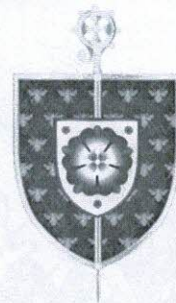


The Roman Catholic Parish of Saint Vincent de Paul, Norden



Diocese of Salford
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SUNDAY NEWSLETTER

7th December 2025

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT [A]

At Saint Vincent's This Week ...

The Second Week of Advent (Psalter Week 2)

Monday 8th December

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary [Solemnity]

Genesis 3:9-15.20; Ephesians 1:3-6.11-13; Luke 1:26-38

9.30 a.m. Word & Communion

Tuesday 9th December

Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin [Optional Commemoration]

Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14

9.30 a.m. MASS

Wednesday 10th December

Our Lady of Loreto [Optional Commemoration]

Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30

9.30 a.m. MASS

Thursday 11th December

Saint Damasus the First, Pope [Optional Commemoration]

Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15

10.00 a.m. Funeral MASS of Pat Bradley

Friday 12th December

 *Day of Abstinence*

Our Lady of Guadalupe [Optional Commemoration]

Isaiah 48:17-19; Matthew 11:16-19

9.30 a.m. MASS

6.30 p.m. Taizé Advent Prayer Service

Saturday 13th December

Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr [Commemoration]

Sirach 48:1-4.9-11; Matthew 17:9a.10-13

10.30 a.m. Churches Together Carol Singing

11.00 a.m. MASS for Peace

6.00 p.m. Sacrament of Penance (Confessions)

6.30 p.m. First MASS of Sunday

Sunday 30th November

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT [A]

(Gaudete Sunday)

Isaiah 35:1-6a.10; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

9.00 a.m. MASS Refreshments after Mass

11.00 a.m. MASS Refreshments after Mass

3.00 p.m. Christmas Choir Practice (all welcome!)

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: Ann Patricia Bradley, Jan Jozef Skryp, Aria Rand-Dalton.

Anniversaries: Colin Kildunne, Rosie Green, Thomas Loftus, Betty Walsh, Billy Walsh, Gerard Anderson.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer

We pray this week for the parishioners of Saint Catherine's, Didsbury, together with Father John Hitchen, their parish priest. We pray for their parish primary school, the Barlow High School and Francis House Children's Hospice.

National Cycle of Prayer

During Ordinary Time (Autumn) We pray especially for: 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 (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



Throughout the first three weeks of Advent our focus is very clearly on the End of Time, and the Second Coming of the Lord - not on the run up to the Birth of Jesus (that only comes in the last week). If we view Advent as a Sea-son preparing for Christmas these readings will make little sense - and neither will the figure of John the

Baptist who appears today: if it was about the preparation for Christmas, then John the Baptist, preaching after Jesus was born, becomes a confusing figure: on the contrary, his role is to preach to us, as he did of old, and to prepare us for the (second) coming of the Lord. Everything gets more specific today: what is being preached is not an event, but a person: Isaiah promises him, John welcomes him, Paul invites us to imitate him. We have here a thumbnail portrait of the Messiah - useful to refer to when we get to Christmas and he is revealed as a child in a manger!

News and Notes

Advent Resources

In the porch you will find some resources to help with prayer in this short season of Advent: two prayer calendars, one for adults and one for children, and copies of "The Way of Hope", stations of Advent, in a style similar to the Stations of the Cross.

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 healing work, FHL funds Saint Martha's House, the first day centre for elderly women in Bethlehem. With no welfare systems in Bethlehem - such as state pensions, healthcare or social services - widows are particularly vulnerable as they have no independent income. Many live a lonely, isolated existence due to poverty and/or chronic illness; they live in poorly maintained, unsuitable housing without access to nutritional food or often, clean water. 35 elderly women attend Saint Martha's House on a regular basis. The House is open four days a week, providing breakfast and lunch, plus a programme of activities and engagement. The women are also helped with basic self-care (such as haircuts, podiatry etc.) and healthcare (blood pressure checks, dental checks, blood glucose tests etc) with visits from local Christian volunteers. They operate a minibus service to transport the ladies; this has proved a crucial part of our care during recent months when, because of the continuing war in Gaza, the ladies do not always feel safe leaving their homes. The close-knit community at Saint Martha's House has been more of a lifeline than ever. The companionship they find with one-another

significantly enhances their emotional and social well-being, so exasperated by life in the midst of war. 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!

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 630 p.m. **Mass on 20th December**, so that someone can get the goodies in time for Christmas! Please get your tickets from the Piety Stall.

La Nativité du Seigneur!

This coming **Tuesday 9th December** our Year Four children are presenting "The French Nativity" in church at 6.30 p.m. Everyone is very welcome to at-tend!

