Those who do not have a parish job are simply asked to contribute £5 towards the evening. All budding singers, musicians, dancers, poets, storytellers are invited to use their talents on the evening. A sign-up list will be available in both churches before Christmas.

Primary school online admissions are now open. www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools The deadline for Primary admissions is 15/01/2023. Please note that you still need to complete the school supplementary form in addition to the online application.

St Teresa Parish Centre

'Warm and Cosy' : During the winter months the parish centre will be open every Monday between 1.00pm-3.30pm . The centre will be welcoming people to enjoy free tea, coffee and biscuits and have free use of TVs and wi-fi in a safe space.

Parish Centre and SVP have joined together -Please consider a Mini Vinnie project- "Reverse Advent calendar" instead of receiving a gift, donate a food item or toiletries each day of Advent, you should have a collection of 24 items in a box/bag at the end of Advent these can be dropped off at the Parish centre for collection by the food bank. Any Christmas items, need to be donated by 16th December for distribution before Christmas

Please leave donations for the foodbank, on the table near the entrance..

Contemplative Prayer: This coming Monday, 12th December 7:30 pm to 8:00 pm in St Teresa's Romero Room, a warm invitation is offered to the parishioners of our three churches to experience the wonder and beauty of Contemplative Prayer. In Contemplative Prayer we seek to become the person we are called to be, not by thinking of God but by being with God. Simply to be with God is to be drawn into being the person God calls us to be. St. Teresa says when our prayer becomes a loving look, a loving gaze, then, that is, indeed, "Contemplation".

Lourdes Pilgrimage: Courtesy of Northern Star Travel. A special offer for 5days, staying at the Solitude 4*Hotel, Full board. June 12th for 5days.

Also an optional excursion to visit Gavarnie/ or the National Park in the Pyrenees .(breath-taking scenery) The price per person (sharing) £595. Extra for single Rooms. This price will be guaranteed until 12 January. After this date the price will be £630 and £750 for single. For information and Booking forms. Please ring Dorothy 742927

Donations for local rough sleepers and people in need: St Wilfred's Metanoia project for local people in need is extremely low in stock at the moment and would be very grateful for donations of the following:

For Men: new boxer shorts (small, medium), new socks, T-shirts (small, medium), hoodies and coats (small, medium, large), tracksuit bottoms (small, medium), trainers or walking shoes (size 8 and 9).

For Ladies: new knickers (small), new socks

Also: Sleeping bags and rucksacks. Deodorants, shower gel, shampoo and conditioner (new and unopened please).

Please leave donations in the boxes at the back of St Teresa's and St Mary Magdalen's church.

Lancashire Sings Christmas: Thursday 15th December (on Radio Lancashire 7pm as advertised) At The Community Centre, Kingsfold Drive, PR1 9EQ Doors open for a cup of tea at 6.30 Soup and a roll will be served after the singing.

Prayer for the Week

Father, Lord of all creation, you have power and might over heaven and earth. You speak a word and mountains move. You whisper and the sea obeys. You turn darkness into light and transform broken things into beauty. Lord, help me to see the wonder in your creation.

Help me to celebrate with joy and gladness this Christmas, for in you all things are made new. In you I will be glad and rejoice forever, delighting in you with joy. All this I pray through Jesus Christ, your only son, your greatest gift to this world. **Amen.**

