

The Roman Catholic Parish of Saint Vincent de Paul, Norden

Diocese of Salford

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SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

14th December 2025

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT [A]

“Gaudete Sunday”

At Saint Vincent's This Week ...

The Third Week of Advent (Psalter Week 3)

Monday 15th December

Advent Weekday

Numbers 24:2-7, 15-17a; Matthew 21:23-27

9.30 a.m. Word & Communion

Tuesday 16th December

Advent Weekday

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28-32

9.30 a.m. MASS

Wednesday 17th December

Advent II Weekday

Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17

12.00 noon Funeral MASS of Jan Skryp

Thursday 18th December

Advent II Weekday

Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-24


9.30 a.m. School End of Term MASS

Friday 19th December

Advent II Weekday

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25

9.30 a.m. MASS

 *Day of Abstinence*

Saturday 20th December

Advent II Weekday

Isaiah 7:10-14; Luke 1:26-38

11.00 a.m. MASS for Peace

**6.00 p.m. Sacrament of Penance
(Confessions)**

6.30 p.m. First MASS of Sunday

Sunday 21st November

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT [A]

Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

9.00 a.m. MASS Refreshments after Mass

11.00 a.m. MASS Refreshments after Mass

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

6.30 p.m. Reading and Carols and the
First MASS of Christmas

Christmas Day

9.00 a.m. MASS of Christmas Day

11.00 a.m. MASS of Christmas Day

Welcome to Saint Vincent's

If you are a visitor to Saint Vincent's this weekend, please feel welcome! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Here is some information to help you feel at home:

Parking: please try to give priority to places nearest Church for people with restricted mobility. Thank you.

HARD OF HEARING? There is an Induction Loop System installed in this Church: if you wear a hearing aid, please turn it to the 'T' setting

Refreshments after Mass: Everyone is very welcome to stay behind after Sunday morning Masses and share a cuppa! Tea and Coffee are served in the Parish Centre on the opposite side of the carpark after 9.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. Sunday Masses.

Toilets: The toilet is located near the side entrance: children should not go out of Church unaccompanied. Please use the disinfectant wipes to clean all surfaces after every use—dispose of them in the bin but do not flush them down the toilet. Thank you.

Saint Vincent's Parish Centre: The Parish Centre is available for parish use and outside bookings. Please contact Robert Allen on 0758 320 7810 for all enquiries.

In our prayers ...

Masses & Prayer Requests

Recently Deceased: Jan Jozef Skryp, Pat Bradley, John Kerrane

Anniversaries: John Collins, Pam Colligan, Wendy Lonergan, Ronald Pinder, Alice Tully

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

Let us pray for the people of the parish of the Sacred Heart and Saint Francis, Gorton, and Father Kevin Murphy, their parish priest, together with their parish primary schools.

National Cycle of Prayer

During Advent and Christmastide we are asked to pray for these intentions: Openness to the Word of God, Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers.

Holy Father's Intention (December)

For Christians in areas of conflict: Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

The Word This Week



In many ways the readings this Sunday are simply a continuation of last week: Isaiah gives us more details about the work of the Messiah, and Paul invites us to continue to be patient until the Lord's Coming. What is slightly different is the voice of John the Baptist this week: last week in Matthew 3 he was proclaiming with utter confidence that "someone is coming". Now, in Matthew 11, he asks Jesus from prison: "Is it you?" For us, as we listen to these scriptures, we are being offered something very particular—the prophecies of Isaiah (and indeed the prophet John the Baptist) are pinned down firmly and securely in the person of Jesus, Son of Mary - in fact, Jesus himself, in his reply to John says as much: "I am the Messiah that Isaiah prophesied." Again we are invited to hold the images of the prophecies in our minds until Christmas, when we can look on the child in the manger and say "We know who this is: it is the promised Messiah—God who comes to save us!"

News and Notes

What is Gaudete Sunday?

About halfway through the purple seasons of Advent and Lent, there is a single Sunday where the priest wears Rose-coloured vestments - these Sundays have Latin names which talk of rejoicing, "Laetare" in Lent and "Gaudete" in Advent. They are little reminders to us, during a season of prayer, preparation and penance, of the reason for our reflections: joy at the work of the Lord Jesus. Today is Gaudete Sunday — Rejoice Sunday — so let's pause in all our Christmas rushing, and make sure we understand the true joy of everything we do at this time of year!

Advent Resources

In the porch you will find copies of "The Way of Hope", stations of Advent, in a style similar to the Stations of the Cross. Please help yourself!

