



# St Patrick's Catholic Church

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 7 DECEMBER 2025

Clergy: Father Deeley VE & Father Moir

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## Second Sunday of Advent

9.30am - Holy Mass

11.30am - Holy Mass

## Monday - Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary - Solemnity

9.30am - Holy Mass

## Tuesday - 2nd Week of Advent

9.30am - Holy Mass

## Wednesday - Our Lady of Loretto

6-6.45pm - Exposition & Confession

6.45pm - Benediction

7pm - Holy Mass

## Thursday - 2nd Week of Advent

9.30am - Holy Mass

## Friday - Our Lady of Guadalupe

9.30am - Holy Mass

## Saturday - St Lucy

9.30am - Holy Mass

Confessions after Mass

5.15-5.45pm - Confessions

6pm - Vigil Mass

**Rosary 25 mins before Mass exc. Sun &**

**The Statue of Our Lady**, which has been away for some months to be repaired and restored, as far as possible, to its original colour, has returned to the church. It will be placed back at the shrine tomorrow for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. We thank and pray for those who generously benefacted the funds for this. Our statue is of Our Lady of Lourdes where Our Lady declared to Bernadette, 'I am the Immaculate Conception.'

**The Second of our Candlelit Rorate Masses** will be this Wednesday. The *Rorate* Mass is a very ancient tradition when we reflect on how we are a people that waits in the darkness for the Light of the World to come at the end of time. The *Rorate* Masses will be celebrated in the main chapel.

**Fabric Committee** this Tuesday at 7pm.

**Of your charity**, pray for the happy repose of the souls of Mrs Grace McKeown RIP who has died aged 85 years. Her remains will be received into the church on Wednesday, 17 December at 5pm and her Requiem Mass on Thursday, 18 December at 9.30am. ✕ *Requiescat in pace* ✕

**First Holy Communion Presentation** of the Gospel of St Matthew is next Sunday at the 11.30am Mass. Before Mass, parents should have the pamphlet and be familiar with it. Tick the register at the back on arrival.

**Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch** (over 65s) next Sunday at 1pm. Cost £15 pp. Money to be paid by tomorrow, Monday, otherwise no food will be ordered for you, sorry!

**Now Only Two Volunteers** needed to help at the Christmas lunch next Sunday. Thank you to the three who have already volunteered. See the list at the back of the church to sign up.

## **Parish Events This Week**

Mon 10am - Teas

10.30am - Men's Group

2pm - Women's Guild

Wed 12 noon - Welcome Group

Thurs 6.30pm - Youth Group

## **Dates for the Diary in Brief: December**

7 - 12.30pm Christmas Panto in hall

10 - 7pm Second Candlelit *Rorate* Mass

11 - 6.30pm YG Christmas Party

14 - 12.30pm Senior Citizens' Lunch

17 - 7pm Final Candlelit *Rorate* Mass

21 - 12.30pm Santa in the hall

**Christmas Cards**: we have boxed Christmas Cards that are now available in the Piety Stall, priced £5. If you are sending Christmas cards, consider sending only religious ones and support the parish with your purchases. Place monies in the white wall boxes.

**Christmas Tree Appeal** we are collecting to provide help for Gaza. Instead of writing cards, write a greeting on one of the tags at the back of the church. These will be hung on the Christmas tree in the narthex. Place a donation in the box.

## **Fun & Festivities with Santa in the Hall**

on Sunday, 21 December. Fun begins at 12.30pm and Santa will be arriving on his sleigh at 2pm. £5 entry. If you would like to join us, then please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church.

**Prayers**: we remember the sick, the housebound, the lapsed and the young.

**Next Baptismal Course** for parents and godparents is on Wednesday, 7 January from 7-8pm in the hall. Email the chapel house to book.

**2026 Archdiocese Catholic Directory** for sale at the back of the church for £3.

**Diploma in Catechetics** Explore the richness of the Catholic faith in 2026. Every Thursday on Zoom at 7.30pm, starting on 22 January. Cost £220. Register at [bit.ly/diploma2026](http://bit.ly/diploma2026).

## **The Mass times over Christmas are:**

Christmas Eve

\* Confessions 5.00pm - 5.45pm

\* Vigil of Christmas: 6.00pm

\* Confessions 11.00pm to 11.50pm

\* Carols from 11.20pm to 11.50pm

\* Holy Mass at Midnight

Christmas Day 11.00am

St Stephen's Day 12 noon

**Your Gift to God and His Church** which includes standing orders: £1875.

**Sunday Teas** no teas and toast for the next 3 weeks owing to parish functions in the hall.

**Cinderella** today, Sunday after 11.30am Mass. Tickets only £5, tuck shop available. If you haven't signed up to attend and would like to go then turn up and pay at the door as there are a few spaces available.

**The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary** is celebrated on Monday. When we say "full of grace" we are referring to Mary's Immaculate Conception: our faith teaches us that Mary was conceived in the womb of her mother, St Anne, preserved from the defects of Original Sin. This is why we say that her conception was 'immaculate.' God did this so that she could give perfect humanity to her divine Son.

**Faith & Reason Series** for those who have signed up, continues on Friday at 6.30pm in the hall. This session is entitled 'Grace and the Beatitudes.'

**Young adults' Catholic Conference:** 2-4 January 2026 at Stonyhurst College, Lancashire. It's for young Catholics from all over the UK aged from 16 to 25 years. The cost is £195 (£180 for students/unwaged) Transport and subsidies available. Speak to one of the priests if you're interested or find out more online at [www.faith.org](http://www.faith.org) and click on 'Faith Winter Conference 2026'.

**St Patrick's Advent Calendar** Scan to download and place on your home screen. This Calendar is a reminder of what is happening in the parish this December.



**Vacancy:** Facilities Manager at St Mary's Cathedral A full job description is available at [stmaryscathedral.co.uk](http://stmaryscathedral.co.uk). To apply, send your CV and a cover letter to [recruitment@stmaryscathedral.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@stmaryscathedral.co.uk) by Wednesday 10 December 2025. Salary: £30-32k.

**The latest Catholic Families for Life Newsletter** from the National Commission for Marriage, Family and Life is now available at [www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk](http://www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk)

**Rorate Masses** at St Mary's Cathedral. The candlelit Rorate Masses continue at 7pm on Thursday 11 and 18 December, and Monday 22 December.

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT SUNDAY SCRIPTURE**  
[Always read through the scriptures prayerfully before Holy Mass].

**Entrance Antiphon**  
O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

**First Reading**      **Isaiah 11:1-10**  
On that day:  
There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his

ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations enquire, and his resting-place shall be glorious.

**Responsorial Psalm**      **Psalm 72**  
**R. In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.**

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice, and your poor in right judgement. **R.**

In his days justice shall flourish, and great peace till the moon is no more. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the River to the bounds of the earth. **R.**

For he shall rescue the needy when they cry, the poor who have no one to help. He will have pity on the weak and the needy and save the lives of the needy. **R.**

May his name endure for ever, his name continue like the sun. Every tribe shall be blest in him, all nations shall call him blessed. **R.**

**Second Reading**      **Romans 15:4-9**  
Brothers and sisters: Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, welcome one

another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.'

**Gospel Acclamation**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel**      **Matt 24:37-44**  
In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.' For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight."'

Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptised by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our father", for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptise you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

**Communion Antiphon**  
Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.