

# BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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## Second Sunday of Advent

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

(Sunday cycle year A, weekday cycle year 2, psalter week 2)



*“Prepare the way of the Lord”*

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

## THIS WEEK

Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> December	4.30pm	Lottie Matchell (lately dead)	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>
Thu 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	<b>Requiem: Louise Thompson</b>	
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup>	4.30pm	Ray Jackson (anniversary)	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b>

This week		Readers		Eucharistic Ministers	
<b>Sat 6<sup>th</sup> December</b>		M Russell, G Kellett		B Gore, G Hopkinson, S Schofield	
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	G Hopkinson	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	A Fowler, J Kitchen	<b>Collection counters</b>	C Moffatt & C Williamson
Next week		Readers		Eucharistic Ministers	
<b>Sat 13<sup>th</sup> December</b>		R Conboy, G Hopkinson		J Kitchen P Fawcett, J Hothersall	
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	B Kellett	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	C Snape, G Fowler	<b>Collection counters</b>	C & K Snape

**Last weekend: attendance: 115, collection: £321.43 – thank you!**

### Mass Times

#### **St Bede's, Clayton Green**

Saturday, Vigil 6.00pm, Sunday, 11.00am, weekdays: Tuesday and Friday 9.15am  
(Please see their website for any changes: <https://stbedesclaytongreen.co.uk>)

#### **St Chad's, Whittle-le-Woods**

Sunday, 9.15am, weekdays: Monday and Thursday 9.15am  
(Please see their website for any changes: <https://stchads-southhill.org>)

### **This week's commemorations**

**Monday: The Immaculate Conception** of the Blessed Virgin Mary is the belief that, through the gift of God's grace, she was conceived free from original sin and hence preserved immaculate, pure and worthy to be the Mother of God.

**Saturday: St Lucy** (d 304): Historically, little is known about her, but during this period of persecution, she is believed to have been born to a wealthy family in Sicily, refused marriage preferring to give herself to Christ. She was reported and ordered into a brothel to be violated but by some miracle, she remained immobile. Attempts to burn her also failed and she was eventually dispatched by sword or dagger. Some accounts tell us that she had her eyes torn out but they were miraculously restored and part of her intercessory prayer is for perfect vision for my bodily eyes and the grace to use them for God's greater glory and the salvation of our souls, hence she is the patron saint of eyesight and of the blind, among other things.

It was thought that she supplied bread or buns for the Christians hiding in the catacombs and in some countries this is celebrated as a festival of light on the shortest day of the year where the youngest daughter, dressed in white, wakes the rest of the family with rolls, coffee and a song, perhaps Santa Lucia which is still popular in Sicily.

**THIS THURSDAY** at 10.30am there is a Requiem Mass for Louise Thompson.

There will be a **FOODBANK COLLECTION THIS SATURDAY** – in time for Christmas.

**From a parishioner:** "At last weekend's Mass we sang the Taizé song 'Wait for the Lord', and at some point the Music Group will do 'My soul in stillness waits'. The thought struck me that 'waiting' is the theme for our Advent here at St Joseph's. We are waiting for Christmas, for family to come round, for the price of Baileys to drop and, most of all, we are awaiting the decision about our parish. My thought was that we wait in hope like the child that hopes for that special toy or present. Let us hope that our prayers are answered, and it is this hope that helps us wait for the real present, that of Christ being born in us."

**ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION** at St Gregory's, Weldbank, Chorley, PR7 3NW on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm.

There will be **MASS ON CHRISTMAS EVE at 6.00pm** preceded by carols from 5.30pm.

**CYCLE OF PRAYER:** During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for Openness to the Word of God, Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.

**OFFERTORY:** If you have **ENVELOPES**, please continue to use them – by doing so, we can claim Gift Aid on your donation (if you're a taxpayer) and so maximise the income to the Parish. Disregard the mention of Ampleforth Abbey on the envelope – this no longer applies and all of the offertory comes to St Joseph's. Similarly, if you previously gave by **STANDING ORDER**, please continue to do so. Thank you.

**IF YOU REQUIRE A PRIEST IN AN EMERGENCY**, please contact Fr Mark Beattie on 01257 460154. For all other queries, contact Fr Graeme Dunne on 01257 262462.

There is **TEA AND COFFEE AFTER MASS ON SATURDAY** – please come along – you'll be most welcome.

**IN THE LIVING ROOM: THE 'BLESS THE POOR' TOUR.** The now-legendary 'In the Living Room' Christmas gig is on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. £5 (not increased in the last 16 years). Bring your own tipples but there will be mince pies and other fripperies. Raffle in support of the NW Air Ambulance. All proceeds to charity. (The titles of In the Living Room Christmas gigs come from 'Good King Wenceslas')

## **Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:1-12**

In this week's Gospel Reading and next week's, our Advent preparation for Christmas invites us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. In this week's Gospel, Matthew describes the work and preaching of John the Baptist.

John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets of Israel, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. In fact, the description of John found in this reading is reminiscent of the description of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8). In this reading, John directs a particularly pointed call to repentance to the Pharisees and Sadducees, parties within the Jewish community of the first century.

John marks the conversion of those who seek him out with a baptism of repentance. Other groups in this period are thought to have practiced ritual washings for similar purposes, and John's baptism may have been related to the practices of the Essenes, a Jewish sect of the first century. John's baptism can be understood as an anticipation of Christian baptism. In this passage, John himself alludes to the difference between his baptism and the one yet to come: "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

In this reading, John makes very clear that his relationship to the Messiah yet to come (Jesus) is one of service and subservience: ". . . the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals" (Matthew 3:11). In the context of Matthew's Gospel, today's passage is followed by Jesus' baptism by John, an event that is attested to in all four of the Gospels and appears to have been the start of Jesus' public ministry.

John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus in the first century, we, too, are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by our repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives, as John did, the coming of the Lord.

*([www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection](http://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection))*

## **PRAYER FOR THE SICK**

**Priest:** As we thank God for the gift of his Son in Holy Communion, let us remember those of our Parish who are sick or housebound.

**All:** May the body and blood of your Son, which we now send to them through our Eucharistic Ministers, bring them consolation and peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.