



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

PARISH SCHEDULE

Sun 10th	Adoration & Confession 09:15 Quiet Prayer	
	2nd Sunday of Advent 10:30 Mass & Choir	
	Parish Community 11:45 Refreshments	
	Holy Hour 12:15 Rosary & Prayers	
Mon 11th	Advent: Week 2 08:00 Mass	
Tue 12th	Advent: Week 2 09:15 School Mass	
Wed 13th	St. Lucy	
Thu 14th	St. John of the Cross 12:00 Mass	
	Parish Community 12:30 Friendship Group	
	Retreat: Child of God 18:30 Mass 19:00 Praise & Worship 19:15 Witness Testimony 20:15 Refreshments	
Fri 15th	Advent: Week 2	
	Parish Community 13:30 Flower Club	
Sat 16th	Sacramental Programme 11:00 Session 3	
	Advent: Week 2 12:00 Mass	
	Adoration & Confession 17:00 Quiet Prayer	
Sun 17th	3rd Sunday of Advent 17:30 Vigil Mass	
	Adoration & Confession 09:15 Quiet Prayer	
	3rd Sunday of Advent 10:30 Mass & Choir	
	Parish Community 11:45 Refreshments	
	Holy Hour 12:15 Prayers for the Parish	

REMINDER

A short reminder that the third session for the Sacramental Programme is next Saturday, Dec 16th at the new time of 11am. As with Mass, please sign in at least 10 minutes before the start time.

PREPARE A WAY FOR THE LORD

Jesus didn't just arrive in the world unannounced. God's plan of salvation unfolded over thousands of years. He revealed himself first to the Jewish people in various ways through the patriarchs and prophets and in signs and wonders.

John the Baptist is seen to be the last of the prophets and a figure that therefore connects Old and New Testaments. Matthew and Luke begin their Gospels with the Nativity. Today we hear the start of Mark's Gospel which actually begins with the figure of John the Baptist.

John pointed to a person but also pointed out to people what they should be doing. We hear that he was "...proclaiming a baptism of repentance." Despite the great crowds flocking to him to confess their sins, he said humbly, "Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals."

Just as God prepared for his Son to be born across the centuries, so we are asked to prepare ourselves humbly for Christmas, so that it can be a time of grace and blessing for us. Confession is available before both weekend Masses and that is the ideal preparation for Christmas.

God bless, Fr Kevin.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Saturday 23rd	17.30pm	4th Sunday of Advent Vigil Mass	 Saint Francis
Sunday 24th	10.30am	4th Sunday of Advent	 Sacred Heart
	11.45am	Mary's Meals Soup Lunch	 Parish Centre
	12.15pm	Christmas Concert	 Sacred Heart
	17.30pm	Christmas Day Mass	 Saint Francis
	10:30pm	Christmas Carols	 Sacred Heart
	11:00pm	Christmas Vigil Mass	 Sacred Heart
Monday 25th	10.30am	Christmas Day Mass and Choir	 Sacred Heart

RIGHT TO LIFE UK

Let us pray for our politicians and decision-makers, that they would always strive to protect all human life and human dignity from the point of conception till natural death. . **Lord hear us.**

PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH

MASS INTENTIONS:

The greatest prayer we can offer is the Sacrifice of the Holy Mass. If you would like a mass to be offered for a specific intention, detail this and enclose an offering of £10 or more in an envelope (noting if it should be kept private). Pass this to Fr. Kevin or place in the offertory basket.

ANNIVERSARY: AMY BROOKS (5TH)

RECENTLY DECEASED: SR. JOHANNA,

RIP AND FAMILY INTENTIONS: OHI ATANGA

PRIVATE: ONE

OUR BRETHREN WHO ARE UNWELL

AMBER McCOURT, ELIZABETH SENGHORE, LENNY, JOHN AND MARJORIE FISHER, MAGGIE JOYCE, SHEILA DOWNEY, TOMMY LOFTUS.

POPE FRANCIS:

2024 Year of Prayer

"May it be an intense year of prayer in which hearts are opened to receive the outpouring of God's grace."

POPE FRANCIS: LET US ENTRUST PEACE IN THE WORLD TO MARY

"I ask everyone, especially the faithful of Rome, to unite themselves spiritually to me in this act of entrustment to our Mother," the Pope said, "praying particularly for peace, peace in Ukraine, peace in Palestine and Israel, and in every land wounded by war. Let us ask for peace, that hearts might be at peace, that there be peace!"



CONTACT US

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ADVENT RETREAT EVENINGS

One of the ways that you can "watch and wait" this Advent is to attend the retreat evenings, TWO are still to take place. Each evening begins with Mass at 6.30 p.m. followed by music, prayer, talks, blessings and consecrations. Three excellent lay preachers will be involved. Similar parish events in the past have brought many blessings. Please do make the most of these opportunities.

- **Thursday 14 December** 6.30 p.m.
"A child of God at Christmas"
- **Thursday 21 December** 6.30 p.m.
"The Motherhood of Mary at Christmas"

PILGRIMS OF HOPE JUBILEE 2025

A Jubilee is a special year of grace, in which the Catholic Church offers the faithful the possibility of asking for a plenary indulgence – a remission of sins for themselves or deceased loved ones. In preparation for the 2025 Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee, Pope Francis has designated **2024 as a Year of Prayer**, beginning this Advent. The year will have a special focus on the Our Father prayer so the Diocese have released this video: <https://youtu.be/RjWoPqxUnc0>



BLESSED ARE THE SOUP-MAKERS!

mary's
meals

Please could more people volunteer to make a batch of soup for Sunday 24 December so that we can, as a parish, have a shared soup lunch for Mary's Meals, and then enjoy the Christmas Concert.

GORTON ADVENT WINDOWS

The Gorton Advent Windows project is working with local schools, youth groups, churches and business to create a new Christmas experience for our community through December 2023. Each day a new Nativity picture will appear in a window, somewhere in Gorton. The pictures have been created by the children and young people of Gorton, some from our two schools. For more information see: <https://gortonwindows.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/GortonAdventWindows>

ADVENT PRAYER

In this Advent of expectation draw us together in unity, that our praise and worship might echo in these walls and also through our lives.

In this Advent of expectation draw us together in mission, that the hope within might be the song we sing, and the melody of our lives.

In this Advent of expectation draw us together in service, that the path we follow might lead us from a stable to a glimpse of eternity.
Amen.

PARISH OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

WEEKEND: 2nd & 3rd Dec		
 Basket		£132.80
 Basket		£387.90
 Online		£175.00

Please consider switching to making your offertory contributions by **Standing Order**. Forms are available at the back of each church, or you can set up with your bank directly using these details:

TSDT SACRED HEART & ST FRANCIS GORTON,
20-55-34
20707600

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First reading: Isaiah

'Console my people, console them' says your God.

'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.

Make a straight highway for our God across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low.

Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley;

then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,

joyful messenger to Zion.

Shout with a loud voice,

joyful messenger to Jerusalem.

Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,
his arm subduing all things to him.

The prize of his victory is with him,
his trophies all go before him.

He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,
gathering lambs in his arms,

holding them against his breast
and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84(85)

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.

Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.

Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

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Second reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14 ·

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel according to. Mark

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

