



22 December 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel. (Micah 5:1-2)

Faith in Focus

Jumping the gun

We live in an instant society. If we wish to speak to Australia, we pick up the phone. If we want to know about the traffic in Times Square, we go on the internet. If we require a Chinese banquet, then we order a take away. We have got used to the quality of life being measured by the speed at which we are served.

Maybe that's why we can't wait for Christmas. The store displays are up in October. The festive streetlights are switched on in November and the strains of "I'm dreaming of a white Christmas" are already proving to be a bit repetitive, especially when we're feeling a little precious after yet another Christmas party. Even our schools have moved on following the success of their Nativity Plays.

Not so with the Church. One of the loveliest seasons is that of Advent because, in a world that cannot wait, it teaches us to savour the promise that is to come. Advent is a time of preparation, of readying ourselves, of longing expectation for one of the most important feasts of the year.

In just a few days we will come face to face with what it means for God to have shared our human lot. Knowing that we could not make it by ourselves, God agreed to enter into our world of time. The baby in the manger is God's human matrix, God's pattern for how to be fully a man, fully a woman. And by coming as a defenceless child God endured all our limitations. There

is no depth to which God will not stoop, for he consented to be like you and me.

Just as nobody gulps down a glass of vintage wine in one go, so we take time to savour the full impact of God's coming in our midst. We hear the ringing tones of Advent echoing the themes of coming, fulfilment, wonder, justice, harvest, judgement, joy, exultation, expectation, anticipation, motherhood, growth, maturity, gratitude, power, vigilance, preparation, promise and liberation.

Not long now. Just a few days. Days to cherish the never-ending goodness of our God. Days to thank him for bothering with us.

Votive lamps

This week, at Holy Name, the votive lamps burning either side of the Blessed Sacrament are for **the intentions of Margaret M^cCourt and the Colbeck family.**

This week, at Our Lady & St Philomena, the votive lamp burning before the relic of St Philomena is for **the families of M^cQuaid, Falloon and Beadley for their intentions.**

**Family of parishes:
Blessed Sacrament, Holy Name and
Our Lady & St Philomena**

Archdiocese of Liverpool
Parishes of Holy Name and
Our Lady & Saint Philomena

Clergy:

Fr Mark Fairhurst, Parish Priest

Fr Anthony Afaako, Assistant Priest

Based at: Holy Name Presbytery, Moss Pits
Lane, Fazakerley, L10 9LG

Telephone: 0151 476 0289

Email: holyname@rcaol.org.uk

Facebook: HolyNameandStPhilomena

www.holynamestphilomenas.wordpress.com

Serving the Churches of:

Holy Name, Moss Pits Lane, L10 9LG

Our Lady & Saint Philomena, Sparrow Hall
Road, L9 6BU

Parish office at Holy Name: Open Monday,
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.00 am
to 12.30 pm, and 1.30 pm to 5.00 pm.

Baptisms: By prior arrangement.

Confessions: Holy Name on Saturday from
5.30 pm, Our Lady & St Philomena on
Wednesday from 6.30 pm or by request.

Funerals and Marriages: By arrangement.

Rosary: Before each weekday Mass.

Novena: After Wednesday evening Mass at
Our Lady & St Philomena.

Exposition: Holy Name, Thursday at 9.15 am

Visits to sick and housebound: Please
contact the parish office.

Hospital visits: If you wish to see a priest,
please let the hospital staff know.

Mass requests: Please complete the pre-
printed envelopes and place in the Mass
intention box. Please also specify the reason
for the intention, i.e. lately dead, anniversary
etc. For a particular day, please request early.
To enable more Mass intentions to be said in
the parish and not sent away, the Mass may
be shared unless you request otherwise.

Newsletter notices: Please e-mail to
holyname@rcaol.org.uk or hand in to the
Parish Office by Thursday morning.

Repository: Open before and after Mass.



Archdiocese of Liverpool
Registered Charity Number 1199714

Readings at Mass

Scan the QR code for the Mass readings.

1st reading: Micah 5:2-5a

2nd reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45



Psalm response

Bring us back, O God; let your face shine
forth, and we shall be saved.

Thank you

Your offerings this week total £854.52

Christmas Masses

The Christmas Masses in our family of
parishes will be celebrated on:

Tuesday 24 December (Vigil Mass)

6.30 pm - Our Lady & St Philomena

6.30 pm - Blessed Sacrament (*Carols at 6
pm*)

8.00 pm - Holy Name (*Carols at 7.30 pm*)

11.00 pm - Blessed Sacrament (*Carols at
10.30 pm*)

Wednesday 25 December (Christmas Day)

10.00 am - Our Lady & St Philomena

10.00 am - Blessed Sacrament

11.00 am - Holy Name

Thursday 26 December (Boxing Day)

10.00 am - Holy Name

12 noon - Blessed Sacrament

Thank you

Thank you for the warm welcome, support
and assistance since our arrival in our
parishes. May God's blessing and grace be
with you and your families at Christmas and
throughout the year.

