

# Third Sunday of Advent

## Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am John & Elizabeth Watmough  
11.00am Teresa Hamer (A) & Baby Harry Philip  
6.30pm Ken Threlfall

**Weekday Masses**  
Mon. 8.30am James Critchley (A)  
St. Lucy Tues. 8.30am Jack Barton  
St. John of the Cross Wed. 8.30am Olive Farnworth (FM)  
Thurs. 8.30am Gertie Polding (A)  
Fri. 8.30am Mgr. Leo Alston  
Sat. 10.00am Fr. John Smith (A) & his sister Carol Anne

## Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December

9.30am Joseph Robinson & Cyril Iddon (A)  
11.00am Cyril Moss (A)  
6.30pm Frank Smith

**Confession:** Saturday after morning Mass  
**Rosary:** 20 minutes before the start of Mass on weekdays

## Please Pray For Our Sick Brothers And Sisters

Kitty Ellison · Jayne Hodge · Kathleen Reynolds · Brigid Cain · Hazel Lee · Mary Patten · Agnes Martindale · Robert Stretton · Hilda Haworth · Mildred Bridge · Margaret Wood · Harold Sutton · Margaret Bower · Thomas Moss · Gerard Baker · Hugh Daly · Margaret Dearden · Maureen Jackson · Dorothy McDonald (Howarth) · Maureen McIver · Bill Burns · Lois Chiasson · Gerard McGuigan · Moya Jones · Teresa Kershaw · Ken Ball · Raymond Chiasson · Teresa Critchley

## Collection

Thank you for last week's collection of £1023 which includes envelopes returned by other deanery parishes.

## Christmas Cards

Our beautiful individual Christmas cards are still on sale at the back of church in the cards rack for 65p.

## Christmas Masses

A number of people like to have a Christmas Mass offered for loved ones. In the past I have offered one Mass for parishioners and the others for a Christmas list of people who parishioners put forward. Any donations for those on the Christmas list is sent off to charity. The list is put up on the notice board, but names are not read out. (This year, by mistake, I accepted a single mass intention for Christmas Day which I wouldn't normally do, but the Mass on Christmas Eve will be for the Christmas list.)

## Service of Reconciliation

As some of you will know I had intended to give a general absolution at the Service of Reconciliation this year. On Thursday this was explicitly ruled out by the Archbishop, so will not go ahead. However, I am very aware that some people are afraid of this sacrament and have not committed grave or mortal sins. I am personally happy for anybody in that situation to say something as simple as "Bless me Father for I am a sinner in need of God's forgiveness" and then to say no more. - The service will be as usual on the last Sunday before Christmas, 18<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm, and there will be a number of priests to hear confessions.

## Calling All Children

The Youth group will be holding a Christmas Party for children in year 3 to 6 on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December from 11:00am to 12:30 in the Church House. Refreshments will be provided and the children can come in fancy dress if they wish. Younger brothers and sisters are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult!

## St. Gregory's School Carol Service

This will be held on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30pm. KS2 children have again prepared songs and readings and everybody is very welcome.

## Carols by Candlelight

St. Joseph's Anderton are inviting us to their annual carol service on 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. Admission is free and refreshments will be served afterwards. A collection will be taken for the education of deprived children in Malawi.

## Dementia Friendly Christmas Carol Service

A 'Dementia Friendly' Christmas Carol Service will be celebrated with Archbishop Malcolm McMahon. All most welcome, refreshments afterwards, please see the poster in the porch for more details.

## Worlds Gifts - CAFOD

At the back of church you will find the CAFOD World Gifts Catalogue with a range of virtual gifts that make a real difference to communities which live in poverty around the world.

## Ministering to the Assembly

**Counters** 12<sup>th</sup> December - Derek and Celia Birchall

**Rotas** 18<sup>th</sup> December, Fourth Sunday of Advent

**S.A.S.** Mary Wakeman, Liz Fowler

**Dial a Ride** Malc Scard and Terence Donnelly

**Readers** Andrew Nightingale

David Fairclough

Helen Graham

**Ministers**

Clare Meredith

Emmy Moss

Ulrika Yeomans

Margaret Scard

Richard Jackson

Terry Turner

Edward Brierley

Paul Thompson

# St. Gregory's Newsletter

11<sup>th</sup> December 2016 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Sunday Parish Mass Book page 88



The Parish Office is staffed on  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday from  
9.00am to 13.00pm.

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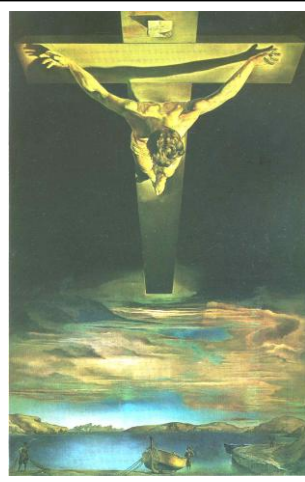


## Saint of the Week

### St. John of the Cross

Already as a child, St. John of the Cross learned how to love through self-sacrifice from his parents. Born in Spain in 1542, his father renounced wealth and status to marry a weaver's daughter. Destitute after his father's death, his family wandered homeless in search of work. At 14 St. John worked in a hospital caring for those with incurable diseases and diseases of the mind. He became a Carmelite friar and friend of Saint Teresa of Avila, who encouraged him to work for the reform of the order, which he did despite great suffering. Threatened by the reform, his own confreres kidnapped him and locked him in a small cell, beating him regularly. After his escape he devoted his life to sharing his mystical experience of faith leading to God's Love even through the darkest night of the soul.

A most remarkable poet and mystic, he died in Andalusia in 1591.



## Reflection

We light the third Advent candle, the first was for Hope, the second for Love, the third is for Joy. The greatest joy for humans is to live in relationship with one another, to be accepted, understood, forgiven, loved. 'At the end of our lives we'll be judged on love'....

### What Have I Lived Today

As I look back on the day, I ask myself "What have I lived today?"

It's *the* question.

St. John of the Cross once wrote:

At the end of our lives we'll be judged on love.

There's no shortage of ways to love! And when my imagination needs prompting, there's the seven corporal works of mercy for starters:

- Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked,
- Shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead.

The seven spiritual works of mercy remind me that love is not only about doing "external" activities. Love is to:

- Counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners;
- Comfort the afflicted, forgive offenses;
- Bear wrongs patiently, pray for the living and the dead.

But the question always comes back to the basic one: How much love have I put in to the day?

Love in all its colours –

- Humour when tensions arise over small issues,
- Generously sharing gifts received,
- Attending to doing little things well,
- Approaching others with a smile
- Speaking, serving, doing, waiting

All out of love.

My great chance is to "live" life, not simply to let it slide by.

Brendan Leahy, in *Going to God Together*, 2013

## Children's Corner

B	Y	D	P	R	O	E	P	H	S	PRISON
L	P	N	O	S	I	R	P	E	O	BLIND
I	P	I	T	L	O	U	H	P	C	LAME
D	A	L	A	P	E	T	I	P	L	LEPERS
N	H	B	H	A	O	P	P	Y	E	CLEANSED
P	W	E	H	L	L	I	E	P	A	LIFE
A	T	O	C	A	Y	R	F	R	N	HAPPY
L	S	I	M	C	P	C	I	I	S	CLOTHES
A	E	E	T	E	P	S	L	S	E	PALACES
C	L	E	A	S	N	E	D	E	D	PROPHET
										SCRIPTURE
										WOMEN