

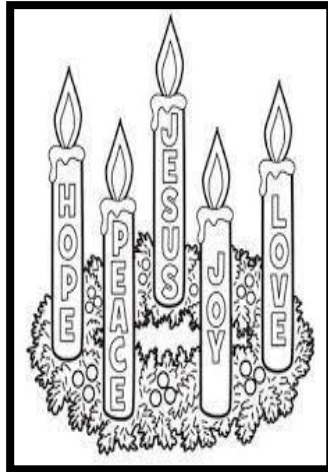


# Parish of St. Michael & St. Bernadette Whitefield



## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2024

Today is the first Sunday of Advent and the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be proclaimed. Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative, with Jesus teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man.



The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel believed that they were already experiencing the events Jesus described. Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but in the next paragraph Luke tells us that people woke early to go to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like those first Christians, we encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through faith in Jesus and in his continuing presence with us, may we have what we need to endure all things and to witness to the action of God's love in our world.

### Times of Services this Week

	ST. BERNADETTE'S	ST. MICHAEL'S
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	11.00am Mass	9.30am Mass
Tuesday (St Francis Xavier)	9.15am Mass in St Bernadette's School 7.30pm Mass	
Wednesday (St John Damascene)		9.30am Mass with School in Church Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 12 Noon
Thursday	9.30am Mass	
Friday (St Nicholas)		9.30am Mass
Saturday (St Ambrose)	10-11.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation 10-11.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Concluding with Benediction. 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> December (Second Sunday of Advent)	11.00am Mass	9.30am Mass

Next Sunday – Second Sunday of Advent. Baruch 5:1-9. Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11. Luke 3:1-6.

Response to today's psalm: To you O Lord, I lift up my soul.

#### Mass Intentions:

**Recently deceased:** Stephen Breheny, Rose Buckley, Danny Harrington, Jackie Taylor, Lori Driver, Michelle Barnes, Vicky Cain, Mrs Halliwell, Jackie Edwards.

**Anniversary:** Elizabeth Hitchin, John Bamford, Katherine Redmond, Mary Patricia Bagwell.

**Sick:** Catherine Healy, Jean Power.

**Other:** Rita Clarke (Remembrance), Joan & Bernard Howell (Remembrance), David & John A. Munro (Birthday Remembrance), Agnes Czernek (Birthday), Joan Moran (Special Intention), Phyllis Cooke (Special Intention), Alan Hindley (Special Intention), Hannah Doherty (100<sup>th</sup> Birthday), Margaret Molloy (90<sup>th</sup> Birthday).

#### Parish Priest - Canon Steven Parkinson

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436, Bury New Road  
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Tel: 0161 766 2356

St Michael's Catholic Church  
Albert Rd,  
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Manchester M45 8NR

E-mail: [info@whitefieldrc.co.uk](mailto:info@whitefieldrc.co.uk)  
Website: [www.whitefieldrc.co.uk](http://www.whitefieldrc.co.uk)  
Parish Office: 0161 766 5961  
(Monday – Friday 9.00am-2.00pm)

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS** for week ending 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024 £1378.90 of which £856.90 can be Gift Aided.

**RED DOOR:** £20.00 Many thanks.

**THE PRAYER GROUP** will now meet via Zoom at 7.00pm on Tuesday evenings. For further information please contact Tel: 0161 766 5141. All Welcome.

**RCIA JOURNEY IN FAITH GROUP** For anyone who would like to know more about or reflect upon the Catholic faith, the group meets on Wednesday at 7.00pm in the Lourdes Room.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** The Children's Liturgy takes place at the 11.00am Sunday Mass. Activity packs and Sunday activity sheets for children continue to be available at the back of each church.

**THE PARISH IMPACT YOUTH GROUP (YCW)** for 10 – 14-year-olds to see how you can be more involved in the life of the parish. Thanks to all those who have supported this group over the last few months. We will meet again on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm in the Lourdes Room.

