



St Clare of Assisi Catholic Church

DOWNSFIELD ROAD, CHESTER CH4 8HH



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Parish Website: www.stclareschester.org
Parish Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/StClaresChester/

Psalter Week III

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
15TH DECEMBER 2019

Year of The

DEDICATION:

December is dedicated to The Immaculate Conception



GAUDETE SUNDAY

The third Sunday of Advent is known as "Gaudete Sunday." Its name is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near".

Advent is the season of preparing for the arrival of the Lord Jesus, and now we are most of the way through the season. Thus it is appropriate to rejoice as we see the goal of the season approaching, and therefore the priest wears pink or rose vestments rather than purple.

Christ came among sinners, but he did so in order to save them. He met the blind and gave them sight; the poor and gave them hope; the lame and gave them strength. He is still a friend like that to each one of us: we are blinded by ignorance and selfishness, and he offers us light in the teachings of his Church; we are poor in virtue and generosity, and he fills us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit; we are lame, unable to pray as we ought, to bear witness as we ought, to love as we ought, and he heals us and strengthens by feeding us with bread from heaven, nourishing us with his very self in the Eucharist. He is always encouraging us to grow, because he loves us too much to leave us the way we are. -Fr. John Bartunek, LC,

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve: Tues 24 Dec 4pm Children's Mass (first Mass of Christmas)

Children are encouraged to come dressed as Nativity characters: Marys, Josephs, shepherds Kings stars crib animals. It is expected father Christmas will make an appearance after Mass!
11.30pm Christmas Carols, **12 midnight, Midnight Mass**

Christmas Day: Wed 25 Dec 9.30am and 11.15am

Thurs 26 Dec	MASS 9.30am
Fri 27 Dec	MASS 9.30am
Sat 28 Dec	MASS 6pm
Sun 29 Dec	MASS 9.30am
Wed 1 Jan	MASS 9.30am
Sat 4 Jan	MASS 6pm
Sun 5 Jan	MASS 9.30 am

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 6pm
Sunday 9.30am

Confessions

Saturday 5.30 -5.45pm
or on request

Children's Liturgy

Takes place Sundays 9.30am
In Sacristy

For Baptisms, Confirmation,

Weddings & Funerals

Please call or email Fr Emeka
above

Sunday 11.15 am (Latin)

Weekday Masses Please see back page



OUR SICK LIST

Our sick, elderly, housebound and those in care homes are important members of our parish community. New names are in Bold Type. Please remember to pray for them each day as they carry their cross ,

Dot Bell, Veronica Creaney, W. Downes, Mike Edwards, Mary Frain, David Gardiner, Michelle Gentile, Katie Gray, Gwyn Harris, Lorna Jarvis, Judy Kearney, Ann Leach, **Peter Lloyd**, Rosemary McCabe, Kevin McCarthy, Bob McConnell, Alex Shone, Gwen Spurr, Krysia Wesalak, Eileen Wyatt.

ANNIVERSARIES ABOUT THIS TIME

David Brown, Terence Durham, Joannas Joseph Burgess, Nora Crawford, Mary Foxall, and Winifred Smith.

RECENTLY DIED

Please pray for the soul of Gillian Lloyd who died recently.

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS' ASSOCIATION:

Carol Service – A Carol Service will be held on Wednesday 18th of December at 6:30 pm at the Catholic High School, followed by refreshments, a Christmas raffle and musical entertainment by the school City Jazz Orchestra & Singers. Free entrance. Everybody is welcome.

SPONSORED SLEEP-OUT

Many thanks for all those who sponsored Reta's sleep-out. Thanks to you all she **raised a total of £1055**

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

This week the duty falls on **Team 2**

**The new rotas are now available
Collect yours from the porch**

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Sunday 5th Jan 2020. Time and venue TBA. Contact Catherine on 01244 678825 or e-mail catherine117hg@hotmail.co.uk

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Preparation lessons for Children who are not in St. Clare's school will begin after the Mass of enrolment, on Sunday 2nd February 2020. Please register the children by calling Parish office or Fr. Emeka.

CHILDREN'S CAROL SERVICE

Our School children will have their carol service in the church at 6 pm on December 18th
All are welcome

ADVANCE NOTICE RETIRING COLLECTION

There will be a retiring collection for flowers to decorate the church for Christmas next weekend

CRUSADER MAGAZINE

Please take your **free copy** of the Christmas edition of 'Crusader' (the Magazine of the Crusade of Mary Immaculate) which is available on table in porch

RECONCILIATION SERVICE AND CONFESSION.

There will be a reconciliation service and confession after on **Monday 16th December at 6 pm.**

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

That every country determine to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

ST CLARE'S SVP CONFERENCE



We had our last conference meeting of 2019 last Monday and will start again on Monday 6th January 2020. We have had a busy year with beneficiary visits on the rise and families at the Holiday Home keeping up the level of 2018.

Your Conference works well and is grateful for the support of parishioners but as with all groups there is always space for new members who bring innovative ideas and broaden the scope of what we can achieve locally. The fortnightly meeting is not compulsory for membership but acts as a forum for discussion.

Auxiliary members do not regularly attend meetings but make a valuable contribution to our work. Do think of us in your New Year resolutions. God Bless. Steve

REGULAR PARISH EVENTS

PRAYER GROUP. Meets after Wednesday 9.30 am Mass, in the Parish Room . All welcome.

CHOIR Thursdays after the 7.30 pm Mass, in the Parish Room . New members needed.

CAFOD. Meets in the Parish Room on the first Tuesday of the month, after the evening Mass.

