



St. Bernard's Parish Newsletter



1st Sunday of Advent

1st December

Clergy: Mgr. Michael J Kujacz RD & Fr. Luke Bradbury.

Contact

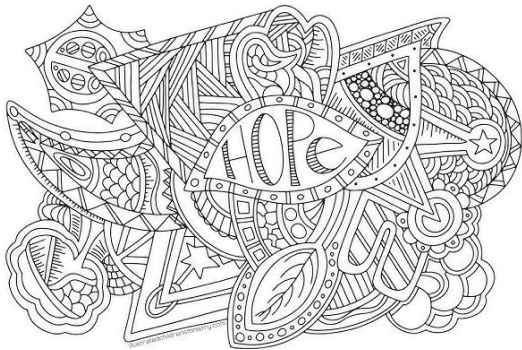
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1st Sunday of Advent P82

December: Month of the Immaculate Conception



As usual, the great Season of Advent begins, not by talking about Christmas, but about the Second Coming. We have had this theme already for the past two weeks, but there is a slight change of emphasis in the Scripture readings offered for this Sunday: here the tone is positive: it is the “promise” of what is to come that we contemplate. Even in the Gospel, though it talks of the dreadful signs that mark the end times, we hear of a promise - “liberation”. For this we should stand erect

and hold our heads high. The central theme is that we welcome the coming of a person - Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, and this is what links this Sunday to the coming feast of his birth: we are now preparing to celebrate how he once came: may these preparations also help us to prepare for him when he comes again.

Let us pray for the people of the parishes of the Holy Family and Our Lady of Perpetual Succour, Blackburn, and for Fr. Gerard Barry, their parish priest. We pray for the Teaching Sisters of St. Dorothy, Daughters of the Sacred Hearts, and for the Diocesan Chaplaincy to Travelling People, as well as for the parish primary schools, Our Lady and St. John's College, the East Lancashire Hospice and the Royal Blackburn Hospital.

Pope Francis Tweet: “Awaiting God is an important part of our journey of faith. Each day, the Lord visits us, speaks to us, reveals Himself in unexpected ways, and He will come again at the end of life and time. The Lord therefore urges us to stay awake, be vigilant, and persevere in waiting. ”

The Holy Fathers Intentions for December: We pray for that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

For the Sick and Housebound: God of all goodness, Look with mercy on all who suffer any kind of infirmity, sickness or injury, that they may be comforted. Let your hand of healing and protection be upon them. When they are fearful, ease their fear and anxieties. When they are afraid, give them strength and courage. When they feel alone, send them someone to listen and to care. When they are confused, provide reassurance and direction. When they are in pain, ease their suffering. When they despair, give them hope. May they experience your healing presence through the most Blessed Sacrament today. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

UPDATE: We have had a few positive meetings with the insurers over the last week, and are now waiting for a decision. Fire damage is obvious but smoke damage not so, special care is then being taken to ensure what needs to be fixed will be so. It will be into the New Year when hopefully things will begin. Today we are re introducing Holy Communion under both kinds at the 10am Mass, please sip from the chalice or instinct (dip) your host in, ensuring it does not fall on the floor please. On a personal note treatment is going well at the moment but Friday was interesting: eyes in the morning, followed by Chemo in the afternoon and then radium in the evening, boy was I glowing come Friday night! Let's keep up our prayers for each other, and really prepare for Jesus this Advent. Thank you MJK



ADVENT JOURNEYING WITH MARY led by Sr Ann McCabe: in the Parish Hall on Wednesday 11th December at 7pm. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and mince pies after, come and prepare!

CAFOD: Now is the time to order your World Gifts, from goats to chickens & trees to firewood, the gifts that keep on giving. You can order by phone, by post or online. Find out more at www.cafod.org.uk/worldgifts : it's been a very challenging year & CAFOD sends a heartfelt THANK YOU to St. Bernard's for £860 raised this autumn.



GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW Our 1st draw took place last Sunday and the winners were: - Ticket No 334 Allan Dixon, 431 Christine Blackburn, 429 Michael Lynch, and 214 Michael Moran. Each won £25. The 2nd draw will take in the Parish Hall after Mass when 4 more people will win £25 each. These draws are just the run up to our Main Draw which will take place next Sunday after Mass and the prizes will be as follows:- 1st Prize £400, 2nd £300, 3rd £200, 4th £100, 5th £50, 6th £25. There will also be 2 prizes of £25

each for our agents as a thank you for selling tickets. Good luck to all who have bought tickets and it's not too late to buy a ticket which are at the back of church and be entered into the Main Draw providing you make your return before next Sunday's morning Mass. All proceeds will go towards the church heating costs



CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA Saturday 14th December Parish Hall from 12 noon. Can you help by baking a cake or two or helping on the day ? If so please contact Bernadette on 07796 786049.

CHRISTMAS CANDLES are available from today . The candles cost £3-50 and will placed in the Lady chapel on Christmas Eve. Let this candle be a silent prayer for family members during the sacredness of the Christmas season

ADVENT BOXES FOR MARY'S MEALS Please support our Advent appeal last year we fed 250 Children, once again the Government has agreed to double whatever is collected. Thanks.

Prayer for Mary's Meals Our Father give us this day our daily bread and forgive us for the times when we take more than our share of the bread that belongs to all. Let us help You fill the starving with good things, not with scraps from our table. Teach us how to share what is not ours to keep. Clothe us with Your love that we may complete each good work you created us to do. Place in our hearts Your compassion for each starving child and use our little acts of love so that they starve no more. Amen

Last week's collection total £651 Thank you

Groups now open:

Monday - Young At Heart 11.30am to 1.30pm

Tuesday - Toddler's Group 9.30am to 11.30am. Places are available for parents/ carer and toddler(s). Please contact Anne Cummins 07305 392612.

Thursday - Drop Inn 10.00am to 1.30pm

Sacrament of Marriage: 6 months notice must be given, please see Father to make arrangements.

Sacrament of Baptism Please introduce yourselves to Father after Sunday Mass, your details will be taken and our team can begin the process to organise this wonderful Sacrament for your child.


SAFEGUARDING; Our parish community is committed to Safeguarding to ensure the well being of all members of our community. All volunteers over the age of 18 must have a DBS check every 3years. The Parish Safeguarding Coordinator is Christine Robinson and she is very happy to assist you in completing any paperwork required. She usually attends the 10.00 Sunday Mass if you wish to speak to her or can be contacted by email at - christine.robinson.safeguarding@outlook.com

BURNAGE FOOD BANK; opening times are: Tuesday 12.30pm-2.30pm St Nicholas Church Hall, Kingsway, Burnage M19 1PL and Friday 3pm-5pm St Bernard's Church Hall, Burnage Lane, M19 1DR. www.burnagefoodbank.org.uk or tel: 07936698546.

Trips and Pilgrimages

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025, Wednesday 30th July – Wednesday 6th August; To register your interest please contact Ann on 0161 442 5259. Staying at the Hotel St George; hotel, half board, transfers, city tax included £551 + Air fare. We hope to take 6 young people with us this time round.

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Manchester and Trafford hospital Roman Catholic Priest Chaplain: 0161 276 8792 and for Wythenshawe Hospital 0161 291 2297