



### From Sunday's Gospel

When the crowds asked John the Baptist, "What must we do?" He answered, "If anyone has two coats they should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

There were tax collectors who came for baptism and asked, "Master, what must we do?" He said to them, "Don't collect more than you should." Then he said to some soldiers, "Don't force people to pay money to make you leave them alone, but be satisfied with your pay." Finally he said, "I baptise you with water, but someone is coming who is more powerful than I am."



The Sunday Gospel through School on Wednesday

Pope Francis writes:

**"Read the Gospels! This way we will learn what is most essential in our lives: love and mercy."** Today's word is **Mercy**. The

Catholic Church encourages us to prepare for Christmas and experience God's mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Pope Francis also writes, **"In life we all make many mistakes. Don't be afraid to ask God for forgiveness. God is pure mercy."** Will you come to the Advent Reconciliation Service next Thursday, December 20th at 7.00pm in the church?

#### Ministers

#### December 16th

##### Liturgy of the Word

4.00pm FFF Family  
8.30am M.Howell  
10.00am S.,Gibson

##### Liturgy of the Eucharist

T.Spalding/C.Hall  
S.Crewdson/M.Booth  
C.Ward/K.McKune

#### December 23rd

6.00pm M.Jefferis  
8.30am J.McMahon  
10.00am T.King

C.Hall/S.Dyson  
S.Crewdson/M.Booth  
M.Farmer/M.Kehoe

***New Rotas at the back of the church. New Readers and changes to Ministers.***

#### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

**First: £534.19 Second: £195.49 Shop £223.13 Thank You**

**Christmas Fair: £40.00 Sing for Pleasure Choir: £175.00 Thank You**

**Cheques please to DIOCESE OF LEEDS— SACRED HEART**



## **Sacred Heart & St William**

31 High Street

Uppermill OL3 6HS

Web: [www.sacredheartparish.org.uk](http://www.sacredheartparish.org.uk)

### ***3rd Sunday Of Advent***

***December 16th 2018 (Luke's Gospel)***

#### **Times of Masses & Intentions**

Saturday Vigil	4.00pm	Tara Dyson
Sunday	8.30am	People of the Parish
	10.00am	Ann McCarthy

#### **Refreshments after Mass**

#### **4.00pm Advent Service**

Monday	9.30am	Barbara Sutton
Tuesday	9.30am	In Thanksgiving
Wednesday	12.00 noon	Winifred & Derek Kerr
Thursday	9.30am	Kevin Gibson

#### **7.30pm Advent Reconciliation Service**

Friday	8.25-9.25	Exposition—Prayer and Reparation
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	9.30am	November Dead List
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Saturday	10.00am	Mgr Philip Holroyd
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Saturday Vigil	6.00pm	Monica Wilde
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Sunday	8.30am	People of the Parish
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	10.00am	Winifred & Matthew Hynes
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**Confessions: After the 10.00am Mass on Saturday and on request**

#### Telephone 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

## Advent Service of Reconciliation

This Sunday is called '*Gaudete*' Sunday when we are invited to 'Rejoice in the Lord always', but especially because his birth is now very near to us. Both last Sunday and this Sunday John the Baptist is the central figure in the passages chosen from St Luke's Infancy Narrative. Last Sunday we are told that he proclaimed a 'baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins', and this Sunday he responds to different people's questions with very specific courses of action. All of us know that there are things in our own lives which need sorting out. Pope Francis writes elsewhere in this week's newsletter, "**In life we all make many mistakes. Don't be afraid to ask God for forgiveness. God is pure mercy.**" We know the joy of being forgiven and reaching out the hand of forgiveness to those who have hurt us. When this happens, reconciliation takes place.

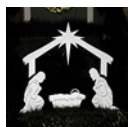


This coming **Thursday, December 20th at 7.30pm**, there will be a COMMUNAL SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION, when we are invited to come together to hear God's Word, to reflect on our lives, to acknowledge our need of forgiveness, to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness. A wonderful way of preparing to meet the Saviour who has been born for us—Christ the Lord.



### Advent Service

There will be an Advent Service **THIS Sunday, December 16th at 4.00pm.** All welcome.



### One Christmas Card for All

Please sign the One Christmas Card for All at the back of the church and leave any offering for CAFOD in the box provided. Please also remember the World Gifts by CAFOD. Thank You



### Preparing the Church for Christmas

If you are able to spend a little time after the 9.30am Mass next Friday, December 21st, to clean and polish the sacred vessels and prepare the Church for the celebration of Christmas, it will be greatly appreciated. Mince pies and hot drinks provided!

## Offertory Envelopes 2019



Thanks to Ernie the Offertory Envelopes for 2019 are now available for collection from the back of the church.

Anyone who does not currently have a set of envelopes and would like one is asked to contact Ernie or

Fr Bernard. Gift Aid forms are also available for those

who pay income tax. Gift Aid adds 25% to the offertory gift and goes a long way to paying the assessment the parish pays to the diocese each year. Thanks to everyone for your continue generosity throughout the year.

## Postage Stamps



With the Christmas Mail please bring your used stamps to church. They will be given to the Willow Wood Hospice in Staleybridge to raise much needed funds



## Friends of the Holy Land

Bishop Marcus has asked that the Crib Offerings this year be sent to the Friends of the Holy Land to enable them to give hope and practical support to the most vulnerable Christian in and around Bethlehem.



## Church Cleaning

The contract with the current cleaners finishes at the end of December and it has been suggested that we see if there are any volunteers from within the parish to join a team willing to join a rota to clean the church. It is envisaged that 3 people could clean the church in two hours. If 12 people volunteered that would mean each team cleaning once every four weeks. There is 'no male or female' in cleaning so this opportunity is open to all! Thanks to those who have signed the list at the back of the church. Other volunteers greatly appreciated. Thank You.



## Thought for the Week

It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open the doors of HOPE.

(Pope Benedict)