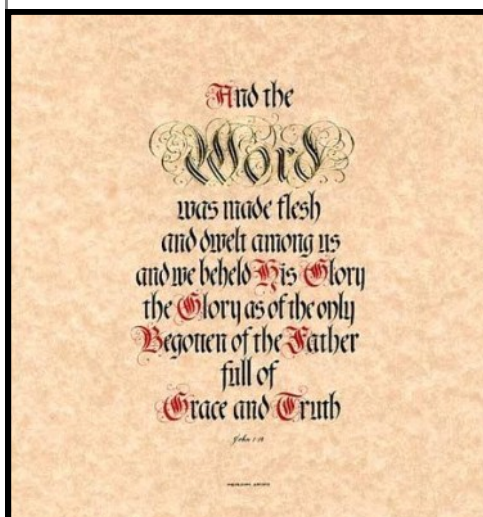




**CATHOLIC CHURCH IN LONGDENDALE**

## **PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**SECOND SUNDAY IN CHRISTMASTIDE**  
**4th Jan 2026**



*from 'The Blessing at the Beginning of the Year'*

*May God, the source & origin of all  
blessing, grant you grace,  
pour out his blessing in abundance,  
and keep you safe from harm  
throughout the year :  
Amen*

*May he give you integrity in the faith,  
endurance in hope,  
and perseverance in charity,  
with holy patience to the end: Amen*

*Roman Missal*

# *And the Word became flesh*

### **Canon Don Bowdren**

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*Deacon:* Rev Dr Owen Le Blanc

[longdendale-catholics.co.uk](http://longdendale-catholics.co.uk)  
[Facebook@stcharleshadfield](https://www.facebook.com/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 4th	<b>SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS</b> 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) Ken Pover RIP	
Mon 5th	<b>Christmas feria</b> 9.30 (HAD)	
Tues 6th	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b> <b>Noon</b> (HAD) Derek Fitzsimons RIP	
Weds 7th	<b>feria in Epiphanytide</b> 9.30 (HAD) George Simpson & Margery Revell RIP <i>11am (HAD) funeral service for Ronald McGrath RIP</i>	
Thurs 8th	<b>Epiphanytide feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) Paul Farnsworth RIP	
Fri 9th	<b>Epiphanytide feria</b> 9.30 (BB) Holy Souls	
Sat 10th	<b>Epiphanytide feria</b> 9.30 (HAD) (Weds Gp)	
Sun 11th	<b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b> 9.15 (BB) for the parish 11am (HAD) Christine Wild RIP (JM)	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SECOND SUNDAY IN CHRISTMASTIDE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Psalter wk 2</p> <p><b>Introduction:</b> He destined us in love to be his children.</p> <p><b>First Reading :</b> Ecclus 24 : The wisdom of God has pitched her tent amongst the chosen people.</p> <p><b>Resp.Ps. THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND LIVED AMONG US</b></p> <p><b>Second Reading :</b> Eph 1 : He determined that we should become his adopted children.</p> <p><b>Gospel :</b> Jn 1 : . . . And we saw his Glory.</p> <p><b>Comm. Ant.      TO ALL WHO WOULD ACCEPT HIM,</b> <b>HE GAVE THE POWER TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD.</b></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, Rita Dwyer, Mike Lally, Jacob Ibbotson, Diane Wilson, Gordon Handley, Jean Ashton, Anne Black, Keith Winston.

**And our deceased clergy & parishioners whose anniversaries occur about this time;** Peter Peterken, Hugh Atkinson, Paddy Snee, Michael Stewart, Fr Fauvel, Bernard Shaw, Joe Phelan; *Denis Brady, Maureen Axon, Tommy Nelson, Celina Klimczyk, Carol Byrne, Colleen Whittham, Kevin Cannon, Ken Pover, Florence Walton, Michael Deary, George Simpson, Margery Revell, Brian Derbyshire, Maria Fenton, Paul Farnsworth, Fr Dennis Higgins.*

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

### **PARISH NOTES**

**THIS SUNDAY** is the first in the year 2026. 'Our hope is in God. We trust in God who revealed completely and definitively in Jesus Christ, his desire to be with human beings, to share in our history and to guide us all to his Kingdom of love and life. The readings today affirm that God is not only the creator of the universe, an aspect common to other faiths too, but that he is the Father who chose us in him before the foundation of the world. And this great hope and enlivens and at time corrects our human hopes. He destined us in love to be his children through Jesus Christ and for that reason he even in conceivably went so far as to make himself man: "the word became flesh and dwelt amongst us." Pope Benedict XVI.

**THE GOSPEL** The Prologue of St John has a special place in Christian theology, and for centuries was recited at the end of the Mass as summing up the whole work of redemption. It begins with God's creation by the Word, and ends with the completion of the purpose of creation through the grace and truth of Jesus Christ. In the centre comes the incarnation, which enables and invites those who accept Christ to become children of God. The gospel-story of Mark begins at the baptism of Jesus, and the voice from heaven declaring that he is God's son. Matthew and Luke add the infancy-stories to show that Jesus possessed and manifested these divine qualities right from his birth. John goes back beyond this, to meditate on the ultimate part in both creation and its fulfilment of the Word who became flesh. Perhaps the most exultant cry of all is 'we have seen his glory', for glory belongs rightly to God alone. This statement contains the paradox that Christ as a human being made visible this divine glory, and that it was his own glory, witnessed by the followers among whom he lived and moved.

#### **MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**

- Joan Killeen's funeral is indicated for Fri 23rd Jan at St Charles;.
- Bill Wilson's funeral is indicated for Mon 26th Jan at St Charles;

**RECENT TOTE WINNERS St Charles:** 1st (£40) Lynn Hockey; 2nd (20) .

**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.

### *JOURNEY OF THE MAGI*

A cold coming we had of it,  
Just the worst time of the year  
For a journey, and such a long journey;  
The ways deep and the weather sharp,  
The very dead of winter.`  
And the camels galled, sore-footed, refractory,  
Lying down in the melted snow.  
There were times we regretted  
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,  
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.  
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling  
And running away, and wanting their liquor and women,  
And the night fires going out, and the lack of shelters.  
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly  
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:  
A hard time we had of it.  
At the end we preferred to travel all night,  
Sleeping in snatches,  
With the voices singing in our ears, saying  
That this was all folly.  
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.  
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over the lintel,  
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,  
And feet licking the empty wine-skins.  
But there was no information so we continued  
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon  
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago I remember,  
And I would do it again, but set down  
This set down  
This: were we led all that way for  
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,  
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth and death,  
But had thought they were different; this birth was  
Hard and bitter agony for us, like death, our death.  
We returned to our palaces, these Kingdoms,  
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,  
With an alien people, clutching their gods.  
I should be glad of another death.

*T S Eliot*

