



## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (A)

### Mass Times and Intentions

Divine Office – Psalter Week 4



Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	11.00am	Ken Fiddler
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	9.30am	John Kenneth Moran
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Christmas Eve</b>	5.30pm 7.00pm	The Houghton Family Private Intention
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Christmas Day</b>	11.00am	Veronica Goulding
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am	Mary Conroy
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am	Josephine Griffin

### Sunday Liturgy

#### Proper of the Mass

Profession of Faith

Preface

Eucharistic Prayer

**p. 90**

p. 11

p. 66

p. 25

### The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December



**For pilgrims of hope.** We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

**December** is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. "From all eternity God chose with infinite wisdom the woman who would be the Mother of His divine Son. To prepare for the Word Incarnate a spotless and holy tabernacle, God created Mary in grace and endowed her from the moment of her conception with all the perfections suited to her exalted dignity."



## The Roman Catholic Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians

Portico Lane, Prescot, L34 2QT

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## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (A) 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025



Christmas Season is one of the most joyful seasons of the Church's year. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and the beginning of our redemption. Each year we recall the events of that incredible night two thousand years ago, when God himself was born as a tiny baby in the stable at Bethlehem, fulfilling all the prophecies of the Old Testament. We remember once again the fact that, although Jesus was both God and King, there were none

of the trappings of royalty – just a stable and a manger to serve as a cot. The message that our Saviour was born was not given first to kings or queens or heads of state, but to some lowly shepherds who were tending their flocks in the fields nearby.

The prophets of the Old Testament called the longed-for Messiah "Emmanuel", a name which means "God with us". By becoming a man, God has entered the course of human history in a way that we can see and understand, and with his birth the presence of God among his people has changed for ever.

During Christmas we also honour Our Blessed Lady for her work in our redemption. So important was her role as the Mother of God that we call her "Co Redemptrix" – a co-worker in our redemption. Mary rightly deserves the title of being "the highest honour of our race".

Let us celebrate this Christmas with our minds and hearts renewed by the love of God, who sent his only Son to win our salvation.



## Offertory Collection/Donations

If you do not have any cash you can donate by scanning this QR code with a smart phone.

***Wishing a Happy and Holy Christmas to all Parishioners of Our Lady Help of Christians, and Peace, Health and Happiness throughout the New Year.***

### Christmas Mass Times

#### Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve)

5.30pm      Vigil Mass  
7.00pm      Vigil Mass

#### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Day)

11.00am      Christmas Day Mass

### Christmas Raffle

Thanks you so much for a wonderfully generous response to our first Christmas Raffle, which raised an incredible £970.00 for our Parish funds. This is far more than we expected, and at a time when there are so many calls on your generosity. There is a full list of winners in the porch.

### The Portico Knitters and Stitchers Group

We intend to start a knitting & stitching group for Parishioners, here at Our Lady's. So, how about sharing your skills to complete various Church projects? If you are interested please come to an initial meeting to discuss projects, which could include new Altar cloths and other Church linen.

Meeting in Church Hall on **Thursday 29th January at 2pm**. Looking forward to seeing you.  
Angela Steward & Lynn Jones

### Portico Fundraisers

Portico Fundraisers thank you all for supporting our Plant Sale weekend in aid of InterCare (Medical Aid for Africa). We raised a total of £648.

### First Holy Communions 2025

Parents and guardians of Baptised children in Year 4 and above who wish to make their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion are welcome to join the "With You Always" programme. Please call Denise Liptrot (preferably after 6.00pm) on 07726 286 363 as soon as possible with your name and contact details.

### Cribs at Home

Pope Francis said "the nativity scene is a like a living Gospel. I encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the nativity scene at home, in the workplace, in schools hospital and town squares". This year can we see if each home could have a family crib?

### Confirmations in 2026

Anyone in Year 8 or above can now register to be Confirmed in 2026. Register: [www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk](http://www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk)

### Feast Days This Week

#### Monday

**St John of Kenty** – He was born In Kenty in Poland on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 1390. As a priest he lectured at the university, lived an austere life and showed great charity to the poor. Certain people were envious of his reputation and were influential in removing him from his post. He spent another eight years serving a parish until his death on 24<sup>th</sup> December 1473. John taught his students, "Fight all error, but do it with good humour, kindness and love. Harshness will damage your own soul and spoil the best cause."

#### Thursday

**St Stephen** - According to the Acts of the Apostles, Stephen was a deacon of the Early Church in Jerusalem who aroused the enmity of members of various synagogues by his teachings. Accused of blasphemy, at his trial he made a long speech denouncing the Jewish authorities who were sitting in judgment on him and he was then stoned to death. Like his Master, he was full of forgiveness for his executioners. His martyrdom was witnessed by Saul of Tarsus (St Paul) who approved of the killing. He is venerated as the Protomartyr of Christianity.

#### Friday

**St John, Apostle and Evangelist** – According to the New Testament he was one of the Twelve Apostles called by Jesus. Along with Peter and James he was one of only three Apostles to witness Jesus' Transfiguration and Agony in the Garden. As well as the Fourth Gospel, John wrote three New Testament Epistles and the Book of the Apocalypse.

#### Saturday

**Feast of the Holy Innocents** – Commemorating the innocent children who were slaughtered at the orders of King Herod, in the hope that by killing every boy born in Bethlehem at the same time of Jesus he would succeed in killing the new-born King of the Jews.