Advent/Christmas Appeal

This year we are raising funds to support **Friends of the Holy Land**. FHL is an ecumenical Christian organisation based in the UK, which works to help Christian families and individuals in need in Gaza, the West Bank, Israel and Jordan: the help they offer is practical, under three headings: humanitarian, development and healing. As an example of their development work: the large Christian community in Nazareth has been increasingly hit by unemployment and poverty as the war has continued. Christians have been fired from public-facing jobs to be replaced by Jewish employees. The pilgrimage and tourism industry has been badly hit and trade has also been

impacted. There are many Christian families struggling to survive. Christian schools must charge fees just as in the West Bank. For families struggling to survive, paying school fees to keep their children in schools is an expense too much. The average annual fees are around £1000 per child. Our partner in Nazareth is working with families to ensure our help targets the most disadvantaged, then works with the schools to agree fees due and match funding where available. It is estimated that the £10,000 grant will help 20-30 families in need. FHL is not a huge charity, but focusses its resources on making a difference. You can donate in several ways:

1. By using the white box by the Advent Wreath for cash donations
2. By BACS transfer or standing order. The bank details are: Account name: Friends of the Holy Land | Sort code: 60-05-41 | Account number: 24591211
3. By Cheque: make cheques payable to 'Friends of the Holy Land' and send to: Friends of the Holy Land, Farmer Ward Road, Kenilworth, CV8 2DH
4. Online: you can make a one-off or regular payment here:
www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/Appeal/donate
5. Card payment over the phone: please call the office on 01926 512980

Your donations over this Advent and Christmas season will contribute greatly to the well-being of our sisters and brothers in Christian communities in the very land out attention is focussed on at the time of year. The collection box for FHL will be in Church until Epiphany on 6th January 2026. Please be as generous as always!

The "O" Antiphons

The Roman Church has been singing the "O" Antiphons since at least the eighth century – and we still sing them today, though more commonly in the form of the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." They are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat at Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent source of theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfilment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. Perhaps use them in your daily prayers, starting on Wednesday!

December 17: O SAPIENTIA

"O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!"

December 18: O ADONAI

"O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!"

December 19: O RADIX IESSE

"O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!"

December 20: O CLAVIS DAVID

"O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!"

December 21: O ORIENS

"O Radiant Dawn, splendour of eternal light, sun of justice: come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death."

December 22: O REX GENTIUM

"O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!"

December 23: O EMMANUEL

“O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!”

There is another delightful element to these antiphons: in their original Latin, the first letters of each word spell out the phrase ERO CRAS – which means “I will be (with you) tomorrow!”

Christmas Raffle

We have been given a Christmas Hamper to raffle for the FHL Appeal! Tickets are £1.00 a strip of five. The draw will be made at the 6.30 p.m. Mass next **Saturday 20th December**, so that someone can get the goodies in time for Christmas! Please get your tickets from the Piety Stall.

Ministers for Christmas

There is a list in the porch for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to sign up for the Masses for Christmas. Please try to fill the spaces as soon as possible so we know we are covered! Thank you.

Christmas Flowers

If anyone wishes to donate to the cost of flowers for Christmas in memory of a loved one, please place your donation in an envelope marked “Christmas Flowers” and hand it in or post it through the Presbytery letterbox before next **Sunday 21st December**. Names of those to be remembered will be displayed in Church.

Christmas Choir

As in previous years there will be a volunteer Choir at the First Mass of Christmas: the next rehearsal in this **Wednesday 17th December** at 7.30 p.m., and after that on **Tuesday 23rd December** at 3.00 p.m. Everyone is very welcome!

SVP Epiphany Party

Our Parish SVP is hosting the traditional Epiphany Party on **Sunday 11th January** next year from 2.00 – 5.00 p.m.: everyone is welcome but for catering purposes please fill in and return an “RSVP” card—these are available in the porch. For more information please contact Joan on 0773 990 8561.

Marriage Matters (www.marriagecare.org.uk)

Today, Isaiah talks about trust and Matthew focuses on forgiveness. Advent is the opportunity to discover new ways to help our partner to trust us and to share themselves. Our prayer can be that we drop our defences, become more vulnerable and have the courage to open ourselves to be able to really listen, to share and to change.

Diocesan Notes

Safeguarding - Public Call for Information

The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) are completing a safeguarding inspection within the Diocese of Salford and would like to hear the views of as many people as possible regarding their arrangements for safeguarding. Responses will be collected anonymously unless you choose to provide your contact information, and the survey will close at 11:45 p.m. on **Friday 16th January 2026**. To submit your response, please scan the QR code:



Relics of Saint Carlo Acutis

In January, the relics of Saint Carlo Acutis will be hosted at two of our churches over five days, during which time the Diocese will welcome schools, parishioners and people from all over for veneration. Carlo is the first millennial saint and is celebrated for his profound faith and his use of the internet to log Eucharistic miracles from around the world. He was passionate about spreading the teachings of the Catholic Church up until his death from leukaemia at the age of 15. The relics will be presented at Saint Mary's Church, Burnley from **28th – 29th January 2026** before they travel to Saint Patrick's Church, Collyhurst from **30th January to 1st February 2026**. More information will be shared soon.

