



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL
NORDEN

Caldershaw Road, Norden, Rochdale, OL12 7QL
Telephone: 01706 645361
Website: www.stvincentsnorden.org.uk
Email: nordencatholic@outlook.com



21st November 2021 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (B)

THE WORD THIS WEEK

Every time we complete the cycle of the liturgical year, there is a seamless blending into the new year: so, just as this week we hear of the King who is to come, next week, we begin a New Year and the Season of Advent by more meditation on the end of time, and the One who is to come again, as he once came among us. This feast affirms that Christ is King, that he is Judge, that he is Ruler of the kings of the earth. By his own words we know that this is true, as he stands before Pilate and says, "Yes, I am a king". But his kingship is different: it is not of the same kind as earthly kings, whose empires fade and pass away. His kingship is eternal, and holy until the end of time. Through his love for us, we share in this sovereignty - this holiness - as priests and kings who serve his God and Father. We end our year in simple, awe-filled praise of the One who is, who was, and who is to come - the Almighty. Alleluia! Amen!

NEWS & NOTES

FAURÉ'S REQUIEM

You might remember just before the lockdown last year we were privileged to welcome Bury Choral Society in a magnificent performance of Mozart's Requiem. Well, they're back! This **Sunday 21st November** at 3.00 p.m. they will be in Saint Vincent's performing the beautiful and moving Requiem by Gabriel Fauré—including the famous "Pie Jesu" and "In Paradisum". Admission is free, though donations will be welcome! Please let people know.

YOUTH SUNDAY

From Pope Francis' message for Youth Sunday: "Everywhere in the world, we suffered the loss of so many of our dear ones and experienced social isolation. The health emergency was a particular

setback for you young people, for your life is naturally directed outwards: to school or university, to work and social gatherings. You found yourselves in difficult situations that you were not used to facing. Those who found it harder, or lacked support, felt disoriented. We saw a rise in family problems, unemployment, depression, loneliness and addictive behaviour, to say nothing of growing stress, tensions, outbursts of anger and increased violence. Yet, thank God, this was only one side of the coin. The experience showed us our fragility, but it also revealed our virtues, including our inclination to solidarity. All over the world, we saw great numbers of individuals, including many young people, helping to save lives, sowing seeds of hope, upholding freedom and justice, and acting as peacemakers and bridge builders. Whenever a young person falls, in some sense all humanity falls. Yet it is also true that when a young person rises, it is as if the whole world rises as well. Young people, what great potential you have in your hands! What great strength you have in your hearts! Today too, God is saying to each one of you: "Arise!" I fervently hope that this Message may help us prepare for new times and a new page in the history of humanity. Yet we cannot begin anew without you, dear young people. If our world is to arise, it needs your strength, your enthusiasm, your passion." (cf. Acts 26:16)."

SVP YOUTH COFFEE MORNING

This Sunday to mark "Youth Day" in the Catholic Church we will be holding a special coffee morning after our Sunday Masses, to raise funds for the SVP Youth project "Vinnie Camps". There are seven children's Vinnie Camps around the country giving supervised activity and fun to youngsters aged between eight and 14 years. They offer a week of fun, excitement and friendship to boys and girls who may well be in need of a break because of family problems such as unemployment,

STAY WITH US, LORD, ON OUR JOURNEY!



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illness, bereavement or relationship breakdown. Vinnie Camps are staffed by around 500 dedicated and caring volunteers, offering a high ratio of adult-to-child supervision. This means that each and every child receives a great deal of time and positive attention, perhaps more than some have ever known before. Summer holidays offer, first and foremost, fun and enjoyment. But they also provide an opportunity for respite, new learning experiences and personal growth. Please pop in for a brew with a donation after Masses this Sunday!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS

On Saturday we were delighted to celebrate our second set of First Holy Communions this year, delayed from last May. We pray in thanksgiving with Isaac ABRAHAM, Roman DIVINE, Romey-Ray DUNN, Ava FASSIOMS, Isla FORSHAW, Hunter-Blue FRANCE, Hiram GEORGE-WHITTAKER, Billy GOULD, Anna GRINDROD, Polly HODGKINSON, Evie KEMPTON, Alexanja KOWALCZUK, Niamh McCONNELL, Albert McNULTY, Bella Rose NEYLON, Ciara O'CONNOR, Emmie-Leigh O'REILLY, Julia PASZKIEWICZ, Amelia PASZKIEWICZ, Darcie STUART and their families, that their meeting with the Lord Jesus this weekend may be the beginning of a new and fruitful journey of faith!

