



15 December 2024

Third Sunday of Advent (Year C) – Gaudete Sunday

The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. (Zephaniah 3:15)

Faith in Focus

Happy and glorious

It was easier for the first Christians to have that sense of expectancy about the return of Jesus at the second coming. They were closer to him in time, and the sense of urgency was more pronounced. 2000 years later we have to make an effort to remind ourselves that the second coming is something real and not just a fairy tale.

The early Church felt that the Lord was very near and his return was imminent. So St Paul exhorts them to be happy at all times. This happiness is not just a pleasant feeling. It's real joy, and joy is a much deeper thing than happiness.

When a grandmother is given a birthday present by a grandchild, she feels happy at the gift. But deep down she feels a more profound emotion. She feels a warmth, a sense of wellbeing, a glow of pride at having brought up her family and been given strength to see them grow to maturity. A pride and satisfaction that is symbolised in the action of the young child. If the gift breaks she will feel unhappy, but that deeper joy cannot be so easily shattered.

That's the difference between happiness and joy. Oddly enough, you can experience joy even when you are unhappy. And as we wait for the final coming of Jesus, as we celebrate Advent, we are urged like the early Church to shout for joy, to rejoice, to exult and share in God's glory.

Our faith does not change what happens to us in life. We do not embark on an Advent

pretence that all is rosy in our world, that happiness is on every street corner. But what our faith does allow to do is to view things in a broader perspective. Christ came, and will come again, to set us free, to liberate us from despair and futility. If we really believe this, then we carry around with us a joy that the world cannot understand and which can never be taken away from us.

Advent stands as a sign that Christ is Lord of all creation, of all situations. We do not simply look forward to the crib and the carol service. On this "Gaudete" (Rejoice) Sunday we expect a final visitation that will vindicate the whole reason for our Christian existence. And that's the reason for our joy.

Votive lamps

This week, at Holy Name, the votive lamps burning either side of the Blessed Sacrament are for **the intentions of Richard and Alice Brocken Sr. and Eileen English**

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

**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: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

2nd reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18



Psalm response

Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in
your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Thank you

Your offerings this week total £888.71 and
for St Anthony's Bread £56.61

Gaudete Sunday

Today is known as 'Gaudete Sunday',
coming from the Latin word meaning
'rejoice'. God expects us to be happy at all
times, says St Paul, and to live lives of
gratitude for all that he does for us. What do
we have to thank our Advent God for?

Rose coloured vestments are worn, and we
light the rose-coloured candle on our advent
wreath, in joyous anticipation of the Lord's
coming.

Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes to
Hannah Kate Jackson and Robert James
Kidd who celebrate their wedding at Our
Lady & St Philomena on Saturday 21
December.

Baptism

Congratulations to Mason Drak Mirga,
Harlow Steven Jeffrey Hughes, Bonnie
Sinclair, Derrie Kim-Billie Simpson, Oliver
Freddy Jennings, Gracie Louise Gallagher,
Daniel Stephen Gallagher, Zak James
Gallagher and Myla-Lily M^cNichol who
receive the sacrament of baptism at Our
Lady & St Philomena on Saturday 14
December.

Congratulations to Harry Robert Moon,
Sadie Lin Ager, Isla Mae Goldie and John
Steven Goldie who receive the sacrament of
baptism at Holy Name on Sunday 15
December.

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

Raffle – St Philomena

For the raffle held at St Philomena, the winning tickets for Christmas hampers are:

1st prize: Ticket 361 – 365

2nd prize: Ticket 571 – 575

3rd prize: Ticket 266 – 270

All prizes have been claimed. £150 raised for the SVP. Thank you.

School nativity

Our Lady & St Philomena Catholic primary school are holding a school nativity at Our Lady & St Philomena church at 9.30 am on Wednesday 18 December.

Carols on Christmas Eve

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

Christmas flowers

There is a collection at Our Lady & St Philomena this weekend for Christmas flowers.

First Communion

First Communion preparation is taking a break and will restart in the new year. Details will be announced in the newsletter, parish website and Facebook page.

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.

Numbers galore

Numbers are 20 and 43. Triple rollover.

Christmas hampers appeal

Any donations of luxury items for our Christmas hampers such as toiletries, chocolates, mince pies etc. will be greatly appreciated. Please bring to St Philomena's Church. *Thanks, Sr Kathleen*

Support at Christmas

Christmas can be a hard time for many reasons. The mental health charity Mind has put together some resources for supporting people who are struggling at Christmas. The website is <https://mind.org.uk>

Candle lit Advent Mass

Youth Alive's Advent Mass is 15 December at 5 pm at St Mary's Lowe House, St Helens, WA10 2BE. Followed by Christmas quiz, refreshments and Christmas jumper competition. Lourdes DBS clinic before Mass from 3.30 pm to 5 pm.

Flame 2025

Flame is the largest Catholic Youth Event in the country and takes place at Wembley arena on Saturday 15 March 2025. More details at <https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/>

A coach will leave from Lowe House and return on the same day. Tickets and travel £60. Application forms and more information at admin@animateyouth.co.uk

**We remember in our prayers
those who have died recently**

Richard Hartless, Diane Gadsby
Winifred Hill, Thomas Richard Forshaw
May they rest in peace

Day	Time	Church	Intention
Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)			
Saturday 14th	5.30 pm	Holy Name	Confessions until 5.50 pm
	6.00 pm	Holy Name	Christina Schumacher, birthday Paul Johnson, sick. Recovery from strokes
Sunday 15th	9.30 am	St Philomena	People of our Parishes Boney Varghese, 2 nd death anniversary
	9.30 am	Hospital	Marie Fazakerley, RIP
	11.00 am	Holy Name	Ferel Medhanie Weldehiwet, anniversary John Riley, lately dead
Monday 16th			No service
Tuesday 17th	10.00 am	Holy Name	Rene M ^c Cabe, lately dead Phyllis Glancy, Christmas intentions
Wednesday 18th	9.30 am	St Philomena	School nativity
	10.00 am	Holy Name	John Glover, special intention Fenton Soden, recovery from surgery
	6.30 pm	St Philomena	Confessions until 6.50 pm
	7.00 pm	St Philomena	Ann, thank you Cathy Crossley, intentions
Thursday 19th	10.00 am	Holy Name	Randall Lockett, 5 th anniversary Graham Harrison, 1 st anniversary, RIP
Friday 20th	10.00 am	St Philomena	Peter M ^c Kenna, RIP Joan M ^c Carron, birthday
Fourth Sunday of Advent			
Saturday 21st	12 noon	St Philomena	Nuptial Mass: Hannah Kate Jackson and Robert James Kidd
	5.30 pm	Holy Name	Confessions until 5.50 pm
	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

Name of parish Holy Name 148

Name and address of your own bank **To** The Manager
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LIVERPOOL
L2 6PG

Sort code 40-29-12

Parish bank account number **for the credit of**
Account name 148 Holy Name Presbytery
Account number 91543830

the sum of
(in words)

(in figures) £.....

commencing

and thereafter monthly/annually

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until you receive further notice from me/us in writing

Please insert the title and number of
your own bank account **and debit my account accordingly**

Account name

Account number

Signature

Date



LIVERPOOL ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICE

Name of parish

Our Lady and St Philomena 168

Name and address of your own bank

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The Manager

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Please pay to

Bank name

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99-101 Lord Street
LIVERPOOL
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Parish bank account number

for the credit of

Account name

168 Archdiocese of Liverpool
St Philomena V M Presbytery

Account number

61544446

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(in words)

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commencing

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Delete as applicable

and thereafter

monthly/annually

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