

# BRINDLE St JOSEPH'S

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## Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

(Sunday cycle year A, weekday cycle year 2, psalter week 4)

## Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers



*“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Emmanuel”*

O God of Elizabeth and Mary, you visited your servants with news of the world's redemption in the coming of the Saviour. Make our hearts leap with joy, and fill our mouths with songs of praise, that we may announce glad tidings of peace and welcome the Christ in our midst. Amen.

# THIS WEEK

Sat 20th	4.30pm	For the Parish	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
Tue 23 <sup>rd</sup>	11.30am	<b>Requiem: Catherine Greenwood</b>	
<b>Wed 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5.30pm</b>	<b>Carols and readings</b>	
	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Christmas Mass</b> (For peace in the world)	
Sat 27 <sup>th</sup>	4.30pm	For the Parish	<b>The Holy Family</b>

<b>This week</b>		<b>Readers</b>		<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	
<b>Sat 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>		K Slater, L Gardner		G Hopkinson, M Gardner, B Gore	
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	L Lomax	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	J Grogan, C Curwen	<b>Collection counters</b>	P & J Kitchen
<b>Next week</b>		<b>Readers</b>		<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	
<b>Sat 27<sup>th</sup> December</b>		C Williamson, K Snape		F Fordyce, L Gardner, P Fawcett	
<b>Bidding prayers</b>	Children's Liturgy	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	F Fordyce	<b>Collection counters</b>	L & M Gardner

**Last weekend: attendance: 118, collection: £409.80 – 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>)

With the shepherds of Bethlehem help us, oh Lord, to stand in vigil on the eve of your Coming, to run with haste to meet you, to see your face in the faces of others and to wake from our sleep as a new world is being born.

With the angels of Bethlehem help us, oh Lord, to tell the whole world of your presence God is with us! Let us create peace amongst people and work for justice amongst nations.

With Jesus, the infant Christ help us, oh Lord, to cherish the hope that is born at Advent, to hear the calling of your people, to nurture the seeds of your Kingdom and through our actions to be messengers of your love in building communities of service and prayer. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers **CATHERINE (KATHLEEN) GREENWOOD** who has died – may she rest in peace. Her Requiem Mass is on **Tuesday** at 11.30am.

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

**A MESSAGE FROM FR RAPHAEL:** “Many thanks for your cards and gifts. Best wishes and the assurance of my prayers for Christmas and the New Year.”

**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.

**IN THE LIVING ROOM: THE ‘BLESS THE POOR’ TOUR.** The ‘In the Living Room’ Christmas gig is **TONIGHT** at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. £5. 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.

We’re unable to deliver the **MISSIO CALENDARS** for 2026 – please help yourself to one from the back of church, even if you’re not a regular contributor.

## **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION**

**Reconciliation and First Holy Communion:** From February 2026, children in Year 4 will be prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. There will be a series of 6 meetings for parents and children. At present we are not sure where they will take place, but they will be on a Thursday and will last no longer than 1 hour.

If you wish to be enrolled as part of the Sacramental Programme and do NOT attend St Joseph’s School please could contact Mrs Fordyce – 07813123855/frances.fordyce@hotmail.co.uk

**Confirmation:** In January children in school years 8 & 9 will be invited to be confirmed. St Mary’s High School will commence this programme and any child that attends the school will be able to join. Alternatively if you wish to enrol with the Parish, then you will have to access this by completing the form on the Archdiocesan of Liverpool website. Children who do NOT attend St Mary’s High School will be able to enrol with diocese via the Archdiocese of Liverpool website.

If you have any queries regarding First Communion or Confirmation, please contact Mrs Fordyce – details above.

Thank you, Mrs F Fordyce, Parish Sacramental Co Ordinator.

## **Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-24**

Finally, on this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading permits us to begin our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation we celebrate at Christmas: "Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about" (Matthew 1:18).

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. Today's Gospel passage is the second movement in this story. In the preceding verses of the first chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Evangelist has listed the genealogy of Jesus, tracing his lineage through King David to Abraham. In the chapter to follow, Matthew tells of the visit from the Magi, the Holy Family's flight into Egypt, and Herod's massacre of the infants in Bethlehem. (The other stories which we associate with Christmas, the Annunciation, the Visitation, the angel and the shepherds, are found in the Gospel of Luke).

We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel. The way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about these holy people and their faith in God. Joseph and Mary are betrothed to be married. This is sometimes described as an engagement period, but it is more than that. Betrothal in first century Jewish culture was in fact the first part of the marriage contract. A breach of this contract was considered adultery. Mary is found to be with child. If adultery is proven, the punishment might be death. Joseph has rights under Mosaic law, but chooses to act discreetly in his plans to break the marriage contract, so as to protect Mary. Then God intervenes.

The message of the angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us much about the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan. He is conceived by the Holy Spirit. His name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "Yahweh saves." He will be the fulfillment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah: ". . . The virgin shall be with child . . . and shall name him Emmanuel [God with us]."

Joseph does as the angel of the Lord directs. He takes Mary to be his wife and accepts the child in her womb as his own. Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They are both models for us of what it means to be faithful servants of God.

*([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.