Advice as energy bills continue to rise

If you or those in your wider parish community are in need of support with rising energy bills, Caritas Salford has put together some helpful advice on their website. Their energy advice service team can support with free sessions and drop-ins in your area. You can find out more by visiting www.caritassalford.org.uk/energysupport

Women of the Old Testament

25: Sarah, Daughter of Raguel

Up until now all our women have been real, historical characters, but today we have a fictional one: Sarah appears in the book of Tobit, which is a work of fiction (possibly connected to some real events, but in a rather confused way!) Sarah is the daughter of Raguel, a kinsman of the eponymous Tobit, who sends his son Tobias on a mission to Raguel's house in distant Ecbatana. Sarah has a problem: she is besieged by a demon who kills her husbands on their wedding night – seven men so far! Not surprisingly, Sarah is accused of killing them herself and is the most miserable of people! Tobias is accompanied by a stranger, who eventually turns out to be the archangel Raphael, who gives Tobias parts of a fish they have caught which will defeat the demon. On arriving at Ecbatana, Tobias is married to Sarah, used the angel's remedy and sees off the demon. Tobias and Sarah have a happy marriage and on returning to Nineveh heal Tobit and everyone lives happily ever after. The book of Tobit is a mix of stories, humour, prayers and drama, and was written to encourage the people of Israel in a time of diaspora and keep their faith in the LORD strong. Prayers from the book of Tobit appear in Catholic liturgy – especially the wedding night prayer of Sarah and Tobias, which is used the Rite of Christian Marriage.

Our series will resume in the New Year

The Sacraments

Home Communion

Brenda Robinson is our Coordinator for Home Communion: if you or a relative find yourself housebound for a period of time, or know of a Catholic moving into one of our care homes, and would like to receive communion at home, please let Brenda know on 0785 559 8016.

Baptisms

...are by appointment: please collect, fill in and return one of the Information forms from the porch. They

provide details of what is required and the next steps in the process.

Marriage

...is by appointment. Please take an information leaflet from the porch and return the tear-off portion to arrange an interview. Do not make bookings before the interview. Six months' notice is required.

Anointing of the Sick

Please call the Presbytery to ask for this Sacrament. It should not be left until the last minute, but the sick should celebrate this sacrament to receive God's healing and comfort.

Confirmation & First Holy Communion

As the Communion programme has begun, no further candidates can sign up for 2026. Registration for 2027 will begin next September. Confirmation is in Year 8—children in Catholic High Schools will soon be invited directly, otherwise please have a word with Father James.

Care and Concern

Our Parish S.V.P.

The S.V.P. Conference at Saint Vincent's support people in need in a variety of ways; visiting people at home or in care homes, responding to calls for practical help, providing home cooked meals for around twenty four residents of Leopold Court, a local homeless unit, one day every fortnight, providing food bags for local families. If you or anyone you know would like any kind of help please contact Joan Hamilton on **0773 990 8561** or send an email to **PresidentD111410@svp.org.uk**. Please also remember that donations to the SVP can made at any time through the donations slot on the back wall of Church, or by bank transfer online: Account Name D111410 SVP ST VINCENT—ROCHDALE; Account Number 4608 2506; Sort Code 60-60-04. Thank you for your support!

Rochdale Food Bank

Please place your donations in the boxes at the back of the Church. The Food Bank is currently short of everything, but in urgent need of Coffee, Tinned Rice/Custard, Sugar, Tinned Potatoes, Fruit Juice and Jam. More details at rochdalefoodbank.org.uk and a full "shopping list" is available by the donations box.

Donations

Please be aware that there are permanent donation boxes on the back wall of Church for CAFOD, Caritas Diocese of Salford, Caritas Ukraine and the Parish S.V.P. Thank you for your constant generosity!

Bank Donations

The account details for direct banking, for either one-off or regular giving are: Account Name: "The Salford Diocesan Trust St Vincent de Paul Norden" Account Number: 80492523 Sort Code: 20.55.34

Next Sunday's Gospel


Matthew 1:18-24

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to send her away quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel' — which means, God with us. When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife.

Gospel Wordsearch

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PRISON
BLIND
LAME
LEPERS
CLEANSED
LIFE
HAPPY
CLOTHES
PALACES
PROPHET
SCRIPTURE
WOMEN



✠ STAY WITH US, LORD, ON OUR JOURNEY ✠