



## Our Lady Immaculate & St Joseph Catholic Church

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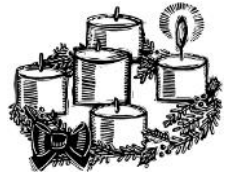
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Parish Priest: Fr Dominic Risley

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

**First Sunday of Advent (C)**



*‘And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.’*

## **JUBILEE 2025**

The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme is “Pilgrims of Hope”, and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis. Preparations for the 2025 Year of Jubilee began in Advent 2023, which marked the start of a year of prayer. Resources for use by parishes, priests, religious, laypeople, and more, will be available to help guide you as you ready yourself for this most vital year in the Church’s life.

## **School Nativity**

On Monday 9th December at 6.30pm the school will perform their Nativity play in church, with musical accompaniment by our local Salvation Army Brass band. In the past seating has been limited, however with some clever reworking this is now an open event for all the parish to attend so everyone is welcome to come along.

## **Christmas Mass Bouquets**

Christmas Mass Bouquet Cards are now available from the Piety Stall. These work like a regular Mass card but allow us to offer many intentions for one Mass instead of the usually restriction of one intention per Mass. Mass for those included on the Mass bouquets will be offered on the Sunday within the Christmas Octave, which this year will be Sunday 29th December, the Feast of the Holy Family.

## **Ecumenical Christmas Events**

There is a poster at the back of church detailing different ecumenical events during Advent to help us prepare for Christmas.

## **Feast Days**

### **Tuesday 3rd - Memorial of St Francis Xavier**

He was born in Spain in the year 1506. When studying at Paris he joined St Ignatius and was ordained priest at Rome in 1537. He was one of the seven priests who founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He spent himself in works of charity and in 1541 he went to the East where for ten years he preached the Gospel in India and Japan where he converted many tens of thousands to the true faith. He died in the year 1552 on the Chinese island of Shangchwan. He was possibly the Church’s greatest missionary since St Paul, and is the patron saint of foreign missions. St Francis is depicted in the East window, he is the first figure on the left hand side.

## **Thursday 5th - Memorial of St John Almond**

St John was born in Allerton, Liverpool, and educated at Much Woolton, then in Ireland, Reims and Rome. After ordination to the priesthood in 1598 he returned to this country to work on the English Mission from 1602 until his arrest in 1608, when he was imprisoned for a time, then again in 1612. He was martyred at Tyburn on 5th December 1612.

## **Friday 6th - Memorial of St Nicholas**

St. Nicholas was born in the third century in Patara, which, at the time, was a part of Greece (but is now present-day Turkey). He was brought up in a wealthy and very devout Christian family. While still young, his parents died in an epidemic, leaving Nicholas an orphan. Nicholas gave his large inheritance away to the poor and needy. When he was old enough, he was ordained a priest, and later became the bishop of Myra. The people of Myra admired him for his generosity and love of children. He was also particularly concerned for the safety of sailors, since Myra was a port town, and many of the villagers took to the seas to make a living.

## **Saturday 7th - Memorial of St Ambrose**

St Ambrose was born at Trier of a Roman family about the year 340. He studied law at Rome and entered public service, being appointed governor of the provinces of Aemilia and Liguria in 371. He was then dramatically elected Bishop of Milan in the year 373 while still a catechumen. He was baptised on 24th November, then ordained priest and consecrated bishop on 1st December. His daily life was of hard work combined with accessibility to all. He was an eloquent preacher; he encouraged monasticism and played an important part in the conversion of St Augustine.

## **Christmas Flowers**

If anyone would like to make a donation towards flowers in church for Christmas, please see Fr Dominic after Mass.

**Church Cleaning** - Wednesday at 10 am. All welcome.

**Offertory Collection** - Gift Aid £195 Loose - £280. Thank you, for your generosity!



## **Christmas Mass Times**



Christmas Eve - Vigil Mass 4.30 pm

Christmas Day - Midnight Mass 12.00 am  
- Mass of Christmas Day 11.00 am

## First Sunday of Advent (C) Mass Times and Intentions

<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>	Fr Vincent Taylor
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	Margaret Glennon
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>12.00 pm</b>	Frances Polet
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12.00 pm</b>	John & Mary Miller
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	School Mass
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12.00 pm</b>	Margaret Cartwright
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	<i>Adoration &amp; Confessions</i>
	<b>11.30 am</b>	<i>Rosary</i>
	<b>12.00 pm</b>	Joanne Keall
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	Mary Mullin Jeffers
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11.00 am</b>	Malcolm Rawson

**Please remember the members of our parish who are sick and those who have asked for our prayers:**

*Derek McEgan, Sandra Johnson, Helen Clarke, Anita Potts, Steve Potts, Kerry Scott, Anna Pemberton, David Gerrard, Mary Davis, Ann Davey, James Williams*

**Departed:** *Sr Eileen Moore OSC*

