



ST. GREGORY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Priest in Charge: Rev. Fr. John Mark Agulefo

St. Clare's Church: Tel: 01772 719604

Deacon: Rev. Jim Maguire

Saturday 14th/Sunday 15th December 2024

Third Sunday of Advent - Year C



GAUDETE SUNDAY

As we journey towards Christmas, this third Sunday of Advent stands out as a beacon of joy and hope. The third Sunday of Advent is called the Gaudete Sunday and it

marks a joyful midpoint in the season of anticipation before Christmas. The term "Gaudete" is derived from the Latin word for "rejoice," taken from the entrance antiphon for the day.

The history of Gaudete Sunday is deeply rooted in Christian tradition. The observance dates back to the medieval period when the Church recognised the need to balance the penitential nature of Advent with moments of joy and hope. The third Sunday of Advent serves as a brief respite from the more sombre aspects of the season, allowing believers to rejoice in the imminent arrival of the Christ child.

The liturgical colour for Gaudete Sunday is rose or pink, symbolising joy and a departure from the traditional purple associated with penance and preparation. Gaudete Sunday is also marked by lighting the third candle on the Advent wreath. This candle represents the joy that Christians experience as they draw closer to the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

In essence, Gaudete Sunday encapsulates the dual nature of Advent - a time of reflection and repentance, balanced with anticipation and rejoicing in the promise of redemption. It serves as a reminder that, even in the midst of our preparations, there is joy to be found in the expectation of the Saviour's arrival. Happy Gaudete Sunday!

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (GAUDETE SUNDAY)

In the first reading the prophet Zephaniah prophesies the coming of the Messiah who is also the Saviour. In the second reading Paul urges us to be happy always and to ask God for our needs with prayer and thanksgiving, because the Lord is very near. In the Gospel reading John the Baptist prepares for the imminent appearance of the Messiah by calling the people to repentance.

AGAIN, WE APOLOGISE THAT THERE WILL BE NO MASSES THIS WEEKEND.

PLEASE PRAY FOR DEACON JIM WHO IS RECOVERING FROM HIS RECENT HEALTH SCARE.

AT THE MOMENT WE HAVE NO UPDATES TO PASS ON TO YOU REGARDING THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISH AND WE WILL INFORM YOU AS SOON AS WE HAVE ANY FURTHER NEWS. PLEASE PRAY FOR A SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION SOON.

ON WEDNESDAY THERE WILL BE A PARISH MASS AT 10.15 A.M. ATTENDED BY CHILDREN FROM OUR PRIMARY SCHOOL.

ON FRIDAY THERE WILL BE EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT FROM 10.15 A.M. TO 11.15 A.M. FIVE DECADES OF THE ROSARY WILL ALSO BE SAID FOR DEACON JIM AND THE SICK OF THE PARISH.

THERE WILL BE AN ADVENT SERVICE IN THE SCHOOL HALL WITH YEAR 5 ON MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER AT 2.30 P.M.

ON THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER THERE WILL BE A TAIZE SERVICE IN THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY ROOM AT 7.00 P.M. PLEASE ENTER VIA THE BACK DOOR OF THE CHURCH.

ON SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER THERE WILL BE A CAROL SERVICE IN CHURCH AT 2.00 P.M. PLEASE ENTER VIA THE MAIN DOORS.

PLEASE LET US KNOW of anyone who is ill or housebound and cannot get to Mass at this present time so that we can make arrangements to have Holy Communion taken to them. Contact Fr. John Mark.

OFFERINGS TO THE CHURCH

If you prefer to sign a Standing Order or undertake a Bank Transfer, please use the following details:

A/c Name: Parish of St. Gregory, Preston
A/c No: 81335332
Sort Code: 40-27-02

Please make sure you add your name to the payment, especially if you are a Gift Aider in order that we can claim back the tax.

LADIES' GROUP

The ladies' group will next meet on Tuesday 17th December at 2 00 p.m. in the Club for Afternoon Tea.

POPE'S INTENTION FOR DECEMBER

Pilgrims of Hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthens our faith; helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS

This Christmas, give your loved ones something exceptional and life changing. Buying CAFOD's virtual World Gifts makes a real difference for our sisters and brothers facing the injustice of poverty around the world. Choose from a range of beautifully illustrated cards, each representing a gift of hope, inspired by real people and real needs. Cards can be sent by post, as an e-Card, or printed at home. Purchase World Gifts and other gifts such as Advent calendars and jute bags at worldgifts.cafod.org.uk.

POSTAGE STAMPS

CAFOD thanks us for all the used stamps we have sent to support their fundraising; they are, however, no longer accepting them. If you wish to continue saving used stamps we can give them to Age UK. Please remember to leave a 1 cm. edge around the whole stamp. The box is still at the back of church.

READINGS NEXT WEEK

Monday	Numbers 24 vv 2-7, 15-17	Matthew 21 vv 23-27
Tuesday	Genesis 49 v 2, 8-10	Matthew 1 vv 1-17
Wednesday	Jeremiah 23 vv 5-8	Matthew 1 vv 18-24
Thursday	Judges 13 vv 2-7, 24-25	Luke 1 vv 5-25
Friday	Isaiah 7 vv 10-14	Luke 1 vv 26-38
Saturday	Song of Songs 2 vv 8-14	Luke 1 vv 39-45

Sunday 22nd December - 4th Sunday of Advent Year C

Micah 5 vv 1-4 Paul/Hebrews 10 vv 5-10
Luke 1 vv 39-45



YOUR PRAYERS PLEASE

for Sam Dowd, Jackie Lyons, Donald & Ingrid Whiles, Michelle Riley, Raine Tallon, Gerard Renaudin, Rudolph Carlisle, Members of the Wood and Madden Families, John Allen, Maureen Sharrocks, Harry Oulton, Jon Monty Black, Martin Gee, Margaret Nuttall, Agnes Partington, Teresa Durnian, Bill Hughes, Deacon Bill Adams and all who are sick.

For the housebound and those in hospital.

For carers and all who are anxious for the health of their loved ones.

For the relief, comfort and solace of all refugees and the homeless.

For missionaries and for all victims of strife and terrorism. For peace in all the troubled areas of our world.

For our clergy and all our parishioners.

Our Lady, our Mother, comfort of the afflicted, pray for them.

For all who have died recently, for all whose anniversaries occur about this time and for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.



FROM OUR PRIMARY SCHOOL

It is that special time of year again when we join together as a school and parish community to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. We would like to invite the parishioners of St. Gregory's

to our Advent Reflections performed by children from years 3, 4, 5 and 6. The remaining services will be as follows:

Year 5: Monday 16th December at 2.30 p.m.

Year 6: Wednesday 18th December at 2.30 p.m.

We hope you can join us to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas and be part of our special preparations.

FOOD BANK APPEAL

Please continue to bring in items for the Salvation Army Food Bank. They are desperate for tinned and dried food (but not pasta and cereals). Also welcome are tea, coffee, sugar, UHT long-life milk and meals in a tin e.g. meat plus anything for homeless people with no cooking facilities. They are glad of your donations especially at this time. They are not, however, allowed to accept alcoholic drinks. There are Boxes at the back of church.