

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC PARISH

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Sunday 16th December 2018

Gaudete Sunday

Reflection:

*A Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks, and a hand through which Christ helps.
St Augustine of Hippo*

We are born to love, we live to love, and we will die to love still more. St Joseph Cafasso

Your Prayers are requested for:

Ian Brown, Bridget Hart, Christine & Stuart Hiley, Marian Sykes, Pearl Maly, John Baguley, Eileen Atwood, Molly Coaten, Betty Humphries, Bridie Higgins, Eva Gol, Bette Hughes, Sarah Pearson, Irene Larnier, Joseph Larnier, James Larnier, Pat & Noel McCarthy, Lena Parrish, Len Sparks, Annie MacPherson, Iris Foster, Vincent Doran, Pat Pool, Joe Barrett, Alan Chambers, Pat Saville, Lorraine Martin.

Rest in Peace

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently especially **Veronica Bullock RIP**, Fr Tom Breslin, Fred Cousins, Fr Oliver Martin, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Rex Smithurst, Nora Appleby, Angela West, Hilda Warner, Irene Haselwood.

May they rest in peace.

Third Sunday in Advent

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:10-18

John the Baptist teaches the path of repentance and announces Christ.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday's Gospel continues last week's focus on John the Baptist and his role in preparing the way for Christ. Recall that last week's reading described John's appearance in the desert and established his connection with the prophetic tradition of Israel. If we were to read Luke's Gospel continuously, we would learn about John the Baptist challenging the crowds who came to him and calling upon them to show evidence of their repentance. John tells his listeners that they cannot rely on their lineage as Israelites because children of Abraham can be raised up from stones. Repentance, rather, must be observable in one's actions. Here, Luke is continuing to set up two important themes of his Gospel message: the Christian faith is expressed in one's actions, and the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles.

In today's Gospel reading, the crowds ask John the Baptist for specifics. What evidence of repentance is required? John replies by naming concrete actions: crowds should share their food and cloaks; tax collectors should be just; soldiers should act fairly. The concern for justice is a hallmark of Luke's Gospel.

When the crowd begins to wonder if John the Baptist might be the Messiah, John interprets his baptism and makes it clear that his ministry is in preparation for the Messiah. John the Baptist knows his place and role in God's plan of salvation. By encouraging the crowd to act similarly in accordance with their stations in life, John's teaching suggests that each person has a role to play in God's salvation. It is the great mystery of our salvation that God permits and even asks for human cooperation in his divine plans.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. Some people mark this Sunday by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on their Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>

Those Seriously Ill at this Time:

Please remember in your prayers those who are very ill at this time including: **Ian Brown**, Molly Coaten, Muriel Hartley, Sr. Rita McCauley, Mary King, Kathleen Bates, Sarah Gray.

Lord Jesus watch over all who suffer and are in pain. Bless all who care for them. Our Lady, Health of the Sick, pray for them.

Finance:

Plate and Envelopes: £606.00,

Sick and Retired Priest Fund: £3173.00

Many thanks for your generosity.

Second collection this weekend

15th /16th December: Poor and Needy Parishes

Christmas Offering

The collection taken up on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be your personal gift to Fr. Paul as is the custom. If you are unlikely to be at a Mass at Holy Trinity those days and wish to show your appreciation for Fr. Paul's ministry, please see Maureen Eldridge (Saturday), Alan Wright (Sunday).

Christmas Raffle Draw

Raffle Tickets are on sale after both weekend Masses and the Draw will take place after this Sunday Mass 16th December. Many thanks to those who have donated gifts for prizes and purchased tickets.

First Holy Communion Programme

First Holy Communion Programme will continue this Tuesday December 18th at 5:30pm . Fr Paul

Advent Reconciliation Service

This will take place on **Tuesday December 18th at 7:00pm**. We have two visiting confessors. Please enter into the "spirit" of Advent which is a penitential season during which the Church urges us to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in order to purify our souls before Christmas.

The Funeral service for the late Fred Cousins RIP will take place at our church on Wednesday December 19th at 11:00am. May he rest in peace.

Advent Carol Service Wednesday December 19th 7:00pm

Please note the new time of the Christmas Carol Service.

Next Saturday (22nd): Outreach in downtown Holbeach!

Next Saturday some of us are going down to the shopping area in Holbeach to hand out flyers on which are our Christmas Mass times, a picture of the nativity scene along with part of the nativity story from scripture. This flyer will be attached to a freezer bag in which will be a mince pie. Please come and help us distribute these items to shoppers and do our bit to reach out with the Christmas Gospel message to the people of Holbeach. We will meet in the Walsingham room after Saturday morning Mass and begin to fill the bags with mince-pies and attach the flyers. We need several more volunteers to help us with this project. Can you spare an hour or two next Saturday? Fr Paul

The Sacrament of Confirmation Summer 2019

There will be a Confirmation programme beginning in late January 2019 (probably 21st January). This course will be run at St Norbert's in Spalding and will take place on Monday evenings at 6:00pm. This programme is open to youngsters in our parish who are in year 8 and above and have made their First Holy Communion. Exceptions may be made for Year 7 pupils who come to Mass each week. Fr Paul will be involved in it. Teenagers who would like to participate on the programme are asked to speak to Fr Paul as soon as possible.

Our Christmas Crib Charity Donations this Year

The donations given at the Crib this Christmas will be sent to the charity *Friends of the Holy Land* that supports the most vulnerable Christians who live in and around Bethlehem. Bishop Patrick has asked all the parishes of our diocese to consider supporting this charity this year. See www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk for more information.

