



CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE

PARISH NEWSLETTER

**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT (a)
30th Nov 2025**



Beloved, now is the great season of Advent. In his infinite love for us, though we were sinners, he sent his only Son to free us from the tyranny of Satan, to summon us to heaven.

The Church asks us to understand that Christ, who came once in the flesh, is prepared to come again.

When we remove all obstacles to his presence he will come, at any hour and moment, to dwell spiritually in our hearts, bringing with him the riches of his grace.

*From an Advent Pastoral letter of
St Charles Borromeo*

Stand ready!

Canon Don Bowdren

St Charles Rectory
Woolley Bridge Rd
Hadfield SK13 1PQ 852351
& 07762057572

*don.bowdren@dioceseofnottingham.uk /
daniel.bowdren@gmail.com*

Deacon: Rev Dr Owen Le Blanc

*longdendale-catholics.co.uk
Facebook@stcharleshadfield*

OUR SCHOOLS

St Charles Primary Hadfield SK13 7PQ

Head : Mrs B Quirke
Tel : 852692

St Margaret's & All Saints Federation

Gamesley SK13 6HB
Head : Mrs G Beaumont
Tel : 855818

St Philip Howard Secondary

SK13 8DR
Head : Mr J Kayes
Tel : 853611/861022

DATE	MASS	OTHER
Sun 30th	ADVENT I 9.15 (BB) Sister Anita's welfare (AC) 11am (HAD) Edmund Ashton RIP (fam)	
Mon 1st Dec	St Ralph Sherwin, and Derbyshire martyrs of the reformation 9.30 (HAD) Christine Wild RIP (MR)	
Tues 2nd	Advent feria 9.30 (HAD) Holy Souls	
Weds 3rd	St Francis Xavier, priest <i>Jubilee of Migrants</i> 9.30 (HAD) welfare of Charles B. (CF)	
Thurs 4th	Advent feria 9.30 (HAD) E Fitzsimons (fam)	
Fri 5th	Advent feria 9.30 (BB) Mary Norton RIP (SQ)	
Sat 6th	Advent feria, St Nicholas 9.30 (HAD) Christine Wild RIP (AM)	
Sun 7th	ADVENT II 9.15 (BB) E Spurr RIP (AC) 11am (HAD) Jean Ashton, family welfare	
<p style="text-align: center;">FIRST ADVENT (A) Psalter Week 1</p> <p>Introduction: The day of the Lord is close at hand! Stand ready!</p> <p>First Reading : <i>Is 2</i> : The Lord will gather all the nations into his peace.</p> <p>Resp.Ps. I REJOICED WHEN I HEARD THEM SAY: 'LET US GO TO GOD`S HOUSE.'</p> <p>Second Reading : <i>Rom 13</i> : Our salvation is near at hand. Time to mend our ways.</p> <p>Gospel : <i>Mt 24</i> : Stay awake and stand ready! You know neither the day nor the hour!</p> <p>Comm. ant: THE LORD WILL BESTOW HIS BOUNTY, AND OUR EARTH SHALL YIELD ITS INCREASE</p>		

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND and ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH

Please remember to support and pray for those listed as sick and housebound in our parish:

Peter James, Pauline Anderson, Isabella Phillips, Joe Singleton, Arthur King, Maura Farrell, Joan Killeen, Rita Dwyer, Mike Lally, Jacob Ibbotson, Diane Wilson, Gordon Handley, Jean Ashton, Keith Winston.

And our deceased clergy & parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time; Revv Mick Lynch, Joseph Degen, Ted Neary, Con Dolan, Joe Murdock; Jenny Cooney:

May they rest in peace, and let perpetual light shine on them : Amen

PARISH NOTES

THIS SUNDAY marks the beginning of a new year in the life of the church, in the life of God's grace within us. A month before the civic world celebrates new year, in our church we start our preparations to celebrate the great event of the Incarnation. The season of Advent begins this Sunday. Advent comes to an end when we celebrate Christmas Day. Through the prayers and readings of our liturgy, we become day by day more eager and more ready to meet our Lord.

Advent comes in two halves. The first two weeks are looking far forward towards the second coming of Christ, when he will come as judge to bring time and the world to an end. And the second two weeks of Advent we prepare for his coming among us in the nativity. It is a time of waiting, of praying, repenting, and being patient. All around us we see signs of an impatient world that longs to gloss over today's troubles with premature tinsel. We however wait patiently and prayerfully, and for us his birth amongst us, and will have a deeper joy & hopefulness for that reason.

LECTIONARY READINGS change this weekend: Sundays : Year A (St Matthew); weekdays : Year II.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS : St Charles, this Sunday after Mass; Immac Conc. next Sunday 2pm.

JUBILEE OF MIGRANTS & REFUGEES is honoured on 3rd December, Wednesday next.

THE WEDNESDAY GROUP meets on 3rd after morning Mass at St Charles.

THE GOSPEL In each year of the three-year cycle the Advent Sunday gospel-readings have the same pattern: the first is about the final Coming of Christ. In the second John the Baptist is preparing a community of repentance to welcome Jesus' mission. In the third John the Baptist points out Jesus as the Messiah. On the fourth Sunday we look to Mary, preparing for the birth of her Son. In this Sunday's reading about the Second Coming the accent is the same as in the Pauline letter: a pressing and urgent need to take action without delay. The Second Coming will be sudden and unexpected, and will seem as random as the threat of one taken, one left, or as a thief in the night when no protective preparations have been made. We do not even know whether the final confrontation, when each of us is brought face to face with the awesome presence of God, will be a unique event for each of us at death, or whether it will be a group event, as in Matthew's parable of the sheep and goats sent to right and left. There is no time in eternity, no waiting-room! It will not be as any human mind can envisage it.

