

THIS WEEKEND	First Sunday of Advent		Year B
Sat 28th Nov	5.00pm	St O	Catherine (A) & Jack Gillibrand, Pious List
<i>St Catherine Laboure</i>	6.30pm	St T	Parishioners, Pious List
Sun 29th Nov	8:30am	St O	Joan Smyth (A), Pious List
	9.30am	St T	Josephine Patten, Pious List Yvonne Roberts (A) Gerard Singleton (A) William Singleton (A)
Divine Office 1			
Mon 30th Nov	9.30am	St O	Jean Coupe (A), Pious List
<i>St Andrew</i>			
Tues 1st Dec	8.30am 9.15am 9.45am	St O St T St O	Parishioners Christopher Mortimer (LD) Funeral Service: Eileen Fallon (family + friends only)
Wed 2nd Dec	9.30am 11.30am	St MM St T	Charlotte Clare Burke Funeral Service: Derek Despard (Family + Friends only)
Thu 3rd Dec	9.30am 7.00pm	St O St T	Mary + Lawrence Porter Priest's Intention
<i>St Francis Xavier</i>			
Fri 4th Dec	9.15am 9.30am	St T St O	Mary Lee (Moxham) (LD) Mairead Wareing
NEXT WEEKEND	Second Sunday of Advent		Year B
Sat 5th Dec	5.00pm	St O	Parishioners
<i>St John Almond</i>	6.30pm	St T	Gordon Inglis Eileen Murphy (B'day Rem)
Sun 6th Dec	8:30am	St O	O'Hara Family, Anthony O'Donnell (A)
	9.30am	St T	Michael Harris, Mary Jo Grealis
	11.00am	St MM	Eileen Leahy, Parishioners



Online Giving / Text giving: If you wish to make a donation, please follow this link or the QR code on the right:

<http://www.catholic-penwortham-longton.btck.co.uk/Finance>

The Catholic Church

in Penwortham + Longton

St Mary Magdalen, St Oswald + St Teresa

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1st Sunday of Advent 29th November 2020

Waiting for the Lord

As we begin another liturgical year, we focus on the coming of Christ. We wait for his coming in our own lives; we wait for his coming at Christmas; and we await his second coming.

In the **First Reading**, the exiles, freshly returned from Babylon, plead with God to return to them to help them rebuild their land. They are weary with waiting for him.

The **psalmist** too pleads with God, 'the shepherd of Israel', to come once again to help, protect and show his power.

In the opening words of his letter to the Corinthians, Paul thanks God for all the graces they have received. He is confident that God will keep them faithful while they wait for the Lord Jesus Christ to be fully revealed (**Second Reading**).

In the **Gospel**, Jesus clearly warns his disciples to stay awake, to be on their guard, to be like the doorkeeper ... ever alert, because he does not know when his master will return.

Let us enter this new season with confidence, knowing that the Lord will give us, and our world, the graces we need, because 'God is faithful'.

Currently there is no Communal worship in our Churches at the moment, due to the coronavirus pandemic. Masses will resume on the 2nd December.

Celebrations of Holy Mass

Fr. Roy / Fr. Michael will continue to celebrate Mass in a church within our parishes without the faithful. The continuing celebration of Mass ensures that the faithful can join in spiritual communion with the priests of the Church.

Anointing of the Sick:

No pastoral visits are to be made to people who are self-isolating until the isolation period ends. Phone support is available.

Funerals:

Funerals can be attended by a maximum of 30 people, who are family and close friends only. Social distancing should be maintained between people who do not live together or share a support bubble.



St Teresa's Webcam:

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-teresas-penwortham> Or by scanning the QR code left.

If the picture 'freezes' then please refresh the screen to resume watching.

