



From Sunday's Gospel

Mary had been told by an angel that she was to give birth to a son named Jesus. When she heard that her cousin, Elizabeth, was also going to have a baby, she went as quickly as she could to visit Elizabeth. Mary went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth gave a loud cry and said to Mary, "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For as soon as your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed are you for believing the promise made to you by the Lord."

Luke 1: 39-45—the 4th Sunday of Advent, Year C



Pope Francis writes, "My dear young people, "Spend time with someone in need, visit someone who is sick, offer a smile. Working together to practice hospitality, will make us better human beings."

Today's word is **Visitors**. What did Mary do when she heard about Elizabeth? In this Sunday's Gospel, even though Mary had many of her own preparations to make for the birth of Jesus, she still went out of her way to visit her elderly relative Elizabeth. We might ask ourselves who do we like to go and visit most? When did we last get a warm welcome and how did it make us feel? Who always makes them feel especially welcome and looked after? As families, we can think about people who visit our homes. We can say who most fills us with joy when they call to visit. What are some of the things we can do to make visitors feel more welcome this Christmas?

Offertory Collections and Shop Income October 10th

First Collection: £345.10 Second: £121.18 Shop: £126.78 Thank You

Donations in memory of Jennifer Barlow £150.00 Thank You



Sacred Heart & St William

31 High Street

Uppermill OL3 6HS

www.sacredheartparish.org.uk

Please visit the website above.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19th 2021 (Luke's Gospel)

The intentions are as follows:

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|------------|----------------|--|
| Saturday: | 6.00pm | Anne Jones |
| Sunday | 9.00am | Chester & Caryl Pereira |
| | | (People welcome to attend this Mass) |
| | 10.30am | Ann McCarthy |
| Monday: | 9.30am | Kevin Gibson |
| Tuesday: | 9.30am | Patrick Tobin |
| Wednesday: | 12.00pm | Monica Wilde & Joseph Brian Wilde |
| Thursday: | 9.30am | Pat Sparkes |
| Friday | 9.30am | May Collins |
| | 8.00pm | People of the Parish (Christmas Eve) |
| Saturday | 9.00am | People suffering from Dementia (Christmas Day) |
| | 10.30am | Jennifer Barlow (No 6.00pm Vigil Mass) |
| Sunday: | 9.00am | People of the Parish (Feast of the Holy Family) |
| | | (People welcome to attend this Mass) |
| | 10.30am | Anne Hall |

**Confessions after the Saturday 10.00am Mass and by appointment
Exposition 40 minutes before each weekday Mass**

Contact Details: Parish Priest: Fr Bernard Bickers Tel: 01457 872603

Permanent Deacon: Revd Peter Rudd Tel: 01457 876559

Safeguarding Officers: Mrs Tessa Spalding Tel: 01457 873515

Mrs Michelle Moore

4th Sunday of Advent



The 'mood' of the liturgy changed on Friday 17th and the readings now prepare us for the celebration of the birth of Jesus at the first Christmas. The Gospel story is that of Mary, having been told that she was to give birth to a son, making the journey from Nazareth to Ein Karim and village outside of Jerusalem, to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was also expecting a child, namely John the Baptist. In our passage it is Elizabeth who does all the talking, declaring Mary to be blessed, both because of the baby she is carrying, and also because 'she believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'



Thanks to those who have signed THE ONE CARD FOR ALL which is now at the back of the Church. All the proceeds, which can be left in the box with the Card, will be used to buy some CAFOD's World Gifts which will benefit people in the developing world. Still plenty of time to sign! Thank you

2022 Parish Diaries

These are available for collection at the back of the Church. They are pocket size and have all the, Liturgical Seasons, Holy Days Solemnities, Feasts and Memorials throughout the year. Please feel free to take one home.



Postage Stamps

Please bring any used postage stamps to church to raise much needed funds for the Willow Wood Hospice in Ashton Under Lyne. Thank you, Susan Gibson.



Thanks to the kind offices of Ernie, next year's Offertory Envelopes are now available for collection at the back of the church. Please collect them as soon as possible because they begin the first weekend of January.



If anyone could spare an hour or so this coming **THURSDAY after the 9.30am Mass** to help give the church a pre Christmas clean they will be most welcome. Any help gratefully received.



Advent Service of Reconciliation—THIS COMING TUESDAY

Advent Service of reconciliation on **TUESDAY 21st DECEMBER at 7.00pm**. As in the past we will gather together to pray, to listen to God's word of Forgiveness and Healing, acknowledge our need of Forgiveness from God and each other, and celebrate that Forgiveness together.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Please make a note of the following Mass Times for Christmas:

Friday 24th December: 9.30am Mass

8.00pm First Mass of Christmas

Saturday 25th: 9.00am Dawn Mass—Live Streamed

10.30am Mass during the Day

Please note there will NOT be a 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 26th: Feast of the Holy Family 9.00am Live streamed Mass

10.30am Mass

Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th Mass at 10.00am (Public Holidays)

As all of us know from the news there has been a very rapid and significant increase in the number of people infected by the new Omicron variant of the Covid-19 virus, and we are being advised to limit our social contacts. There is no suggestion that places of worship will be closed but we have to remember that our Church is relatively small. It is too late to introduce a Booking System for Christmas, so I am asking those who wish to celebrate Christmas in church to be aware that you may not be able to get to your preferred Mass time. Should you arrive and feel the Church is too full for you to feel safe, Bishop Marcus has asked us to remind people that if you are unable to attend on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to remember that the days between Christmas and New Year are a celebration of Christmas itself (The Christmas Octave). Please also note that the 9.00am Mass on Christmas Day will be live streamed.



The Charity Shop

The shop closed for the Christmas break on Wednesday 15th December and will re-open on Tuesday January 4th. Our thanks and Christmas Greetings to all the staff and loyal supporters.