

First Sunday of Advent

*With Advent we also begin a new Church Year (Year A and St. Matthew's Gospel for the most part).
With my official induction we also begin a new journey together. At the Mass of Induction it was
emphasised that we are working together to build up God's kingdom, celebrate the Sacraments and
proclaim the Good News (Gospel).
Can I take this opportunity to thank all those who prepared the celebration and took part in it, and
those who were not able to attend, but passed on their best wishes. I look forward to many more
celebrations over very many years. Again can I thank you for your most generous and warm welcome.
God bless us all. Father Graeme*

Sunday 27th November

9.30am Eileen Gallagher (A)
11.00am Marie Higham
6.30pm November List

St. Andrew

Sunday 4th December

9.30am Norman Martin (A)
11.00am Cyrill Moss
6.30pm Dorothy Scard (LD)

St. Francis Xavier

Weekday Masses

Mon.	11.00am	Requiem Mass Cora Holt
Tues	8.30am	Andrew Evans
Wed.	7.00pm	November List
Thurs.	8.30am	Bill Dearden (A)
Friday	8.30am	Valerie Bretherton
Sat.	10.00am	Peter Evans

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

The funeral of Cora Holt will be celebrated tomorrow. May she rest in peace.

Mass Of Remembrance For Our Deceased Parishioners

All parishioners are invited to join and support the relatives of those parishioners who have died in the last twelve months. Their names will be read out and a candle lighted in their memory. We give thanks for the gift of their lives. Please note this will be the only mass on Wednesday.

Baptism

We welcome in baptism today Ramona Wilhelmina Kerr and pray for her and her family at the start of their new faith journey.

Collection

Thank you for last week's collection of £1090, and thank you for the LAMP collection which amounted to £362, and thank you also for the special collection for Youth Sunday of £285.

Advent Series of Preparation for Christmas

Thursdays, 7:30 – 9:30pm St. Wilfried's Parish Centre, Preston, PR1 8BU Free admission, donations welcome. For more information please see the poster in the porch.

Rosary in Church – change of time, every weekday

The rosary team are going to lead us in this lovely devotion to Our Lady 25 minutes before daily mass every weekday from Monday: 8:10am Mo–Fri, and 9:40am Saturdays. Please come along a little early for mass and join in if you can.

Worlds Gifts - CAFOD

We received a letter of thanks and appreciation for our recent support of the Harvest Fast Day appeal, helping the poorest of our brothers and sisters around the world.

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. These make lovely gifts for friends or family who 'don't wish for anything because they have all they need'. 'Trees for Life', for example provides five tree saplings to a poor farming family (£7) and you will receive seeds to plant your own tree as well.

Ministering to the Assembly

Counters 28th November John and Mary Mark
Rotas 4th December Second Sunday of Advent

S.A.S. Janet and Pauline Critchley
Dial a Ride Tommy McGuigan and Paul Thompson

Readers Simon Robinson Carla Blears

Ministers Edward Brierley Sharon Hobing

Richard Jackson Paul Thompson

Yvonne Cunliffe

David Chadwick

Mary Mark
Anthony Hooson
Emmy Moss

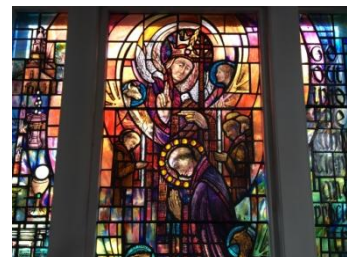
St. Gregory's Newsletter

27th November 2016 1st Advent Sunday Parish Mass Book page 82



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

Website www.stgregoryschorley.org.uk
Telephone 01257 262462
e-mail stgregorys.weldbank@btinternet.com

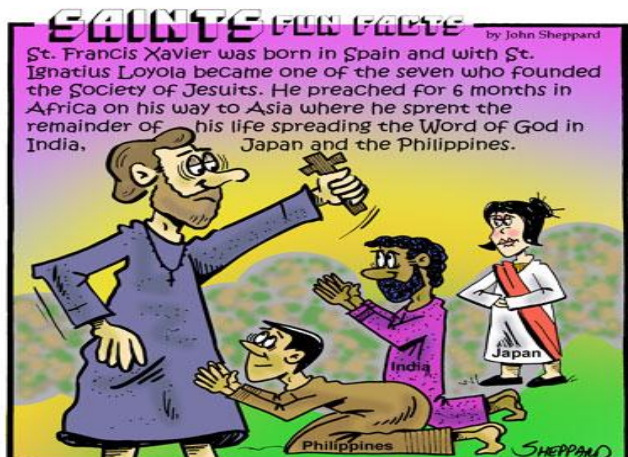


Saint of the Week

St. Francis Xavier

Born in 1507 the family castle of Xavier near Pablona in the Basque country in the North of Spain, he was educated at Paris where he joined Ignatius of Loyola and the first Jesuits. Francis sailed to Goa to evangelise the East Indies, a voyage of thirteen months in those days! There he opposed the severe cruelty to slaves. For seven years he worked in Southern India, Ceylon, Malacca, the Molucca Islands and the Malay peninsula. He embraced poverty; sleeping on the ground and eating mainly rice and water. In 1549 he was sent to Japan and made many converts. He died in 1551, en route to China, worn out with ceaseless activity.

Working against great difficulties, language problems (contrary to legend, he had no proficiency in foreign tongues), inadequate funds, and lack of cooperation, often also actual resistance, from European officials, he left the mark of his missionary zeal and energy on wide areas which subsequently clung to Christianity for centuries. He was canonized in 1622 and proclaimed patron of all foreign missions by Pope Pius X.



Advent Reflections

'What does it profit me if Jesus is reborn in thousands of cribs all over the world and not reborn in my heart?' So said Pope Alexander, and it means that Jesus must be reborn in our heart during this season of Advent, radiating His Love – kindness, mercy, forgiveness, a spirit of service to the world through our lives.

*

Despite using the liturgical colour of Violet in Advent, as we do in Lent, we should remember that Advent is *not* a penitential season, but – *a period of joyful and devout expectation!* It is a celebration in which we look forward and prepare for the Coming of Christ – his first coming into the world which we remember every year at Christmas, and his Second Coming which we await at the end of time.

*

Salvation comes from God, through Jesus, we cannot 'earn' this divine gift. Isaiah reminds us of that in today's first reading, God does all the saving. But that's only half the story: we must cooperate with God, because he does not force his bounty on us. In today's Gospel John the Baptist summons us to play our essential part by leading lives open to renewal, conversion and service of God in our brothers and sisters.



John the Baptist challenges us to make not only superficial changes in our lives, but to correct our relationships with others, mend ruptures and frictions, face family responsibilities, work honestly and treat employees justly.

*

'Do small things with great love' advises St. Theresa of Calcutta.