We have just started registration for First Communions in 2022: if your child is baptised, in Year 3, but NOT at Saint Vincent's Primary school, and you wish them to make their First Communion next year, please contact Father James for registration forms as soon as possible.

THE SAINT JOSEPH PROJECT

It's arrived! And in a remarkably large and solid wooden packing chest! To install and bless our new statue, there will be a Mass this **Friday 26th November at 6.30 p.m.**: this will be the last of our November Requiem Masses, and will be offered especially for all who have died during the pandemic and lockdowns, and all whose names are recorded in the new memorial book by the statue of Saint Joseph. Please try to attend, and let people know (especially anyone who suffered a bereavement during the months of restrictions because of the pandemic).

ADVENT

Next Sunday we begin a new liturgical year, and enter the beautiful but short and often overlooked Season of Advent. Understanding Advent is all about two little words: **"NOT YET."** Obviously this refers first and foremost to Christmas—our celebration of the Nativity of Jesus, which is different from the secular celebration that surrounds us

from mid-November at least! In Advent it is "not yet" Christmas: it is about waiting and watching, with Mary and Joseph, for that beautiful moment when the child who is our Saviour is born. This can be challenging, when all around us our society is saying "Here it is!" But for us, it's "not yet". We count the days with our Advent Calendars or Candles, learning patience and perseverance, journeying with the people of the Old Testament who were waiting so many centuries for the arrival of the promised Messiah!

But there is more to this "not yet": Jesus is not just a story from the past, a beautiful moment in history: he is also our future, when he will come again to make all things new. In his second coming the whole of creation will be made perfect: there will be an end to war and hostility, to suffering and sadness, an end to hunger and thirst, poverty, disease and even death itself. What a wonderful thing! But "not yet"! Our Advent waiting is not just for Christmas, but to reawaken in us hope for what is still to come. This is why the Advent prayer "Come, Lord Jesus" is not just about his birth in Bethlehem—that has already happened, many years ago. It is about what still awaits us.

So try to keep Advent as much as possible: wait for Christmas (remember the twelve days of Christmas are not before—as some people think—but after, until the Solemnity of the Epiphany), and as you are waiting open your eyes and minds and hearts to all those things that are wrong with the world, all those things that Jesus will put right when he comes again. It may be "not yet", but we count the days with joyful expectation! Happy Advent.

WHAT IS THE "SVP"?

Did you know that the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is an international Society with nearly 1,000,000 members? In Britain there are approaching 10,000 members in more than 1000 parishes where local groups are known as 'Conferences'. The Society was founded by a student, Frederick Ozanam, in Paris in 1833 in the teeth of a Cholera epidemic. Its aim is to address poverty in all its forms. Locally this often means combatting loneliness and isolation as well as helping those struggling financially. Alongside regular visits to beneficiaries by members, the Society runs support centres around the country, manages affordable housing and delivers facilities such as bail hostels and food banks.

Here in Saint Vincent's parish, our own SVP Conference keeps in contact with older people in care homes or living alone, and helps out families with limited income. We also cook delicious meals for Rochdale's homeless hostel. This start-

ed off using the large catering kitchen on the hostel premises but, thanks to the covid pandemic, we now cook at home with meals collected by car and delivered to the hostel. Our SVP works with colleagues in other conferences of the Society around Rochdale, supporting foodbanks and other special works of the Society. There is even a 'Mini Vinnies' team at our primary school. The Mini Vinnies in year 3 have just finished making Christmas cards to be distributed next month by the SVP conference in Strangeways Prison.