Taizé Advent Prayer

Looking for a bit of peace before Christmas? Why not come along to our Taizé Evening Prayer this **Friday 12th December** from 6.30 - 7.30 p.m. It involves some reflective music from the Taizé community, some scripture and prayer, and a moment of chill in the midst of the pre-festive bustling! Everyone of any faith or none is very welcome!

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 Sunday 21st December. Names of those to be remembered will be displayed in Church.

SVP Clothes Bank

Thank you so much for your generosity in contributing to the SVP clothing bank. The bank is emptied by volunteers on a weekly basis, and the contents are taken to the SVP shop in Bury where they are gratefully received. Unfortunately, some of the items recently donated have become water damaged due to them not being placed in tied waterproof bags. This means that the shop is then unable to sell them. We would be extremely grateful if you could pack your items into waterproof bags that tie

firmly at the top and fit easily into the bucket of the clothing bank. This means that we all gain the maximum benefit from them.

Christmas Choir

As in previous years there will be a volunteer Choir at the First Mass of Christmas: the next rehearsal in this **Sunday 7th December** at 3.00 p.m., and after that on **Thursday 11th December** at 4.00 p.m. Everyone is very welcome!

Churches Together Carol Singing

As usual each year we are gathering together from all the Christian churches in the area to give a little bit of witness and a little bit of joy to our local community! Join us at our Carol Singing in Cutgate Precinct next **Saturday 13th December** at 10.30 a.m. After our singing Cutgate Baptist Church are very kindly offering refreshments! Please come along (festively dressed!) and join in!

CAFOD World Gifts

Each year at Christmas, CAFOD produce a catalogue with a range of gifts in suitable for purchasing for communities throughout the world. Catalogues are available in the porch: please pick one up and consider if you would like to help people in the poorer communities of the world.

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.

Heywood Foodbank

... are looking for someone with good money management skills to act as their Treasurer. Role involves processing donations and payments, keeping good digital records of transactions, and occasional reporting. If you would like to volunteer then please contact Brian Doyle on 0739 607 1193 for more information.

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

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 **28-29 January 2026** before they travel to Saint Patrick's Church, Collyhurst from **30 January to 1 February 2026**. More information will be shared soon with parishes and on the Diocesan website and social media channels.

Energy Advice

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

Laudato Si' Centre Needs Retired Educators

The Diocese of Salford's Environment Team is inviting retired education staff to volunteer at the Laudato Si' Centre to assist with their successful programme of school visits. Volunteers would be supporting sessions with children from nursery age to Year 11 with activities including arts and crafts, games, and foraging. To find out more, please email laudatosi@dioceseofsalford.org.uk

December Carol Services

The Diocese of Salford Schools' Singing Programme will be hosting a series of free carol services in churches across the diocese this December. Each service begins at 6.30 p.m. and includes traditional carols and readings as part of a one-hour programme. Find your nearest service at <https://dioceseofsalford.org.uk/news/whats-on/>

Women of the Old Testament

24: Hephzibah

The books of Kings and Chronicles in the Old Testament list the various rulers of the twin kingdoms of Judah and Israel – and passes judgment on them! Almost all the kings after Solomon are seen as failing in preserving faith in Lord and worshipping false gods. One exception occurs at the end of the 8th century BC: remember Ahaz and Jezebel? Despite Ahaz's objections, Isaiah prophesied that a righteous king would come – this was their son, Hezekiah. Hezekiah overturned the idolatry of Ahaz, and restored the worship of the Lord in Jerusalem, and is recorded as the most virtuous king of Judah! His wife and Queen was Hephzibah, a name which means something like "Delight of the Lord." There is an ancient Jewish tradition (though unverifiable) that Hephzibah was the daughter of the prophet Isaiah: Isaiah uses this name in one of his later prophecies to describe the restoration of Jerusalem, so perhaps there is some truth in the idea that he gave this name to a daughter who became Queen of Judah in Jerusalem! The "good times" of Hezekiah did not last, however: he was succeeded by their eldest son, Manasseh, who was judged to be one of the most wicked kings of Judah. He reigned for 55 years and undid all the reforms of his father, bringing worship of other gods to Judah. We don't know how Hephzibah reacted to this as Queen Mother, or how long she lived after Hezekiah's death, but she must surely have been saddened that faith in the Lord, renewed by her husband, was so quickly forgotten.

Next Week: Sarah, daughter of Raguel.

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 receive 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 be 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 11:2-11

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?' And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you." Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

Gospel Wordsearch

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JOHN
PREACHED
WILDERNESS
MESSAGE
REPENT
VOICE
PREPARE
BELT
LOCUSTS
HONEY
SANDALS
RIVER



✠ STAY WITH US, LORD, ON OUR JOURNEY ✠