



# 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)

## PARISH SCHEDULE

Sun 3rd	Adoration & Confession 09:15 Quiet Prayer	
	1st Sunday of Advent 10:30 Mass & Choir	
	Parish Community 11:45 Refreshments	
	Holy Hour 12:15 Rosary & Prayers	
Mon 4th	Advent: Week 1 08:00 Mass	
Tue 5th	Advent: Week 1	
Wed 6th	Advent: Week 1	
Thu 7th	Parish Community 12:30 Friendship Group	
	Retreat: Child of God 18:30 Mass 19:00 Praise & Worship 19:30 Witness Testimony 21:00 Refreshments	
Fri 8th	The Immaculate Conception 09:15 Mass	
	Parish Community 13:30 Flower Club	
	The Immaculate Conception 18:30 Mass & Rosary	
Sat 9th	Adoration & Confession 11:00 Quiet Prayer	
	Advent: Week 1 12:00 Mass	
	Adoration & Confession 17:00 Quiet Prayer	
	2nd Sunday of Advent 17:30 Vigil Mass	
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 Prayers for the Parish	

## "STAY AWAKE!"

Many adults say they don't sleep so well as when they were young. Sleeplessness is a problem with many people. Modern magazines often advise people how they can get better sleep. Young parents don't get much sleep as they look after their newborn children.

So we live in a society where many would dearly love to sleep more. And yet today Jesus tells his disciples, "Be on your guard, stay awake." Just in case they haven't heard, he says again, "And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!" But of course, Jesus isn't speaking literally.

So, what does he mean by telling us to stay awake? I suggest that, especially in Advent, we are called to watch and wait. And we are to awaken to the reality of ourselves, our world and our Church. The prophet Isaiah warns us today that, "We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away." Advent is a good time to go to Confession.

But the call is to more than just each individual. The Diocesan Synod invites us to consider what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church in these times and so we need to watch and wait to consider how we are being called to rebuild our faith community anew. We do need our sleep. But we also need to wake from sleep.

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

## DAILY DEDICATION

My Lord, take my body and my life.  
Dwell in every chamber of my heart.  
Make me into a sign of your presence in  
this world.  
Amen.

For all parents expecting a new child, that they might be blessed with a safe and healthy pregnancy for mother and baby. **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.*

HEALTH: TONY

**OUR BRETHREN WHO ARE UNWELL**

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

**ADVENT PRAYER**

*God of hope, who brought love into this world,  
be the love that dwells between us.  
God of hope, who brought peace into this world,  
be the peace that dwells between us.  
God of hope, who brought joy into this world,  
be the joy that dwells between us.  
God of hope, the rock we stand upon,  
be the centre, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent.  
Amen.*

**MARY'S MEALS MERCHANDISE**



You can now get Mary's Meals T-shirts and pin badges directly from us, either at the back of church or from Minna. T-shirts are selling for £5 and pin-badges are £3.

**CONTACT US**

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

**Parish Office:** Sacred Heart Presbytery, Levenshulme Road, Gorton, M18 7WJ.  
**Telephone:** 0161 223 0338  
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www.sacredheartstfranciscorton.co.uk  
**Facebook:** Sacred Heart & Saint Francis of Assisi Parish.

One of the ways that you can "watch and wait" this Advent is to attend the retreat evenings which take place for the next three Thursdays. 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 7 December** 6.30 p.m.  
"The Child of God at Christmas"
- **Thursday 14 December** 6.30 p.m.  
"The Love of the Father 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, and in anticipation, the Diocese have released: <https://youtu.be/RjWoPxqUnc0>



**CHRISTMAS FAIR: THANK YOU!**

Thank you very much indeed to all of you who helped to run the Christmas Fair. It was a great success and brought our parish community together very happily. Many people put in a lot of time and effort. I was delighted that the total sum raised was £1,131.00 at the last count. This is going to be put towards our parish project with Mary's Meals and will take the running total to well over £5,000.00. Thanks also to those who supported generously.

**ACCOMMODATION NEEDED**




A family in the parish needs to secure new accommodation a.s.a.p. due to end of temporary lease after arriving in the country. If anyone knows of anything suitable please contact the parish office. Please also pray for a happy resolution of the family's housing situation.

**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 are like the windows of an Advent calendar – except the calendar will be all over our community. 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>



**PARISH OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS**

<b>WEEKEND:</b> 25th & 26th Nov		
	Basket	<b>£156.20</b>
	Basket	<b>£522.50</b>
	Online	<b>£25.00</b>

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

# 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)



## First reading: Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,  
'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name.  
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways  
and harden our hearts against fearing you?  
Return, for the sake of your servants,  
the tribes of your inheritance.  
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down!  
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.  
No ear has heard,  
no eye has seen  
any god but you act like this  
for those who trust him.  
You guide those who act with integrity  
and keep your ways in mind.  
You were angry when we were sinners;  
we had long been rebels against you.  
We were all like men unclean,  
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.  
We have all withered like leaves  
and our sins blew us away like the wind.  
No one invoked your name  
or roused himself to catch hold of you.  
For you hid your face from us  
and gave us up to the power of our sins.  
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;  
we the clay, you the potter,  
we are all the work of your hand.

The Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine  
on us and we shall be saved.

**God of hosts, bring us back; let your face  
shine on us and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help.

**God of hosts, bring us back; let your face  
shine on us and we shall be saved.**

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God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted.

**God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again;  
give us life that we may call upon your name.

**God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

## **Second reading:** 1 Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia!**

## **Gospel according to. Mark**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**