

ST MARY'S THE HIDDEN GEM MULBERRY ST



A PLACE OF SILENCE AND PRAYER AT THE HEART OF THE CITY
Serving the people of Manchester since 1794

Sunday 28th November 2021 **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

For Catholics, the new Liturgical Year commences with the first Sunday of Advent. In this new Liturgical Year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord. This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich and intense, endeavours to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent season, will spur us to an awakening in our Christian life and will put us in a 'vigilant' disposition, to wait for Our Lord Jesus who is coming:

'Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob," is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes.'¹

The Season of Advent is therefore a season of vigilant waiting, that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate, who will give the 'Light' to the womb of the Virgin Mary, but essentially this time prepares us not only to welcome this great event but to incarnate it in our lives. We could say that the true light enters the world through the immaculate womb of Mary but it does not stay there. On the contrary, this light flows out into our dark, obscure, sinful lives to illuminate them, so that we can become the light that illuminates the world. For this reason, let us live this time of waiting not only to celebrate a historical memory but to repeat this memory in our lives and in the service of others. To wait for the Lord who comes, means to wait and to watch so that the Word of Love enters inside us and focuses us every day of our lives.

As Saint John Henry Newman reminded us in a homily for the Advent Season: "Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance. This 'vigilance' means the necessity, the urgency of an industrious, living 'wait'. To make all this happen, then we need to wake up, as we are warned by the apostle to the Gentiles, in today's reading to the Romans: 'Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed'" (Rm 13:11).

We must start our journey to ascend to the mountain of the Lord, to be illuminated by His Words of peace and to allow Him to indicate the path to tread (cf. Is 2:1-5). Moreover, we must change our conduct abandoning the works of darkness and put on the 'armour of light' and so seek only to do God's work and to abandon the deeds of the flesh (cf. Rm 13:12-14). Jesus, through the story in the parable, outlines the Christian life style that must not be distracted and indifferent but must be vigilant and recognize even the smallest sign of the Lord's coming because we don't know the hour in which He will arrive (cf. Mt 24:39-44)

¹ Pope Benedict XVI, Celebration of First Vespers of Advent, Vatican Basilica, December 2006

Welcome to St Mary's, the Hidden Gem

A place of silence and prayer at the heart of our city

Fr Anthony

Mon 29 November Advent Weekday	Tues 30 Nov SAINT ANDREW Apostle	Wed 01 December Advent Weekday	Thurs 02 Dec Advent Weekday	Fri 03 December St Francis Xavier	Sat 04 December Advent Weekday	Sun 05 Dec SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
09.30am Church opens	09.30am Church opens	09.30am Church opens	09.30am Church opens	09.30am Church opens	09.30am Church opens	9.00am Church opens
10.30am - 12.25pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am - 12.25pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am - 12.25pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am - 12.25pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am - 12.25pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	10.30am - 12.25pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
11.00am - 11.55am Confessions	11.00am - 11.55am Confessions	11.00am - 11.55am Confessions	11.00am - 11.55am Confessions	11.00am - 11.55am Confessions	10.30am - 11.15am Confessions	10.00am HOLY MASS
12 noon Holy Rosary & Benediction	12 noon Holy Rosary & Benediction	12 noon Holy Rosary & Benediction	12 noon Holy Rosary & Benediction	12 noon Holy Rosary & Benediction	11.30am Holy Rosary & Benediction	
12.30pm HOLY MASS	12.30pm HOLY MASS	12.30pm HOLY MASS	12.30pm HOLY MASS	12.30pm HOLY MASS	12 noon HOLY MASS	12 noon SOLEMN MASS
		1.30pm - 3.30pm Church Cleaning		After Mass Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & 2.30pm Confessions		Church closes after Mass
		4.00pm - 5.10pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & 4.00pm - 5.00pm Confessions		3.00pm Chaplet of Divine Mercy		
4.00pm Church closes	4.00pm Church closes	5.15pm HOLY MASS	4.00pm Church closes	4.00pm Church closes	4.00pm - 5.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & 4.00pm - 5.00pm Confessions	
		6.00 - 7.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions			5.15pm VIGIL MASS	
		7.00pm Church closes			Church closes after Mass	



CHRISTMAS at THE HIDDEN GEM

Friday 24th December Christmas Eve

10.30am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
10.30am Confessions
12.30pm Mass of the Day
5.15pm Blessing of the Christmas Crib
and THE **FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS**
11.30pm Readings & Carols followed by
MIDNIGHT MASS

Saturday 25th December Christmas Day

11.00am **CHRISTMAS DAY MASS**

Sunday 26th December Feast of the Holy Family

12 noon **SUNDAY MASS**

[Please note that there will be no 10am Mass on this Sunday]

All are welcome to join us at St Mary's for the celebration of the Lord's birth

PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP JOHN

This weekend Bishop John has issued a Pastoral Letter, a copy of which is available at the back of the church.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

A week on Wednesday, 8th December, we celebrate the beautiful feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this day, being a Wednesday, there will be two Masses, one at 12.30pm and one at 5.15pm.

