



Parish of St. Michael & St. Bernadette Whitefield



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) 21ST DECEMBER 2025

On this the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our Gospel Reading begins our contemplation of the mystery of the Incarnation that we celebrate each Christmas. The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of the birth of Jesus from Joseph's perspective. We must not gloss over too quickly the difficult circumstances described in today's Gospel; the way that Joseph and Mary face these circumstances tells us much about their trust and faith in God. The message of the Angel of the Lord given to Joseph in his dream tells us of the child that Mary bears and his role in God's plan: he is conceived by the Holy Spirit, his name will be Jesus, which in the Hebrew means "God saves," he will be the true fulfilment of the prophecy heard in today's first reading from Isaiah.



Joseph does as the Angel of the Lord directs, Joseph and Mary are both cooperative with God's plan. They model for us what it means to be faithful servants of God and how to let God be born in us in Jesus.

Times of Services this Week		
	ST. BERNADETTE'S	ST. MICHAEL'S
Sunday 21 st December	11.00am Mass	9.30am Mass
Tuesday 23 rd December	7.30pm Mass	
Wednesday 24 th December	6.00pm Mass of Christmas (Carols before Mass)	8.00pm Mass of Christmas (Carols before Mass)
Thursday 25 th December The Nativity of the Lord	11.00am Mass of Christmas	9.30am Mass of Christmas
Friday 26 th December (St Stephen)		9.30am Mass
Saturday 27 th December (St John the Evangelist)	10-11.00am Sacrament of Reconciliation 10-11.30am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament concluding with Benediction. 6.00pm Vigil Mass for Sunday	
Sunday 28 th December The Holy Family	11.00am Mass	9.30am Mass
Next Sunday The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Sirach 3:2-6, 12-17. Colossians 3:12-17. Matthew: 2:13-15, 19-23.		
Response to today's psalm: Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.		
Mass Intentions: Recently deceased: Michael Murphy, Hughie Sweeney, Robert Duff, Philip Michael Hardman, Donald Mackenzie, Bryan Eardley, Fr Thomas Mullin. Anniversary: Mary & Harold Barlow, Paul Barnes, Frank Smith, Mary Brangan, George Holdgate, Florence Geelan, Kathleen Guerin, Michael McAssey.		Sick: Niamh Ackroyd, Ben Rimmer, Dale Nuttall, Special Intention, Stephen Rea. Other intentions: Carol Doyle (Birthday Remembrance), Special Intention, John Perkins (Birthday Remembrance), Thanksgiving, Agnes Czenek (Birthday)

Parish Priest - Canon Steven Parkinson

St Bernadette's Catholic Church
436, Bury New Road
Whitefield, M45 7SX
Tel: 0161 766 2356

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

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

Weekly offerings for week ending 20th December 2025 £1313.13 of which £819.00 can be Gift Aided.

FOODBANK £ 20.00 **SVP** £35.00 cash donation and £90.00 from tea and coffee after 11.00am Mass.

December's Advent Appeal is for Red Door, collected so far £329.07

Thank you

Crib offerings will be used to support *Friends of the Holy Land* who support Christian communities to enable them to remain and thrive in the Holy Land so they may build just and lasting pathways to peace in the land where Jesus walked, striving to serve the common good of the entire region.

Please continue to donate any foreign and obsolete UK currency to Mary's Meals. For further information about Mary's Meals visit: marysmeals.org.uk

DONA machines to enable donations by card payment are installed at the back of each church, thank you for using them. The month end payment for November is £830.41 for offertory collections, that is in addition to the amounts listed above each week.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2025 As we pray that Advent is a time of great grace and we prepare for the Nativity of the Lord, this year for Christmas the times of Masses are:

Christmas Eve Mass: St Bernadette's 6.00pm and St Michael's 8.00pm. (Carols before the Masses)

Christmas Day Mass: St Michael's 9.30am and St Bernadette's 11.00am.

CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS: Dennis Burns, Josephine & Paddy Carolan & Family, Mary & John McTigue & Family, Mary & Peter Carolan & Family, Sr. Joan Elizabeth (Poor Clares), Agnes Lyons (RIP), Ann Hamill, Monica Quinn, Cath Brown, Elizabeth Eileen Moulton, Juliet Jamil Abdulahad, Kelly Family, John Cregg, Femi & Family, May & John O'Donnell, Gilbert Family (RIP), Duffy Family (RIP), Carter Family (RIP), Bernard Morley (RIP), Rita Clarke (RIP), Mary & John Hamill (RIP), Teresa & George Dease (RIP), Lanagan Family (RIP), Hamill Family (RIP), Morley Family (RIP), Joan & Bernard Howell (RIP), Pat Wright, Margaret Melia, Mardy Family, Kath Lee, Fr. John Rowan, Helen Bailey, Mary & Joseph Fegan, Pat & Kathleen Burns, Michael & Martina Burns, Ann & Paul Ferguson, Porick & Olive Burns, Paul & Fiona Burns, Seamus Burns, Philomena Clancy, Mairead & Gerry Crowley, May Clancy, Christina McAssey, Peg McAssey, Kathleen & Pat Burns, Diana Dimambro, Patrick & Denise McAssey, Ned O'Connor, Harry, Maureen and Brian Shonick, Don Wallace, Sue & Jim Hyndman, Eileen Rea, Helena & Patrick Carroll, Hale, Barlow, Fidler, Brennan and O'Brien Families, Agnes Czernek.

ADVENT APPEAL FOR RED DOOR on the Sundays of Advent a second collection basket will be available for donations to RED DOOR (Caritas Diocese of Salford) and the Christmas Day Meal for those in need in Bury, organised by YCW; anyone who would like to join them for a meal or receive one at home, contact 07855 306074. RED DOOR will again work to provide for those in need at Christmas and gifts for those in need. There will be a box at the back of each church for donations of toiletries, biscuits and selection boxes for children to provide practical gifts for distribution.

THE PRAYER GROUP will 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 in the Lourdes Room in St Bernadette's on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. The group will reconvene on Wednesday 7th January.

PARISH SVP CONTACT NUMBER IS 07749678562. Need help or advice, phone, or leave a message and someone will call back.

YCW IMPACT GROUP 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. The next meeting is on Tuesday 27th January 2026 6:00pm in the Lourdes Room.

BAPTISM Parents seeking Baptism for children, please collect the leaflet which can be found at the back of each of our churches, 'Celebrating the Baptism of your child'. Please return the slip from the leaflet indicating the date of the Baptism preparation meeting you wish to attend. Families not resident in the parish and who do not make St Michael's and St Bernadette's their parish by attendance, will be directed to their parish of residence.

RED DOOR (Caritas, Diocese of Salford) is open each weekday (Monday-Friday) from 10.00am until 1.00pm at St. Joseph's (former Presbytery), Peter St, Bury, for meals, food parcels, toiletries, showers, a laundry service and advice with housing and benefit issues. Tel 0161 272 0771.

The new cleaning Rota for St Bernadette's Church is now available. **VERY MANY THANKS** to those who keep our church buildings so clean and tidy, those who help make them look so beautiful with flowers and decoration, the groups who support our community activities, those who help with liturgy and our musicians and the many whose work, often behind the scenes, both now and throughout the year is so much appreciated as are all those who enable us to celebrate this joyful season in the way we do – Fr Steven