



## Fourth Sunday of Advent 20 December 2020

From 17 December we enter a new stage of Advent: having spent so much time on the Second Coming, now we look back to remember the details of the Lord's First Coming. Today we focus on the character of Mary and hear of the angel Gabriel being sent to her to invite her to take her part in the mystery of the Incarnation, "the revelation of the mystery kept secret for endless ages". This mystery springs from the House of David and so we lead into the Gospel by hearing of the establishing of that house. An interesting idea is that the first reading talks of David wishing to build a house for the Lord; through the prophet he is told not of the house that he would build, but the House which is his line: eventually, in Mary (betrothed to Joseph) the House of David does itself become the house of the Lord, the womb wherein he has a dwelling place.

**Marriage Matters: *Listening is a way of loving:*** David, Paul and Mary listened to God, changed their plans and way of life. Before marrying we listened intently and consequently felt loved and cherished. Today, with the pressures of everyday living, our listening can be impaired. We need constantly to overcome the temptation to just 'hear' what's said, and work on listening with our hearts, eyes and full attention.

**Think Vocations:** Today we are told how Mary responded when invited by God to be the mother of his son: "let it be done to me according to your word". Do we have the courage to respond so wholeheartedly to whatever God is asking us to do in our lives?

**Diocesan Prayer Cycle:** As Christmas approaches, we pray for the parish of St Joseph, Ramsbottom, for Fr Frank Thorpe, their parish priest, and for their parish primary school. May St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary, inspire them to imitate her faith.

**Prayer During the Pandemic:** O God, our refuge and our shield, even when we walk in the shadow of death you are there at our side. Be with your people in this time of danger: bring strength to the afflicted and protection to those untouched by disease. Give us love and courage that we may trust in your power to save and reach out to all who need our care. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Act of Spiritual Communion:** My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

**National Prayer Cycle:** During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for Migrants & Refugees and (especially today) Expectant Mothers

### Masses / Services This Week

**Government guidelines require people attending places of worship to wear a face mask (unless exempt for some reason)**

**Sunday** – Fourth Sunday of Advent – *Sea Sunday*  
Masses at SL & live-streamed Sat 6.30pm & Sun 9.30am  
Masses at SsPP Sun 8am & Sun 11am

**Monday** – Advent II Weekday or St Peter Canisius  
No Mass today

**Tuesday** – Advent II Weekday  
Mass at SL & live-streamed 6.30pm

**Wednesday** – Advent II Weekday or St John of Kanty  
Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am

Please note that **for the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, you need to have booked a place.** The 4pm, 6pm & 9.30am Masses are already full.

There are a few places left at the 8pm and 11am Masses and quite a few places left at the 10pm Mass. **To book a place at these Masses, please telephone 07375 617582** between 7pm and 9pm on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

**Thursday** – Advent II Weekday – *Christmas Eve*  
**Christmas Masses at SsPP 4pm & 8pm**  
**Christmas Masses at SL & live-streamed 6pm & 10pm**

**Friday** – The Nativity of the Lord – *Christmas Day*  
**Christmas Mass at SL & live-streamed 9.30am**  
**Christmas Mass at SsPP 11am**

**Saturday** – St Stephen, the First Martyr – *Boxing Day*  
Mass at SsPP 12noon (St Stephen)  
Mass at SL & live-streamed 6.30pm (Holy Family)

**Sunday** – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph  
Masses at SL & live-streamed Sat 6.30pm & Sun 9.30am  
Masses at SsPP Sun 8am & Sun 11am

**Live-streaming is via our Facebook page:**  
**Our Lady of Hope Parish, Salford**  
(<https://www.facebook.com/ourladyofhopesalford/>)

### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



Fathers Michael and Mark wish you, your family and your friends every blessing for the Christmas Season

Thank you to all parishioners who have helped to prepare our churches for this time of celebration

### Singalong Advent Calendar



There are just a few days left now to complete our musical Advent Calendar (until 24 December) and we have contributions ready for each of those days. Thank you to those who have sent in a recording; they are all much appreciated.

If you haven't yet taken a look at these, they are all still on Facebook for you to view. Well worth it.

**Sea Sunday:** Apologies that we did not warn you last weekend that we would be celebrating Sea Sunday this weekend (displaced from mid-July). This is the annual day of prayer for all who are at sea, their families at home, and the work of Stella Maris (formerly the Apostleship of the Sea) to support them. Anything you can give to Stella Maris today will be greatly appreciated.

**Home Mission Sunday:** Thank you for last week's special collection which raised £173.41 towards the work of spreading the Gospel here in England and Wales.