**ADVENT 2024** please take a copy of the Advent *Walk with Me* booklet with daily reflections.

**SYNOD UPDATE AND INVITATION TO GATHER TOGETHER** on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Parishioners from St Michael's and St Bernadette's are warmly invited to attend a gathering in the Lourdes Room at St Bernadette's from 12.00-2.00pm (refreshments will be provided). In this session, we will be exploring **Themes 1 and 2** from The Big Listen Report, and proposing actions in response that will be sent to the Diocese. There will be a requirement for you to have **read the two summary leaflets in advance**, which can be accessed via the links below or by collecting a hardcopy from the narthexes of both churches:

Theme 1 summary leaflet: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Theme-One-Summary-Leaflet-final.pdf>

Theme 2 summary leaflet: <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Theme-2-Building-Connections.pdf>

The Big Listen Report and summary leaflets are also available on the Diocese of Salford's Website (go to 'Faith' and then 'Synod'). Any parishioners who would like to propose actions in response to the questions posed within the summary leaflets but cannot join us for the sessions can do so by submitting written responses via the 'Action Boxes' found in the narthexes of both churches. Action Boxes will remain here (alongside hardcopies of the summary leaflets) until Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December. Many thanks, Mrs Terri Rosa (Parish Synod Representative).

**PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR** Thank you to the whole parish for all the support received; from the purchase of raffle tickets and donations to the collection boxes, to all the people who helped in the days of preparation. A special thank you to the first-time helpers on the day; we could not have managed without you. We raised a magnificent £4441.12 - our best total ever! Special thanks to everyone who came to the Fair and all those who bought raffle tickets. There were 8 hamper prizes and all have now been claimed.

**ADVENT APPEAL FOR RED DOOR** Today on the First Sunday of Advent a second collection basket will be available for donations to Red Door (Caritas Diocese of Salford). RED DOOR will again work to provide a meal at Christmas and gifts for those in need. There will be a box at the back of each church for donations of toiletries and selection boxes for children to provide practical gifts for distribution.

**JUBILEE YEAR 2025** Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a Year of Jubilee – an event that happens every 25 years. The theme for the upcoming Jubilee is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. He is encouraging local pilgrimage. Why not come on pilgrimage to the Blessed Sacrament in Advent? There will be **Exposition and quiet prayer on Wednesday mornings after Mass in St Michael's until 12 Noon** and Saturday mornings at St Bernadette's. **During Advent, Exposition on Saturday morning in St Bernadette's will conclude at 11.30am with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.** In Lent 2025 on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March we will hold a Parish Day Pilgrimage to The Schoenstatt Shrine and in October from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> we will again offer a Pilgrimage to the Northern Saints, spending Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> on Lindisfarne (Holy Island). Details to follow....

**SVP CONTACT BOXES** These can be found in the foyer of both churches, along with contact forms, if you wish to request help for yourself or someone you know. The SVP contact number is 07749678562. Leave a message and we will call you back.

**APF/MILL HILL RED BOXES** - If you have a Red Mission Box usually emptied from St Bernadettes and it's ready to be emptied, please leave it in the Sacristy for collection. It should be returned the following week. Thank you.

**ST BERNADETTE'S SOCIAL CENTRE GRAND CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE** Sunday 1st December, 11.00am till 2.00pm in the Social Centre. Back by popular request! Come and buy fabulous hand-made gifts from our local artists and crafts people whilst supporting our fundraising efforts for refurbishment of the Social Centre. Enjoy our refreshments at the cafe including Irish coffee.

**SAVE THE DATE!** The choir at St Bernadette's Primary School would like to invite parishioners into school on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December for a Christmas Sing-along. Come and join us for a cup of tea and a mince pie whilst we entertain you with some fabulous festive songs that will really brighten up a dull, winter afternoon. We will start at 2.00pm and are looking forward to seeing you. No need for a ticket, just turn up and bring your friends!

**THE 'FRIENDS' CHRISTMAS CONCERT** will be on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm at St Bernadette's. Tickets are £5 entry or £8 for a concert ticket and hotpot supper. Under 16s are free. Tickets will go on sale December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**CRAFTY CHRISTINGLE:** This event will take place on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 3.00pm** in St Bernadette's Social Centre. This is a lovely event for children to come along to with their parents or carers to make some Christmas crafts. If your child would like to attend, please can you put their name down on the sheet at the back of church. The craft session will be followed at **4.00pm** in St Bernadette's Church with a Blessing for the Christingles and Cribs Service. All parishioners are welcome to attend this service and bring your cribs to be blessed.

**CHRISTMAS SING- A- LONG** 13<sup>th</sup> December St Bernadette's Social Centre at 1.30pm. Come along and join us as we sing all our favourite Christmas carols and songs in what promises to be a very festive afternoon. Our social centre will be open to everyone who wants to enjoy songs both old and new and it will also be a great opportunity to catch up with old friends over a cup of tea and mince pie. Doors open at 1pm and we will sing from 1.30pm to about 3pm. Free entry, just call Cath Fleming on 07790 538844 or email: [alwayswantedto29@gmail.com](mailto:alwayswantedto29@gmail.com) to reserve a place. Spread the word!