

St Patrick's Catholic Church

GAUDETE SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 17th December 2023

Clergy: Father Deeley VE & Father Moir

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Gaudete Sunday of Advent

8.30 - 9.25am - Exposition
9.30am - Holy Mass
11.30am - Holy Mass
5pm - Talk & Benediction

Monday - Feria

8.30 - 9.25am - Exposition
9.30am - Holy Mass

Tuesday - Feria

8.30 - 9.25am - Exposition
9.30am - Holy Mass

Wednesday - Feria

6 - 6.50pm - Exposition & Confess
7pm - Candlelit *Rorate* Mass

Thursday - St Peter Canisius

8.30 - 9.25am - Exposition
9.30am - Holy Mass

Friday - Feria

8.30 - 9.25am - Exposition
9.30am - Holy Mass

Saturday - Our Lady

8.30 - 9.25am - Exposition
9.30am - Holy Mass
10-10.30am - Confessions
5.15 - 5.45pm - Confessions
6pm - Vigil Mass

Rosary 25 mins before Mass exc. Sun

Today is Gaudete Sunday the priest wears a rose-coloured chasuble, 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 to rejoice. The Church says that we should be joyful on this day since the Lord is now very near.

Your Gift to God and His Church which includes standing orders: **£1571** and fabric **£428**. May God bless you abundantly for your support of His Church's vital work of making Jesus Christ present in the world and known.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch at 1pm today. Please pay at the door and don't forget to bring your refreshments! Thanks to the volunteers who are giving their time to help with the luncheon.

Final Advent Reflection Father Moir gave another excellent reflection on the Visitation last Sunday, ending with Benediction. It is a lovely, quiet way to prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas in the intimacy of the lower chapel. Consider making this a part of your Christmas preparations.

Advent Confession the saints tell us that we should be regular in confession. Padre Pio said we shouldn't go more than eight days! Make sure you make a good confession before Christmas. Remember, confession isn't just for those who like that sort of thing - the Church tells us it's necessary if we want to go to heaven.

Final Candlelit Rorate Mass will be this Wednesday at 7.00pm. 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 that will come at the end of time.

Poinsettias as we have been doing for several years now, and always with a marvellous response, if you would like to donate a poinsettia for Christmas in memory of loved ones, kindly leave in the Mortuary chapel from this Wednesday onwards. The sanctuary of our church is very big, and we need to put lots in it to make a difference. Thank you.

Prayers we remember the sick and housebound who can't make it to Mass. We also remember the many who have now lapsed from the Faith.

Remember that the church is open every day for visits to the Blessed Sacrament.

Parish Activities All of the parish groups are now officially on their Christmas holidays.

Sunday teas on 7th January.

Monday teas on 8th January.

Men's Group on 8th January.

Wednesday Group on 10th January.

Youth Group on 11th January.

Women's Guild on 22nd January.

Soup and Sandwiches on Tuesdays and Fridays beginning on 9th January in the hall from 2-4pm. All age groups are welcome. Hopefully we will be able to offer this until June.

Christmas Times this year Christmas falls on a Monday. This means that we have the privilege and obligation to attend Mass both for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and then Christmas Day. The Mass times over Christmas are:

***4th Sunday of Advent as usual:**
Saturday Vigil Mass 6.00pm; 9.30am and 11.30am followed by confessions.

*** 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

Choir Practice for Midnight Mass there is a choir practice for Midnight Mass this evening (Sunday) between 7 and 9pm in the church with organist James Greechan. James has some beautiful pieces planned for the liturgy. We do need some more men's voices, though...if you can haud a tune, don't be shy!

Christmas Cards, we have a good selection of cards in the Piety Stall. If you are sending Christmas cards this year, consider sending only religious ones. Pop in and support the parish by your purchases.

2024 Archdiocesan Directories are on sale in the piety stall. These are full of useful parish information, statistics, and pictures from around that Archdiocese. Minimum donation £3.00, please.

Congratulations to Parish Draw Winners

	<u>Week 17</u>	<u>Week 18</u>	
£300	J Martin	1758	F Miller 1513
£100	M McAteer	1058	J Cullen 1418
£50	G Hughes	1181	B Paterson 1494

Week 19

£300 A Beaton 1498 M Shindler 1249
£100 P Canavan 1570 C Bolan 1277
£50 F Kennedy 1445 B McKnight 1271

Week 20

Church Lights there will be remedial work carried out on the church lights on Monday and Tuesday after the Masses.

Posies due to unforeseen circumstances this class has been cancelled.

Christmas Tree Appeal instead of sending cards this year, why not write a greeting to friends and family on one of the tags in the box in the alcove. Place it back in the box and it will be hung on the tree. Donations will go to the **Let the Children Live! charity** who made an appeal at our Sunday Masses earlier this year.

Donations made to SCIAF in Advent and Mary's Meals until 22nd January will be **doubled** by groups of their supporters.

St Patrick's Primary School enrolment 2024. The enrolment for our primary school will be 16-20 January. Children should be baptised before enrolment. Baptised children are given preferment at Catholic schools when places are in demand.

Parish Fundraising - Christmas Drive

Do you shop online? If **YES**, then you can help to raise funds for our parish. It's **FREE**, you shop online as normal and the Parish gets a donation every time you spend, so far **99** people have helped us raise over **£760**. Thanks, you for your support. All you need to join is an email address. Spread the word and visit to join

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>

St Patrick's Advent Calendar 2023

Visit our Online Advent Calendar containing what's on at St. Patrick's during December.

<https://bit.ly/414mOTI>

Young Adults' Catholic Conference

2nd - 4th January 2024. An excellent event will be held at the Emmaus Youth Village in Hexham. It's for young Catholics from all over the UK aged

from 16 to 25 years. It's a blend of talks with spiritual and social time. Father Moir is hoping to take some young adults from our parish. Transport and subsidies available. Speak to Father Moir soon if you're interested and to get a form.

GAUDETE SUNDAY OF ADVENT SACRED 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 61:1-11**

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm **Luke 1:46**

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

The Almighty works marvels for me.

Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,

on those who fear him.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading **1 Thess 5:16-24**

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 1:6-28

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Prayers of the Faithful Response

Lord hear us.

R. Lord graciously hear us.

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.