



**CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE**

## **PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT (a)  
21st Dec 2025**



*O Morning Star,  
splendour of light eternal  
and sun of righteousness:  
Come and enlighten those  
who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death.*

# *The maiden is with child*

### **Canon Don Bowdren**

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### **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 21st	<b>ADVENT IV</b> 9.15 (BB) V Campbell RIP (D&CN) 11am (HAD) B Farnsworth RIP (fam) 3pm, Advent Penitential Service at St Charles	
Mon 22nd	<b>Advent feria</b> <b>12 Noon</b> (HAD) Requiem Mass, Christine Wild RIP (florists)	
Tues 23rd	<b>Advent feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) Irving Walkden RIP (TK)	
Weds 24th	<b>Advent feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) for benefactors Christmas Eve : <b>6pm (HAD)</b> 1st Mass of Christmas : C Wild RIP (MD)	
Thurs 25th	<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b> 9.15 (BB) EB&K Laidlaw RIP (fam) 11am (HAD) Fr Rufus & O Cist community	
Fri 26th	St Stephen, first martyr ( <b>Boxing Day</b> ) Noon (BB) C Perry RIP, anniv (D&KH)	
Sat 27th	<b>Advent feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) D&K Holtom, diamond wedding anniv (fam)	
Sun 28th	<b>HOLY FAMILY</b> 9.15 (BB) M Robinson (SL) 11am (HAD) for the parish	
<div> <div> <b>FOURTH ADVENT (A)</b> <b>Psalter Week 4</b> </div> <div> <p><b>Introduction:</b> our God comes close to us in the birth of Jesus; closer still into our hearts.</p> <p><b>First Reading :</b> Is 7 : Here come our deliverance and king - and best of all - our Saviour.</p> <p><b>Resp.Ps. LET THE LORD ENTER! HE IS THE KING OF GLORY</b></p> <p><b>Second Reading :</b> Rom 1 : Paul proclaims his faith in Jesus Son of God, Son of David!</p> <p><b>Gospel :</b> Mt 1 : The Messiah is with us in Mary`s son, Jesus.</p> <p><b>Comm. Ant.</b> BEHOLD, A VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON; AND HIS NAME WILL BE CALLED EMMANUEL.</p> </div> </div>		

### **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 Martin Finneran; Mary McKeown, Eva Whittam, Sheila Goodwin, Fred Jones, Christine Bernard, Kevin Laidlaw, John Burkinshaw :  
May they rest in peace, and let perpetual light shine on them : Amen

### **PARISH NOTES**

**THI SUNDAY Pope Benedict writes:** ‘On this Sunday the gospel according to St Matthew recounts the birth of Jesus from Joseph’s viewpoint. He was betrothed to Mary, who before they came together was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. St Joseph is presented as a just man faithful to God’s law and ready to do his will. Having given up the idea of divorcing Mary secretly, Joseph took her to himself because he then saw God’s work in her with his own eyes. Although he had felt distressed, Joseph did as the Angel of the Lord commanded him, certain that he was doing the right thing . . . the new man is outlined in him. He looks with trust and courage to the future. He does not follow his own plans that entrusts himself without reserve to the infinite mercy of the one who will fulfil the prophecies and open the time of salvation.’

**THE GOSPEL** Matthew begins his gospel about the birth of Jesus with a long and elaborately formal genealogy of Joseph. But Jesus is the son of Mary, not of Joseph! The whole point of this story is that Joseph is not the genealogical father of Jesus, but adopts Jesus into his line of David. At first he is hesitant to do so, presumably thinking that he is unworthy to acknowledge the child as his own, and unworthy to bond with Mary who is with child by the Holy Spirit. But the angel insists (‘Do not be afraid’) that only Joseph can do this job. As soon as the child is born, he is given the name Jesus, and given it by Joseph. It is the father’s prerogative to name a son, and by so doing Joseph takes the child as his own. We hear little more of Joseph, but what a joy it must have been to have Jesus as a son! What a relationship there must have been! What responsibility too! When Jesus calls God his ‘Father’, he is using the concept which must have been formed in his mind by his adoptive father, Joseph, the perfect ideal of the loving father.

**THE LONG & THE SHORT** This Sunday is the shortest day of the year - and the longest night. Then, almost imperceptibly till ‘racing’ February, the days lengthen and the night become shorter.

**RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles:** 1st (£40) S Tetlow; 2nd (£20) R Cranston.  
**THIS WEEK**

- **SUNDAY 21ST DECEMBER** : 3pm at St Charles, Advent Penitential Service with additional confessors on hand.
- **MONDAY 22ND DECEMBER 7.30 PM** The annual service of nine lessons and carols at Immaculate Conception church.

**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.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Benjamin James Starkey & Rebecca Elizabeth Wilson, who

*celebrated the holy sacrament of Matrimony at St Charles this weekend, thus becoming man & wife. A wondrous Christmas gift each to other!*

**BEST THANKS** to the caring hands of cleaners, florists and decorators who have come to our churches these days to prepare for the season of celebration of The Lord's birth. The florists at St Charles were cheerfully joined by a happy young man from Garden Structures (Woolley Bridge Rd), bring the Tree! a magnificent specimen gracing the northern foot of the chancel arch. When I asked 'how much'? he replied - 'nothing! It's a gift from us to you!' Go on, call in and say thanks!

#### **CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE**

- \* **Wednesday 24th** : 5.30pm at St Charles : Carols and verses, followed by
  - \* **6pm** : First Mass of Christmas, with Children's nativity procession during the Gospel;
  - \* **Thursday 25th** : Christmas Day : 9.15 Mass at Immaculate Conception, then 11am Mass at St Charles Hadfield.
  - \* **Friday 26th : St Stephen's (or Boxing) Day** : Mass at **noon** at Immaculate Conception.
- SAFEGUARDING** If you have any safeguarding concerns please contact Karen our joint-parishes PSR. Email: [Karen.ProctorPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:Karen.ProctorPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk); / phone 07513 725411.

#### **AND FINALLY**

Advent 1955  
by John Betjeman

The Advent wind begins to stir  
With sea-like sounds in our Scotch  
fir,  
It's dark at breakfast, dark at tea,  
And in between we only see  
Clouds hurrying across the sky  
And rain-wet roads the wind blows  
dry  
And branches bending to the gale  
Against great skies all silver pale  
The world seems travelling into space,  
And travelling at a faster pace  
Than in the leisured summer weather  
When we and it sit out together,  
For now we feel the world spin round  
On some momentous journey bound -  
Journey to what? to whom? to where?  
The Advent bells call out 'Prepare,  
Your world is journeying to the birth

And how, in fact, do we prepare  
The great day that waits us there -  
For the twenty-fifth day of Decem-  
ber,  
The birth of Christ? For some it  
means  
An interchange of hunting scenes  
On coloured cards, And I remem-  
ber  
Last year I sent out twenty yards,  
Laid end to end, of Christmas cards  
To people that I scarcely know -  
They'd sent a card to me, and so  
I had to send one back. Oh dear!  
Is this a form of Christmas cheer?  
Or is it, which is less surprising,  
My pride gone in for advertising?  
The only cards that really count  
Are that extremely small amount  
From real friends who keep in  
touch  
And are not rich but love us much  
Some ways indeed are very odd  
By which we hail the birth of  
God.