SVP (Society of St Vincent de Paul)) Meets fortnightly in the Parish Room on Monday evenings. New members welcome. Contact Steve on 01244 671817 or e-mail PresidentF180413@svp.org.uk

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB (St Clare's SVP Conference) Meets on the first Sunday of month. The time and venue are advertised near date. Contact Catherine 01244 678825 e-mail catherine117hg@hotmail.co.uk

CHESTER SPUC GROUP 3rd Wednesday every other month next meeting contact Kevin 01244 681816 or e mail: kevprend@gmail.com for details

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB . See over for details

CHS PARENTS ASSOC CAROL SERVICE Weds 18th Dec—see over

SVP HOLIDAY HOME MUSIC NIGHT Friday 31st January 2020 7 for 7.30pm start. St Columba's Church Hall. Music by CHS City Jazz Orchestra and Singers. Tickets £10. See Posters for details.

St Clare's Pre School

Spaces available for 2-4 year olds from
January 2020.

NEW purpose built learning environment

Education for children aged 2-4 years

- Funded and fee paying places available
- **30 hours funded childcare** for working parents also available
- Led by a qualified teacher
- Large outdoor area



For more information please contact the Pre School

St Clare's Pre School | Hawthorn Road | Lache CH4 8HX

07936 413246 • saintclarespreschool@gmail.com • find us on facebook



YOUTH ZONE

SEEING GOD IN THE EVERYDAY

There have always been situations in my life where I desperately wanted to see God or feel His presence throughout my day. There were times I felt alone and lost because I couldn't sense His presence when I needed Him the most. There were moments when there was just so much bad happening around me — at school, with my family, friends, within myself — it became hard for me to see any good that would be coming from God. I began questioning where He was, questioning if He really did exist, and if He did, why I couldn't feel Him, or 'see' in my life.

It wasn't until I began to open myself up, surrender my struggles, and my own will to Jesus that I began to see Him in my trials. It wasn't until I started looking for God in my day to day life that I began to see Him in the small things. It wasn't until I started to ask God to reveal Himself to me that I began to see His graces and love being poured out of others and from within myself. *LIFE TEEN BLOG*



ROSARY CORNER

"You must know that when you 'hail' Mary, she immediately greets you! Don't think that she is one of those rude women of whom there are so many—on the contrary, she is utterly courteous and pleasant. If you greet her, she will answer you right away and converse with you!"- *Saint Bernardine of Siena*

Date/Time	Feast/Colour	Readings	Offered For
Sat 14/12 Rosary 5.40pm Vigil MASS 6pm	<i>Third Sunday Of</i>	Is 35: 1-6,10; Ps 145; Ja 5: 7-10	Special Intention (KC)
Sun 15/12 Exposition 8.30 am Rosary and Benediction 9 am MASS 9.30am Tridentine MASS 12. 15pm	Advent <i>Purple</i>	Mt 11: 2-11	Rosemary Prendergast and the Murphy Family
Tue 17/12 Requiem MASS 12 noon Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet 3-4pm St Anthony devotions followed by MASS 7.00pm	<i>Ferial</i> <i>Purple</i>	Gn 449: 2,8-10; Ps 71; Mt 1: 1-17	Keven Cooper
Wed 18/12 Exposition 8.30 am Rosary and Benediction MASS 9.30 am	<i>Ferial</i> <i>Purple</i>	Jr 23: 5-8; Ps 71; Mt 1: 18-24	David Brown (SB)
Thu 19/12 MASS 7.30 pm	<i>Ferial</i> <i>Purple</i>	Jg 13: 3-7,24-25; Ps 70;Lk 1: 5-25	Kev Owen
Fri 20/12 Rosary 9.10am MASS 9.30am	<i>Ferial</i>	Is 7: 10-14; Ps 23; Lk 1: 25-38	Cooper family inten-
Sat 21/12 Rosary 5.40pm Vigil MASS 6pm	Fourth Sunday of	Is 7: 10-14; Ps 23; Rm 1:1-7;	Vicente Artil RIP (KC)
Sun 22/12 EXPOSITION 8.30 am Rosary and Benediction 9 am MASS 9.30am Sung Latin MASS 11.15am <i>Day of Special Prayer for Expectant Mothers</i>	Advent <i>Purple</i>	Mt 1: 18-24	John & Trudy Axon Sydney & Margaret Bell

St Clare's Catholic Primary School

Thank you to all the parishioners who joined staff and pupils to celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception on Monday.

This week has been incredibly busy and also very challenging as we battled illnesses- many



pupils having to take time off school. However, as always the children were superstars and showed everyone how wonderful they are! Key Stage one performed 'The Midwife's Crisis' - and, as you can imagine, the children sang beautifully, remembered their lines and entertained everyone! There were three performances for parents, carers, grandparents and parishioners. Each performance was special.

Pupils in Year Four and Five participated in a drama piece based on " Our Heritage", where the children took the audience back through time, when the local area consisted of two large manor houses. The children performed at Lache Community Centre.

On Thursday everyone swapped uniforms for Christmas jumpers, dresses and colours. The children brought items for our Christmas raffle (tickets are on sale in the school office). The school was very colourful! After school pupils in Key Stage Two performed at Lache Christmas Fair. The Community was extremely busy, however everyone stopped to enjoy the children sing. It has been a week of very proud moments- out pupils are just superstars!

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was enjoyed by everyone on Friday as the school went to the Floral Pavilion, New Brighton, to enjoy the show.

All families in school were challenged to create their own Nativity scenes - we have been so impressed with everyone's work. The best part is the fact that families have spent time planning, designing and making these together.

Please come along to our Carol Service on Wednesday 18th December in St Clare's Church at 6pm.

