

ST. JAMES' & ST. JOSEPH'S

ST. JAMES' PRESBYTERY, ST. JAMES' ROAD, ORRELL, WIGAN WN5 7AA

PARISH PRIEST—FR GERRY TUIE—Telephone No. 01695 622476

4th Sunday of Advent (Year C) 20th December 2015

Christmas Joy

With today's readings, we come to the final preparation for Christmas. The prophet Micah tells us of the importance of Bethlehem, the city of David, as the place from which the new David—the new Messiah—would come. That Bethlehem should be unimportant in the eyes of the rest of Judah, yet important in God's plan, is an expression of yet another feature of Saint Luke's Gospel, namely his love for the poor and the lowly. The 'poor of God' are those who depend on God for everything they are and have. The early Gospel is full of such people, and today's Gospel records the meeting of two of them—Mary and Elizabeth. The joy of motherhood is heightened by the knowledge that in both cases the Spirit of God has overshadowed them; it is by God's power that both of them are with child. In this final Sunday before Christmas, we share the joy of these two women in the sure knowledge that God's promises have truly been fulfilled.

Please remember in your prayers all the sick and all the patients in Wrightington Hospital. Send them help, O Lord, and comfort from your Holy Place.

We pray for all those who have died recently, May God the Father welcome them into eternal life promised by Christ His Son, the Lord of life. We pray for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time and all our deceased relatives, friends and benefactors. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

MASSES

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| Saturday | 19th December | 6:00pm | People of the Parish |
| Sunday | 20th December | 9:30am | Holy Souls |
| Monday | 21st December | 9:30am | Walton Family |
| Thursday | 24th December | Christmas Eve 4:00pm & Midnight. | |
| Friday | 25th December | Christmas Day 9:30am | |
| Saturday | 26th December | 6:00pm | People of the Parish |
| Sunday | 27th December | 9:30pm | Holy Souls |

Neighbourhood Prayer

This week you are asked to pray for all those living in The Grove, Appley Close and Sprodley Drive.

Mission Intention for December is:

That families, and especially those families who suffer, may find in the birth of Jesus a sign of certain hope.

Holy Communion to the sick and housebound

Toogood Lane & Tunley Moss and Appley Bridge. Starting next **Wednesday** at 10:00am

CAFOD LOTTERY BONUS BALL

Winning No. 14 Philippa Waterhouse

Weekend Masses at Saint James' Orrell

Sunday: 11:00am & 6:00pm
Confessions @ St. James' Saturday 10:00am-11:00am
Confessions @ St. Joseph's Saturday 5:15pm-5:45pm

Quote: We should give meaning to life, not wait for life to give us meaning.

Fr. Gerry would like to wish you all a very Happy and a Holy Christmas and every blessing in the New Year.

Rota for cleaning church

Please can Group 3 clean the church this week

i.e. Phil & Catherine Scarth

The Brick

Thank you to all who continue to support 'The Brick' by leaving your items of food and toiletries in the bin at the back of church. We need cereals, soups, toiletries e.g. soap, toothpaste etc. plus tinned meats and fish. Please could you include small toys, books etc in your gifts as Christmas approaches. Please remember your plastic bags. Thank you.

Visits to the sick and housebound

If you know of any sick or housebound parishioner who would like to receive Holy Communion, please will you let Fr. Gerry know and one of our Eucharistic Ministers will visit them.

Christmas Mass Times

Saint Joseph's

Christmas Eve: Thursday 4pm & Midnight Mass (Fr. K.)

Christmas Day: Friday 9:30am (Fr. Gerry)

Saint James'

Christmas Eve: Thursday Carols @ 7:30pm Mass @ 8:00pm

Christmas Day: Friday 11:00am

Rotas

New rotas Jan/July 2016 are now available for collection in the Sacristy.

CAFOD Fun Run

Once again Joe Rylance is doing the run at Wavertree Athletics centre, Wellington Road, Liverpool L15 4LE at 12:30pm on the 27th of December. He would be very grateful if you would sponsor him by putting your name on the sponsor form at the back of church. Proceeds are for the Syrian Refugee crisis.

Stained Glass

The new panels of stained glass at the back of church depict some of the scriptural events in the life of Jesus. They round off the events of His Joy, Suffering & Glory depicted in the stained glass of the main church.

Thanks to the legacy from the Arkwright family, all financial costs have been met. God bless their generosity.

Catholic School Direct

Thinking of applying to become a secondary teacher in Sept.2016? Wigan and West Lancs. Catholic Schools Direct Programme in a partnership between 7 Catholic High Schools and 1 Catholic Sixth Form College working together to provide first class initial teacher training. Visit www.catholiccsd.org.uk

Vision Aid

Thank you for your continued donations of unwanted spectacles.