Recent Deaths: Just to make you aware, at this time of difficult communication, that Patrick Cunningham and Derek Despard have recently died. Please remember them and their family in your prayers.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Gift Aid Envelopes: If you have any envelopes you wish to return from 2019 –2020 financial year, then please can they be handed in by 6th December 2020. Any envelopes returned after this date will be added to this financial year. Thank you for your continued generosity through this pandemic.

If you wish to receive a letter detailing your donation for the financial year 2019-2020 then please email the parish office.

Christmas Food Bank: During the first two weeks of December we are planning to collect some tasty Christmas foods to give to the foodbank to distribute to local needy families. Donations would be really welcome and appreciated in these difficult times. Drop off points are our three churches as well as two house addresses in Penwortham, 39 Highgate and 6 Houghton Close (PR1 9HT, Gemma and Joe on 746241.) Items needed are: Selection boxes or bars of chocolate, Chocolate biscuits (tins or packs) Cake (Christmas or other with a long sell by date), Cartons of long life juice, Mince pies, Tinned ham, Tinned salmon, Shelled nuts, Crisps, Cheesy nibbles.

SYNOD 2020 : Please remember to return your proposals as soon as possible as the responses need to collated then submitted. They can be returned by email to the respective parish email address: **St O:** longton@rcaolp.co.uk or

St MM + St T: penwortham@rcaolp.co.uk or post through the presbytery letterbox.

SVP: This year we are providing Christmas Afternoon teas, replacing our Christmas Party. These will be prepared under Covid guidelines, for parishioners we visit and live alone in their own homes. They will be delivered on Thursday 10th December across the parish. Your parish SVP is still at work. If you need any support don't forget we are here to help. If you need a telephone chat for company, financial advice or support you can contact any SVP member.

Please support us this Christmas if you are shopping with Amazon. Start your purchase by logging onto smile.amazon.co.uk and selecting SVP England & Wales as your charity of choice. Amazon will make a small donation to us with every purchase at no extra cost to you. Even a small amount can really make a huge difference to us during this critical time.

I am Joseph Tipping and I have been raising money for The Sons of Divine Providence missions in Kenya, India and the Philippines for the last 27 years. Last year, with your help, the money I raised, selling bulbs, managed to provide a village with a fresh-water pump and feed approximately 500 children in Kenya for a year.

Due to the current Covid-19 situation I am having to sell my bulbs differently. Could you please email me at : tipping.joseph@gmail.com or ring me on [01772 743637](tel:01772743637) to let me know what you would like to order. I can arrange for your order to be delivered to you or you can collect it from my home. The selection of bulbs this year are as follows: **Mini-daffodils** £6, **Hyacinths** (Pink, Blue, White) £5, **White Daffodils** £6, **Cheerfulness** £6, **Amaryllis** (Red, Apple Blossom, White) £8, **Mixed Crocuses** £5, **Mixed Iris** £5, **Snowdrops** £5, **Mini Tulips** (Pink or mixed) £6, **Baskets of Daffodils and Crocuses** £8 or £12 depending on size. One bowl of flowers will feed a child for 2/3 days. Any donations will be gratefully accepted. Thank you again for all your help and support, Joseph Tipping.

Advent

Lord, it happens every year.

I think that this will be the year that I have a reflective Advent. I look forward to Sunday and this new season. But all around me are the signs rushing me to Christmas and some kind of celebration that equates spending with love.

I need your help, Lord. I want to slow my world down. This year, more than ever, I need Advent, these weeks of reflection and longing for hope in the darkness. Bring me close to my family.

This year, help me to have that longing. Help me to feel it in my heart and be aware of the hunger and thirst in my own soul. Deep down, I know there is something missing in my life, but I can't quite reach for it. I can't get what is missing. I know it is about you, Lord. You are not missing from my life, but I might be missing the awareness of all of the places you are present there. Be with me. Guide me in these weeks to what you want to show me this Advent. Help me to be vulnerable enough to ask you to lead me to the place of my own weakness, the very place where I will find you the most deeply embedded in my heart, loving me without limits.