Fr Ian Kelly will be preaching at the 5.15pm Mass on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and after Mass he will give a meditation on our Blessed Lady as part of the Holy Hour of Adoration. Everyone is welcome, but young adults are particularly invited to join us.

HOLY HOUR OF ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

In addition to the current times for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, this week we are re-introducing the Holy Hour of Adoration on Wednesday evenings from 6pm-7pm. Everyone is welcome to spend time on a Wednesday evening, **but young adults are particularly invited to join us**. There will also be the opportunity to go to confession during this hour.

NO ADVENT CAROL SERVICES THIS YEAR

Given the ongoing situation, we have decided not to have any Carol Services this year, in the hope that we can return to having them again next year.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is currently available at the times below:

Mondays 11.00am – 11.55am
Tuesdays 11.00am – 11.55am
Wednesdays 11.00am – 11.55am and 4.00pm - 5.00pm
Thursdays 11.00am – 11.55am
Fridays 11.00am – 11.55am and 2.30pm - 2.55pm
Saturdays 10.30am – 11.15am and 4.00pm - 5.00pm

HOLY MASS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated for the following intentions, received at St Mary's during the past week:

Lately Dead: John McDermott; Florence Caffrey; Thomas Ginty; Maureen Worsnit; Margaret Roddy
Anniversaries: Fr Thomas F. Murray [08/12]; Fr William McCormick [10/12]; Mons. Arthur Keegan [11/12] **In remembrance:** The Holy Souls; Kathleen & Michael Campbell; For all the Donnelly family
Special Intentions: Kate Wynn; Marcella Geoghan; Annie Blaynes; Sonny Mitchell; Mary & Olly Reilly; Ann & Chris Riley; Celia Fitzpatrick;
Christmas Masses: Michael Boylan; Josie Minnock; Deidra, Ann, & Patricia Connolly; Dennie Crehan; Mattie & Mary Creehan; Bridie Stephens; Marie, Eamon, & Paul Aurora; Michael Flynn; Denis & Janet Flynn; Maureen & Stuart Thow; Mary Kelly; Margaret Connolly; John Connolly; Mona Devine; John & Mary Connolly; Sara McDonnell; John; Michael O'Grady; Helen & Tom

SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

THE PIETÀ ALTAR

Paddy Mahady RIP (BR)
Lisa Maria Barraclough & intentions

OUR BLESSED LADY

Scott family

ST JOSEPH

Special Intention - KK

OUR LADY OF MANCHESTER

Joseph & Bridget Lantam RIP (A)
Patrick & Mae Macnamara RIP (A)
Nelly McAtameny
Thomas Kelly RIP
Mary Kelly RIP
Kate Wynn [Special Intention]

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

John Sargent RIP

TABERNACLE - OUR LADY

Carroll family RIP

TABERNACLE - ST JOSEPH

Noah Dawson - Christening



If you would like to have a 7-day candle lit for a particular intention, for a loved one or for a special intention, put the name of the intention on an envelope and indicate which Sanctuary Candle you wish to have lit. A donation of £5 is suggested to cover the cost of the candle. Pass the envelope to the Parish Priest or place it through the presbytery letter box. The candles will be lit on Friday afternoon, and will burn throughout the following week, with the names appearing in the parish newsletter each week.

✘ **THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT ST MARY'S and for your SUPPORT of our parish** ✘
Thank you for your generosity; Please remember to Gift Aid any donations to St Mary's to help us in our Mission



CHRISTMAS CANDLES IN CHURCH

Last year, for Christmas, we lit red candles in the sanctuary, with our personal intentions on the candles and the church looked lovely with over 100 candles lit.

To help us decorate the church for Christmas this year, we thought we might light **white candles** and again place them in the sanctuary, with all our personal intentions written on them. The candles will burn from Christmas Eve onwards for all the Christmas Masses throughout Christmas week.

If you would like a Christmas Candle lit for your intentions, or the intentions of your loved ones, envelopes are available at the back of the Church; A suggested donation for each candle is £5. Please place your offering in an envelope and clearly mark on the envelope your intention or intentions that you wish to be printed on the candle. The names of your loved ones or your special intention will be placed on the candle and these intentions will be remembered at each of the Masses during the Christmas Octave.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS IN CHURCH

As well as decorating the church in candle light, we also traditionally decorate the church with poinsettias.

It has been suggested that, this year, we invite those of you who wish to bring a red or white poinsettia to church between the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve and we can decorate the church with all the ones that are received.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Traditionally, during the season of Advent, there are no flowers on the sanctuary. As we prepare to decorate the church once again at Christmas, donations are welcome towards the Christmas Flowers (please place any donation in an envelope with Church Flowers and the intention written clearly on the front).