

St Patrick's Catholic Church

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 10th December 2023

Clergy: Father Deeley VE & Father Moir

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Second Sunday of Advent

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

Monday - St Damasus

8.30 - 9.25am - Exposition
9.30am - Holy Mass

Tuesday - Our Lady of Guadalupe

8.30 - 9.25am - Exposition
9.30am - Holy Mass

Wednesday - St Lucy

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

Thursday - St John of the Cross

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

Parish Events this Week

Mon 10am - Tea / coffee in hall
10.30am - Men's Group
2pm - Women's Guild
7.30pm - Alpha

Wed 12 noon - Welcome Group

Thu 6.30pm - Youth Group

Please Note there will be **no Sunday teas** until the Solemnity of the Epiphany, 7th January.

Advent Reflection Father Moir gave an excellent talk on the Annunciation last Sunday and ending with Benediction. It is a lovely 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.

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 that will come at the end of time.

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.

* **Vigil of Christmas:** 6.00pm

* **Carols** from 11.20pm to 11.50pm

* **Confessions** 11.00pm to 11.50pm

* **Holy Mass** at Midnight

* **Christmas Day** 11.00am

* **St Stephen's Day** 12 noon

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.

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.

Confessions will be held in St Patrick's school tomorrow, Monday for the pupils and in St Maurice's on Thursday in preparation for Christmas.

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.

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.

New Readers' Rotas available in the Mortuary chapel. Also, please sign up for Readings at Christmas Masses.

Parish Draw will take place this week. Good time for Christmas...if you win!

Dates for the Diary for December

10th - Presentation of the Gospel - FHC

- 5pm Advent Reflection in Mortuary

13th - 1pm Wed Group Christmas Lunch

- 7pm Candlelit *Rorate* Mass

16th - 7pm Men's Group Christmas Night

17th - 1pm Snr Citizens' Christmas Lunch

- Christmas Raffle Draw

- 5pm Advent Reflection in Mortuary

19th - Posie Making for Housebound

20th - 7pm Final Candlelit *Rorate* Mass

Christmas Evening Family Night

16th December from 7pm. **LAST CALL** to buy your ticket from a member of the Men's Group! £15 per person. Entertainment by Sapphire. BYOB. Please make your food choice from the list at the back of the church.

Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch at 1pm **17th December**. 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.

Sleeping Beauty thank you to all who help organise and set up the hall. It was packed and good fun was had by all, including the adults!

Your Gift to God and His Church which includes standing orders: **£1275** and fabric **£283**. May God bless you abundantly for your support of His Church's vital work of making Jesus Christ present in the world and known.

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.**

First Holy Communion Presentation of the Gospel of St Mark will take place today, Sunday during the 11.30am Mass. Before Mass, parents should ensure that they have the pamphlet and that they are familiar with it. Kindly also tick the register at the back of the church on arrival.

Volunteers thank you to all those who helped decorate the hall for the Christmas season. parishes rely heavily on volunteers for their smooth running, and we are blessed with having very reliable people helping in the background all year round. A big thank you to all of you. If anybody would like to help in the parish, in any small way, then please contact the chapel house to discuss.

Posies for Christmas If you would like to help make some beautiful posies for our housebound and enjoy some Christmas cheer then we will meet you downstairs under the sacristy on **Tuesday, 19th December** at 6pm. Please bring scissors and any foliage from your garden, if possible, but not essential.

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>

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.

Christmas Gifts for CHAS some of the families using the children's hospice can struggle at this time of year. Gifts of soft toys, puzzles, toiletries, fleecy blankets, chocolate, gift vouchers etc. are appreciated. The gifts can be for the children themselves or for their families. **Do not wrap any gifts** but just put them in a bag marked boy/girl and age or man/woman. Leave donations in the Mortuary Chapel only on the weekend **9/10 December**. Thank you.

Donations made to Mary's Meals or SCIAF until 22nd January will be doubled by the government.

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 was 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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT **SACRED 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 40:1-11**

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see it;

for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm **Psalm 84**

R. Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

R. Let us see, O Lord, your mercy...

Mercy and faithfulness have met.
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

R. Let us see, O Lord, your mercy...

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

R. Let us see, O Lord, your mercy...

Second Reading **2 Peter 3:8-14**

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel **Mark 1: 1-8**

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

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