



St Patrick's Catholic Church

GAUDETE SUNDAY OF ADVENT 14 DECEMBER 2025

Clergy: Father Deeley VE & Father Moir

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GAUDETE

Gaudete Sunday of Advent

9.30am - Holy Mass
11.30am - Holy Mass

Monday - 3rd Week of Advent

9.30am - Holy Mass

Tuesday - 3rd Week of Advent

9.30am - Holy Mass

Wednesday - 3rd Week of Advent

5pm - Vigil of Reception
6-6.45pm - Exposition & Confession
6.45pm - Benediction
7pm - Holy Mass

Thursday - 3rd Week of Advent

9.30am - Requiem Mass

Friday - 3rd Week of Advent

9.30am - Holy Mass

Saturday - Our Lady's Saturday

9.30am - Holy Mass
Confessions after Mass
5.15-5.45pm - Confessions
6pm - Vigil Mass

Rosary 25 mins before Mass exc. Sun & Wed

Today is Gaudete Sunday: The Mass vestments are rose-coloured, a lighter colour that signifies the joy of passing the halfway point of Advent. The rose candle is also lit on the Advent wreath. The word *gaudete* is the Latin command 'rejoice!'. Advent is a sort of 'little Lent', but the Church says that we should be joyful on this day since the Lord is now very near.

First Holy Communion Presentation of the Gospel of St Matthew is today 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.

Poinsettia Sunday: We have an enormous church with an enormous sanctuary. This means that, to decorate it, we need to do quite a lot. When you're at the shops in the coming days, please pick up as many poinsettias as you like to give in memory of your

dead. These will be placed around the Church for Christmas. Please bring them next weekend and just leave them at the back. Thank you.

Your Gift to God and His Church which includes standing orders: £1672.

Sunday Teas no teas and toast for the **next 2 weeks** owing to parish functions in the hall.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch this afternoon at 1pm in the hall.

Craig en Goyne Holy Mass will be offered in the Craig en Goyne on Friday at 2.30pm. Parishioners are welcome to join.

Faith & Reason Series for those who have signed up, continues on Friday at 6.30pm in the hall. This session is entitled 'The Church' and will be followed by a wee Christmas social. This will be the final session before Christmas and we'll begin again on Friday, 9 January.

The Last 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.

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 at 5pm and her Requiem Mass on Thursday at 9.30am. Mr James Fisher RIP who has died aged 78 years. His remains will be received into the church just prior to his Requiem on Monday 22 December at 9.30am. ✠ *Requiescant in pace* ✠

Sacrament of Reconciliation As we have done in previous years, confessions will be available at the usual times and during all the Sunday Masses next weekend. Confession is a normal part of our preparations for Christmas.

Fun & Festivities with Santa in the Hall next Sunday. 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.

The Parish Draw will take place on Tuesday of this week. Hope you are blessed to be a winner for Christmas!

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

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.

The Reverend Jacob Derry & Mr Nicholas Chapman are two seminarians of the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan in the United States who are currently studying for the Priesthood at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. They will join us for Christmas. Please make them very welcome as you always do.

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 are on sale in the porch. These are full of useful parish information, statistics and pictures from around that Archdiocese. Minimum donation £3.00.

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.

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 and click on 'Faith Winter Conference 2026'

Shalom World has 400+ hand-picked Christmas TV shows, including inspiring talks, music, children's stories and reflections for all ages. It's completely free - no pay walls or adverts - simply a gift to help families experience Christ this season. Go to shalomworld.org/christmas

The latest Catholic Families for Life Newsletter from the National Commission for Marriage, Family and Life is now available at www.marriagefamilyandlife.org.uk

GUADETE SUNDAY OF ADVENT SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

[*Always read through the scriptures prayerfully before Holy Mass.*]

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who have an anxious heart,
'Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God will come with
vengeance,

with the recompense of God.

He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be
opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then shall the lame man leap like a
deer,

and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall
return

and come to Sion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their
heads;

they shall obtain gladness and joy,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 146

R. Come, Lord, and save us.

It is the LORD who preserves fidelity
for ever,

who does justice to those who are
oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the LORD who sets prisoners free. **R.**

The LORD who opens the eyes of the
blind,

the LORD who raises up those who are
bowed down.

It is the LORD who loves the just,
the LORD who protects the stranger. **R.**

The LORD upholds the orphan and
the widow,

but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The LORD will reign for ever,
your God, O Sion, from age to age. **R.**

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until
the coming of the Lord. See how the
farmer waits for the precious fruit of the
earth, being patient about it, until it
receives the early and the late rains.
You also, be patient. Establish your
hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at
hand. Do not grumble against one
another, brothers and sisters, so that

you may not be judged; behold, the
Judge is standing at the door. As an
example of suffering and patience,
brothers and sisters, take the prophets
who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he has sent me to proclaim good news
to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

At that time: When John heard in
prison about the deeds of the Christ, he
sent word by his disciples and said to
him, 'Are you the one who is to come,
or shall we look for another?'

And Jesus answered them, 'Go and
tell John what you hear and see: the
blind receive their sight and the lame
walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf
hear, and the dead are raised up, and
the poor have good news preached to
them. And blessed is the one who is not
offended by me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to
speak to the crowds concerning John:
'What did you go out into the
wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the
wind? What then did you go out to see?
A man dressed in soft clothing?
Behold, those who wear soft clothing
are in kings' houses.

'What then did you go out to see? A
prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than
a prophet. This is he of whom it is
written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before
your face,

who will prepare your way before you."

'Truly, I say to you, among those born
of women there has arisen no one
greater than John the Baptist. Yet the
one who is least in the kingdom of
heaven is greater than he.'

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and
do not fear. Behold, our God will
come, and he will save us.