Lay Chaplains

The directors of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust are seeking to appoint 3 lay chaplains. For further information on these vacancies please visit their website www.ololcatholicmat.co.uk . Closing date 19 December

Advent Services and Christmas Mass Times

Advent Reconciliation Service with visiting Priests to hear

Confessions: December Tuesday 18th 7:00pm

Advent Carol Service: December Wednesday 19th **7:00pm**

Christmas Vigil Mass: December 24th 6:30pm

“Midnight” Mass in Polish: December 24th 10:00pm

Christmas Day Mass: 9:30pm

**Wednesday 19th Dec 2018
at 7.00pm in the Church**

Christmas Carol Service

Holy Trinity Church

Holbeach

(Foxes Low Road/ Fleet Rd)

**FREE Entrance
And
Car Park**



**Christmas Carols,
Poems, Readings
from Scripture,
Refreshments**

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Feast Day December 12

On December 9, 1531, a 57-year-old Aztec, Juan Diego, saw the Blessed Mother on a hill in Mexico City. She told Juan to have a church built in her honor. When Juan went to ask Bishop Zumarraga about this, the bishop did not understand the Indian dialect—and he did not believe in the vision Juan described

Three days later, on December 12, Mary appeared again to Juan Diego, and this time she gave him a sign for the bishop. “Take these roses to the bishop,” she said, as she arranged in his cloak beautiful roses she had Juan Diego pick from the hillside although it was winter. When he was admitted into the bishop’s room, Juan Diego opened his cloak, and out dropped the roses. On the cloak there remained an image of Mary as she had appeared to Juan Diego.

The image of Mary on the cloak is known as Our Lady of Guadalupe for an interesting reason. On that same day, Mary appeared to Juan’s uncle and cured him, giving him a message for the bishop, saying that she would “crush the serpent’s head.” The bishop did not understand the Indians’ language. The Indian word for “crush the serpent” sounded to him like “Guadalupe,” the name of Mary’s shrine in Spain. Thinking that the Virgin wanted the new shrine to have the same name, the bishop called her Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Mary appeared to Juan Diego dressed as an Aztec woman to show her love and compassion to an oppressed group of people. Mary had heard the prayers and pain of these people, and she came to give them hope.

Mary’s visit to Guadalupe is a reminder that God will remember his mercy for all people. In Mary’s song of joy, the Magnificat, she praised God because he has put down the mighty, exalted the lowly, filled the hungry, and sent the rich away empty. People honor Our Lady of Guadalupe because they recognize her motherly concern for them.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/our-lady-of-guadalupe>

Family Connection

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:10-18

John the Baptist teaches the path of repentance and announces Christ.

The theme of the season of Advent is sometimes described as a period of waiting for the birth of Jesus. However, today's Gospel reading suggests something different. John the Baptist did not tell the crowds to wait for the Messiah. He told them to prepare for the Messiah through acts of repentance. If Advent is a time of waiting, it is not the sitting in the doctor's office kind of waiting. It is a busy time of preparation, more like the waiting we might do when preparing for dinner guests. Our challenge is to not make this season a frenzied time, but rather a time of joyful anticipation and making ready for God who comes to dwell among us and changes our lives with the gift of salvation.

As you gather as a family, talk about the preparations your family is making during the season of Advent. Reflect together on these activities, not only on what you are doing but why you are choosing to do these things. Read together today's Gospel, Luke 3:10-18. Consider how Advent is a time for making ourselves ready to receive Jesus in our lives. Could your family make some changes in your Advent activities so that each person is well prepared to celebrate the gift of salvation at Christmas? Conclude in prayer together that your family will be able to live the spirit of Advent. Sing together an Advent song, such as "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" or pray together today's second reading, Philippians 4:4-7, as you light the third candle on your Advent wreath.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>

Prayer for Priestly Vocations

O Lord, my God, You renew the Church in every age by raising up priests outstanding in holiness, living witnesses of your unchanging love. In your plan of salvation You provide shepherds for your people. Fill the hearts of young men with the spirit of courage and love that they may answer your call generously.

Give parents, families, friends and communities the grace to encourage vocations by prayer and good example. Raise up worthy priests for your altars and ardent but gentle servants of the Gospel.

MASS & PRAYER TIMES — THIS WEEK

SAT 15th December	6:30pm	Vigil Mass: Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete Sunday)	People of the Parish
SUN 16th December	9:30am	Third Sunday in Advent (Gaudete Sunday)	Holy Souls
MON 17th December	9:00am <u>*6:30pm</u>	Advent Feria Legion of Mary	Marie Russell
TUE 18th December	9:30am 2:30-3:30pm 5:30pm 7:00pm	Advent Feria Prayer Group: Adoration, Rosary & Chaplet First Holy Communion Group <u>Advent Reconciliation Service</u>	Violet and Ben Harrington RIP
WED 19th December	<u>*8:30am</u> 11:00am 7:00pm	Advent Feria Funeral Service for the late Advent Carol Service	Priest's Intention Fred Cousins RIP
THU 20th December	9:00am 9:45am-12:00 7:30pm	Advent Feria Adoration of the B. Sacrament Mass in Polish	Irene Haselwood RIP Priest's Intention
FRI 21st December	9:00am 3:00pm	St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor (Commemoration) Divine Mercy Chaplet	Fr Tom Breslin RIP
SAT 22nd December	10:00am 10:45-11:45am 5:45-6:20pm 6:30pm	Advent Feria Sacrament of Reconciliation Sacrament of Reconciliation Vigil Mass: Fourth Sunday of Advent Readers: Patryk and Debbie	Protection of the Unborn Child People of the Parish
SUN 23rd December	9:30am	Fourth Sunday of Advent Readers: Jacqui and James	Holy Souls