THE SAINTS this week: **St Ralph Sherwin (1550-1581)** was born at Rodsley, Derbyshire (19 October 1550), and was educated at Eton College. He was a talented classical scholar and was nominated by Sir William Petre from Ingtestone to one of the eight fellowships which he had founded at Exeter College, Oxford. He graduated in 1574, being then accounted "an acute philosopher and an excellent Grecian and Hebrician." The following year he became a Catholic and fled abroad to the English College at Douai, where he was ordained a priest in 1577. He left to go to the English College in Rome, where he studied for about three years. In April 1580, Sherwin and thirteen companions (including Edmund Campion and Robert Persons) left Rome for England, spending time en route with St Charles Borromeo in Milan. A few months later he was arrested while preaching in a private house in London and imprisoned in the Marshalsea prison, where he converted many fellow prisoners. After a month he was removed to the Tower of London, where he was twice tortured on the rack and then laid out in the snow. He is said to have been offered a bishopric by Queen Elizabeth if he would abandon his Catholicism, but refused. After spending a year in prison he was finally brought to trial with Edmund Campion and others on a charge of treasonable conspiracy. He denied this with the comment: "The plain reason of our standing here is religion, not treason." He was convicted in

Westminster Hall on 20 November 1581. Eleven days later he was taken to Tyburn on a hurdle along with Alexander Briant, where he was hanged, drawn and quartered. His last words were Jesu, Jesu, Jesu, esto mihi Jesu! He was the first member of the English College in Rome to be martyred. And he is of course the patron of the Derbyshire Catholic schools which belong to his academy. **St Francis Xavier (1506 - 1552)** was born in the Basque country of Spain. He met Ignatius Loyola when he was a student in Paris, and he was ordained priest in 1537. In 1541 the Pope sent him as part of a mission to India, and he spent the rest of his life in the East, preaching the Gospel in Goa and Malacca. He made many converts and fought against the exploitation of the native population by the Europeans. He spent two years on a successful mission to Japan, laying the foundations of many Christian communities; and in 1552, after entering China secretly to preach the Gospel there, he died of fever and exhaustion on the Chinese island of Shangchwan. **St John Damascene, priest, Doctor** was born of a Christian family in Damascus in the second half of the seventh century, where his father was a high official under the Umayyad caliph; a post which he inherited. When the Iconoclast movement (seeking to prohibit the veneration of icons) gained acceptance in the Byzantine court, John, being under Muslim rather than Byzantine rule, was able to write effective treatises attacking Iconoclasm and attacking the emperor for supporting it. At about this time he retired to the monastery of Saint Sabas near Jerusalem, where he became a monk and was ordained. He died in the middle of the eighth century. **St Nicholas** was bishop of Myra, in Lycia (now part of Turkey) and died about the middle of the fourth century. He has been venerated throughout the Church, especially since the 10th century. Because of his help to the poor he is the patron saint of pawnbrokers, whose insignia of three golden balls represent the three purses of gold he is said to have given secretly to a poor man who could not afford dowries for his three daughters. He is of course venerated differently as Santa Claus.

FLORAL THANKS During Advent we give a time of rest to our dedicated florists. As in the season of Lent, we do not decorate our churches with flowers. Our best thanks to those dedicated folk who offer floral delights during the remaining 41 weeks! Equal thanks to those who installed our November Memorials, which this week are put aside to be replaced the Advent Wreath.

FIRST FRIDAY VISITS I hope to make my customary visits on Friday this week. Please let me know of anyone who would welcome such a visit from me with the Blessed Sacrament.

FESTIVE FAYRE Last Saturday's fayre was well supported, and well over £1000 was raised. Huge thanks to the stallholders!

'THE CATHOLIC NEWS' has arrived and is freely available from the back of church.

CARDINAL ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN memorial cards are available free of charge from the back of church. There are a gift from Bishop Patrick to all parishioners.

PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH this year will be at Windy Harbour on Wednesday 17th December 12.30 pm for 1.00pm. Two courses £28 or three courses £31 which includes the tip. The menu is on display at the back of both churches as is a form to fill in your food choices. There is a £10 non-refundable deposit which should be given to Nuala Shepley as soon as possible. Everyone is welcome to come along.

RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles: 1st (£40) D Bernard ; 2nd (£20) N Garlick.

THE HADFIELD & PADFIELD CHURCHES are holding a Carol Concert at the Hadfield Cenotaph on Friday 19th December at 4:30pm. We need 2 volunteers from each Church to act as Stewards for the outside event. If anyone is willing and able to help can you please contact either Rob Cranston or Sue Hoolahan and let them know.

LOOKING AHEAD John Miles has once again agreed to present the annual service of nine lessons and carols at Immaculate Conception church. This is timetabled to take place on Monday 22nd December at 7.30. Singers are always sought to swell the choir. Rehearsals are scheduled for Mondays 8th and 15th December. If you can lend a voice, you'll be welcome.

A CONFIRMATION PREPARATION PROGRAMME There are forms available in church for any parishioners - school pupils or older! - to collect for enrolment. The date set for Confirmation : November 22nd 2026 at St Mary's Crowned, Glossop.

STANDING ORDERS: Immaculate Conception : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c "St Margaret's church/collection (or tote)" 00510567. St Charles : Sort Code 30-13-32 A/c "St Charles church/collection (or tote)" 00269177.

SAFEGUARDING If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact Karen our joint-parishes PSR. Email: Karen.ProctorPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk; / phone 07513 725411.