**Helping Hand Fund:** Thank you for some further donations amounting to £35. The help that we gave to families a few weeks ago was in the form of supermarket vouchers to spend on whatever was needed in the run-up to Christmas. We are giving out a further £150 in vouchers this week.

**Loaves and Fishes:** We have also been able to support our local charity with a donation of £250 from money collected through the Poor Box at St Luke's during 2019. Under normal circumstances we would have had an opportunity for L&F to make an appeal but that has not been possible this year. Last year the appeal in our two churches raised around £1500, so we are a long way short of that this time. Hopefully we will be able to do something more substantial later in 2021.

**Contactless Giving:** This weekend we can begin to use the new system for giving which we are helping to pilot. The machine has a screen offering the option of donating set amounts of £5, £10, £15 or £20 (or an amount of your choice). You select the amount and then tap your card. You can also choose to gift aid your donation by entering your name and postcode (and you only need to do this the first time you use the machine).

**God is with Us - Christmas at Home Resource:** The Department for Formation has created a resource pack similar to the Advent at Home resource for the Christmas Season. A PDF of this resource can be downloaded from <https://www.dioceseofsalford.org.uk/christmas-at-home/>

**Memorial Mass:** On 31 December at 2pm Bishop John will celebrate a Mass, livestreamed from Salford Cathedral, to remember all of the lives that have been lost this year.

**Next Week's Newsletter: Lukasz Lukasiewicz**

Please send notices before Wednesday

Email: [newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ourladyofhope.org.uk)

### Prayers Please

**Sick:** All those who are suffering from the coronavirus and others who are sick at this time, including, Robert Livesey, Nuala Corridan, Tomas Cusack, John Ainsworth, Emily Martin (a sick child), Marie Campbell, David Pickup, Sue Remmer. Sr Therese Murphy, Pat Griffin

**Lately Dead:** All who have died of the coronavirus and others who have died recently: Manus Thompson, Tracy Smith, Doreen Letham, Bill Smith, Angela Dease, Fr Peter McKie, Yvonne Keenan, Tony Richards

**Anniversaries:** Francis Galvin

**Masses Received:** Josie Barron, Marie Campbell, Eileen Carroll, Sylvia Connors, Alison Cornwell, Nuala Corridan, Anne Crook, Jean Crowther, Joan Flannery, Mary Galvin, Pat Glynn, Marie Harrison, Maureen Jones, Sheila Maguire, Betty Mills, Rita Mills, Frank & Marie Moore, Maria Nally, Joan Nolan, Ann Smith, Tim Walsh, Susan Warhurst, Sheila Williams, Roman Lyzniak, Lucy "Pat" Barlow, Connie Moss, Frederick Owen Moss, Pauline Halpin, Brian Halpin, Fr Gavin Landers, Fr Michael Cooke, Patsy & David & Family, Anne & Keith & Family, Sadie & John & Family, Alan Roberts, Kitty & Lou Basha, Bridget & Jack Sloyan, Deceased members of the McMannimon & Gravin Families, Deceased members of the Sloyan & Roberts Families, Deceased members of the Whalley & Branagan Families, Special Intention, Imenlda & Peter Murphy, Joan McKenzie, Duncan McKenzie, Angus Cotton, Norman McKenzie, Deceased members of the Burke & Cottam Families, John Blay, Julie Webster, Tony Richards (LD), James & Ellen Scott, Keith Scott, Members of St Luke's UCM, Deceased members of the Ball, Dunne, Kehoe & Gallagher Families, Francis Galvin (A), Elizabeth Galvin, The Ainscough Family, Fr Peter Gooden, Norah & Frank Livesey, Ellen & Thomas Ryan, Ellen & Alf Jones, Bernard Sullivan, Harry Brooke, Lillian & Jack Fyans, Colm Folan, Anne McKeever, Peter Krinks & Family, Pat & Helen Nash & Family, Dolly Clooney, Robert Clooney, Rachael Evans, Special Intention, For the Parish.

### The Nativity of the Lord

We celebrate this great Feast on Friday, though it begins with our Masses on Thursday evening. We have (hopefully) prepared throughout Advent and now our Feast is here.

We welcome the new-born Jesus, the child of Bethlehem, the Son of God and the Son of David. He is the Light of the World and our Saviour. He is the Word made flesh, Emmanuel, God-with-us.

The Church gives us the various feasts of the Christmas Season (Christmas Day itself, The Holy Family, The Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord) to help us explore in different ways the significance of this historical event and the wonder of the gift that is given.

This year, we are also encouraged by Bishop John to make full use of the days within the Octave of Christmas to celebrate the Feast itself (and, by spreading out our attendance at Mass, help keep each other safe).

Let us make full use of the Christmas season, to pray about and reflect upon the mystery of the Incarnation.