



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

PARISH SCHEDULE

Sun 17th	Adoration & Confession 09:15 Quiet Prayer	
	3rd Sunday of Advent 10:30 Mass & Choir	
	Parish Community 11:45 Refreshments	
	Holy Hour 12:15 Rosary & Prayers	
Mon 18th	Advent: Week 3 08:00 Mass	
	Advent: Week 3 10:15 School Mass	
Tue 19th	Advent: Week 3 09:15 School Mass	
Wed 20th	Advent: Week 3	
Thu 21st	Advent: Week 3 12:00 Mass	
	Retreat: Motherhood 18:30 Mass 19:00 Praise & Worship 19:15 Witness Testimony 20:15 Refreshments	
Fri 22nd	Advent: Week 3 09:15 Mass	
Sat 23rd	Advent: Week 3 12:00 Mass	
	Adoration & Confession 17:00 Quiet Prayer	
	4th Sunday of Advent 17:30 Vigil Mass	
Sun 24th	Adoration & Confession 09:15 Quiet Prayer	
	4th Sunday of Advent 10:30 Mass & Choir	
	Parish Community 11:45 Soup Lunch	
	Christmas Carol 12:15 Parish Concert	
	Nativity of the Lord 17:30 Vigil Mass	
Mon 25th	Nativity of the Lord 10:30 Carols 11:00 Midnight Mass	
	Nativity of the Lord 10:30 Mass	

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT:

"GAUDETE SUNDAY"



The Church calls the third Sunday in Advent "Gaudete Sunday." "Gaudete" means "rejoice." Long ago, Advent was a forty day preparation for Christmas and was similar to Lent in that it was a quiet time of preparation and prayer and penance.

So, to remind people of the joy to come, the Church introduced a little break into the forty days and encouraged people to rejoice. On Gaudete Sunday we anticipate the joy of the birth of the Saviour. To mark this, the candle on the Advent Wreath is pink in contrast to the other three purple ones.

And so we might ask ourselves how our Advent is going. How are we preparing for Christmas? Are we only thinking of food and shopping and presents? Are we seriously looking forward to Christmas being a time of celebration of the birth of our Saviour? Are we trying to deepen our relationship with the Lord and experience a re-birth of faith?



In his 2014 "Gaudete Sunday" homily, Pope Francis said that this Sunday is known as the "Sunday of Joy", and that instead of fretting about all they still haven't done to prepare for Christmas, people should "think of all the good things life has given you."

God bless, Fr Kevin.

FINAL ADVENT RETREAT EVENING: A BLESSING OF MOTHERS

The final of parish Advent retreat evening is on Thursday 21 December. It begins with Mass at 6.30 p.m. Then there will be time of praise and worship in music, followed by a talk by an inspirational young mother who will share her faith and testimony. At the end of the evening there will be a special blessing of mothers



1 KINGS 8:56

Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave.

MASS ON FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER

Please note that the Mass on Friday 22 December at 9.15 a.m. will be at Sacred Heart Church as is the normal arrangement during school holidays.



RIGHT TO LIFE

As we await the coming of the Child Jesus at Christmas, we ask God to fill our hearts with joy for the gift of new life. **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.

BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY:

ANNEMARIE BROWN

OUR BRETHREN WHO ARE UNWELL

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

BISHOP JOHN IN NIGERIA



Last week, Bishop John Arnold went to Nigeria to ordain deacons for the Missionary Society of St. Paul and the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians). There is a video online detailing his experiences including celebrating Mass with 3000 people. You can watch it here: https://youtu.be/jFeJbbnBVVw?si=f-SrxzU6_bA4aV3X

ST FRANCIS SCHOOL: PLACES IN RECEPTION CLASS

Please note that applications for places for the Reception Class need to be submitted by 15 January 2024.



CONTACT US

Parish Priest: Fr. Kevin Murphy
Permanent Deacon: Davie Nalikata
Administrator: Minna Moffatt-Feldman

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www.sacredheartstfranciscorton.co.uk
Facebook: Sacred Heart & Saint Francis of Assisi Parish.

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.

ADVENT PRAYER

Lord God,
all the ends of the earth have seen your salvation.
Give us the grace to await with joy
the glorious day of our Saviour's birth.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

MISSIO ENVELOPES

Thank you for all those who have returned their MISSIO envelopes with contributions—the total so far is £200. There is still time to return yours. Also, if you want to organise taking or returning, red MISSIO box, please speak to Deacon Davie.



Sacred Heart & St. Francis Parish invites you to our 2023 **Christmas Carol Concert**

Featuring: Sacred Heart Choir, solos, dance and congregational carols

12:15pm December 24th

To raise money for our parish Mary's Meals project, there will be a soup/roll lunch available in the parish centre at 11:45am and a retiring collection at the end of the concert.

Sacred Heart RC Church, Gorton, M18 8WJ

www.sacredheartstfranciscorton.co.uk

PARISH OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

WEEKEND: 2nd & 3rd Dec		
	Basket	£146.50
	Basket	£428.20
	Online	£143.66

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

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.
'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.
'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm Luke 1

My soul rejoices in my God.
My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
My soul rejoices in my God.

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.
My soul rejoices in my God.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy.
My soul rejoices in my God.

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Second reading: 1 Thessalonians

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

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.