If you know of folks in difficult straits of one sort or another, and who need some support, then please do contact us by emailing hibson3@talktalk.net. All of the work of the Society is conducted in strict confidence. Finally, thank you to everyone who donates to the Society through the box at the back of Church. Your donations help support all of the work of the Society.

YOUNG ADULTS MASS

This **Sunday 21st November**, there will be a Mass for young adults (18+) at Saint Augustine's Church, Grosvenor Street, Manchester, M15 6BW, for the Feast of Christ the King, starting at 5.30 p.m. and followed by a social: all are welcome. For information, please email: SalfordYoungAdults@vol.dioceseofsalford.org.uk

IN OUR PRAYERS ...

REQUESTS FOR MASSES & PRAYERS

All our children receiving First Holy Communion at this time

Recently Deceased: Vincent Connolly, Barbara O'Connor, Mary Catherine Bilsborrow, Kathleen O'Dowd, Graham Winnard, Daniel Cooney, Peter Conroy.

Other: The Kelly Family, Dave Parkinson, Jimmy O'Neill, Michael Goodwin.

NATIONAL CYCLE OF PRAYER

During Ordinary Time (Autumn) we are asked to pray for these intentions: Students and Teachers; The Spread of the Gospel; The Harvest; The Fruits of Human Work and the Reverent Use of Creation; Justice and Peace in the World; All Victims of War; Young People; Prisoners and Their Families.

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION (NOVEMBER)

People Who Suffer from Depression: We pray

that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

Let us pray for the parish of Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Gerard Majella, Lostock Hall, for Father Joe Gee, and for their parish primary school. May they be strong in faith to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.

THE SACRAMENTS

Baptisms are by appointment: please collect one of the Information forms from the porch for details of what is required and the next steps in the process.

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 help, healing and comfort.

Marriage is also by appointment. Please take an information leaflet and return the tear off portion to arrange a pre-Nuptial interview. Please do not make bookings before this interview and note that six months' notice is required.

Initiation of Children

First Holy Communion is normally celebrated in Year 3 (this will be resuming in 2022); Confirmation is offered in Year 8. Children attending Catholic Schools will be contacted directly: if your child is at a non-Catholic School, please speak to Father James.

Initiation of Adults

It is my hope to begin a course for Adult Baptism/ Reception into the Church in the New Year. Please watch this space!

NEXT WEEK'S GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand. Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

THIS WEEK

THIRTY FOURTH AND LAST WEEK
OF ORDINARY TIME

Church opens half an hour before Mass

Monday 22nd November

Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr

Tuesday 23rd November

Saint Clement I, Pope and Martyr

**10.00 a.m. Funeral MASS of
Vincent Connolly**

Wednesday 24th November

Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest and Companions,
Martyrs

**10.00 a.m. Funeral MASS of
Barbara O'Connor**

Thursday 25th November

Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr

9.30 a.m. MASS

Friday 26th November

Weekday

**6.30 p.m. MASS with Blessing of the
New Statue of Saint Joseph**

Saturday 27th November

Weekday

6.00–6.15 p.m. Confessions

6.30 p.m. First MASS of Sunday

Sunday 28th November

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (SUNDAY CYCLE C)

9.00 a.m. MASS

11.00 a.m. MASS

PRACTICALITIES

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 after 9.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. 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 now open again for parish use and outside bookings. Please contact **Robert Allen** on **0758 320 7810** for all enquiries.

Our Parish S.V.P.

The SVP conference at Saint Vincent's are still actively involved with our beneficiaries. If you or anyone you know would like any kind of help please contact Elizabeth Ramsden on **01706 658100** or **0756 418 7903** or email hibson3@talktalk.net

Rochdale Food Bank

Please place your donations in the boxes at the back of the Church. The Food Bank currently has a surplus of pasta and breakfast cereal, but is in URGENT NEED of all the other regular items. A full "shopping list" is available by the donations box.

SUNDAY GOSPEL WORDSEARCH

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KING
PILATE
JEW
PRIESTS
KINGDOM
WORLD
FOUGHT
BORN
WITNESS
TRUTH
LISTEN
VOICE