Fr Mark and Fr Anthony

Carols on Christmas Eve

Enjoy the start of the Christmas
celebrations with festive carols at Holy
Name on Christmas Eve at 7.30 pm.

Thank you

Thank you to the parishioners who kindly
donated to the church Christmas tree and
flowers at Holy Name.

Prayer at Christmas

In our parishes and homes let us say this prayer together as we celebrate Christmas.

Dear Jesus, at this time of year, we picture you in the stable at Bethlehem, with Mary and Joseph, a picture of peace and family love, surrounded by the animals and adoring shepherds.

We pray that the peace you brought into the world on that first Christmas night will return to our world, and the light of your guiding star will lead us all one day to be with you in Heaven. Amen.

Nativity

At Holy Name, please stay at the end of Mass this Sunday to enjoy the 'little church' nativity. It's only 10 minutes and a great start to our Christmas celebrations.

Christmas message

The Christmas message from Archbishop Malcolm is available to read on the parish website, church noticeboard and printed copies are available in church.

A video version is available on the Archdiocese YouTube account <https://youtu.be/DJH35DW2DuU>

Thank you

By the time you read this message the hampers, hopefully, will have been delivered.

I would like to say a big thank you for your generous contributions of food, toys, games and financial help. The pyjama fund was wonderful, over 90 PJ's in all. Your kindness will make a big difference to families. Thanks to each person who gave of their time helping to organise and deliver the hampers. *Sr Kathleen.*

Numbers galore

Numbers are 10 and 14. Three winners.

My Day by Day

The January 'My Day by Day' booklets are available in church.

Holy Water stoop

At Holy Name, you may have noticed the new **Holy Water stoop** in the church porch. This was a gift to the parish, and it means we no longer need to use the bowl on top of the baptismal font. It is hoped to obtain a second one in the new year.

We bless ourselves as a reminder of our baptism but also as a **sacramental**: "It can banish demons, heal the sick, and send unwarranted grace upon us. Holy Water is one of those beautiful gifts (and weapons) from God to keep us sanctified and holy in our daily lives, and to keep the things we regularly use sanctified and holy."

Raffle

At St Philomena's on Sunday, we will be having a raffle for a hamper, £1 strip and also be selling gift wrapped chocolate bags. Any money raised will go towards our Christmas hampers.

Thanks, Sr Kathleen.

Raffle - Holy Name

For the raffle held at Holy Name, the winning tickets for Christmas hampers are:

1st prize: Ticket 101 - 105

2nd prize: Ticket 981 - 985

3rd prize: Ticket 501 - 505

£303 raised for the SVP. Thank you.

Christmas Mass intentions

From Christmas Eve until the Epiphany there will be no individual Mass intentions. This is to allow everyone the opportunity to have Mass intentions offered during the Christmas period. Envelopes are available in church.

Living Faith

The January to March Living Faith booklets are available in church.

Parish office

The parish office will be closed from noon on Tuesday 24 December and will reopen on Thursday 2 January.

Day	Time	Church	Intention
Fourth Sunday of Advent			
Saturday 21st	12 noon	St Philomena	Nuptial Mass: Hannah Kate Jackson and Robert James Kidd
	5.30 pm	Holy Name	<i>Confessions until 5.50 pm</i>
	6.00 pm	Holy Name	People of our Parishes Raphael and Maria Lopez, 24 th wedding anniversary
Sunday 22nd	9.30 am	St Philomena	Mrs Aleyamma Kurian, 1 st death anniversary Tony Duffy, anniversary
	9.30 am	Hospital	Jimmy Finn, RIP
	11.00 am	Holy Name	Lyndsey Strahan, Christmas remembrance Yvonne Gibbons, 60 th birthday
Monday 23rd	1.00 pm	St Philomena	Funeral: Richard Hartless, RIP
Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve	6.30 pm	St Philomena	Christmas intentions
	7.30 pm	Holy Name	Carols
	8.00 pm	Holy Name	Christmas intentions
Wednesday 25th Christmas Day	10.00 am	St Philomena	Christmas intentions
	11.00 am	Holy Name	Christmas intentions
Thursday 26th	10.00 am	Holy Name	Christmas intentions
Friday 27th	10.00 am	St Philomena	Christmas intentions
Feast of the Holy Family			
Saturday 28th	5.30 pm	Holy Name	<i>Confessions until 5.50 pm</i>
	6.00 pm	Holy Name	Christmas intentions
Sunday 29th	9.30 am	St Philomena	Christmas intentions
	9.30 am	Hospital	Staff and patients
	11.00 am	Holy Name	People of our Parishes
<p>We remember in our prayers those who have died recently Joan Derby, Richard Hartless, Diane Gadsby, Winifred Hill, Thomas Richard Forshaw May they rest in peace</p>			

Name of parish Holy Name 148

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LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICE

Name of parish

Our Lady and St Philomena 168

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LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICE

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