
 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent (A)</b> <b>Mass Times and Intentions</b> <b>Divine Office – Psalter Week 2</b> 		
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am	Prendergast Family
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b> <b>Immaculate Conception</b>	<b><u>11.00am</u></b>	Intentions of the Shacklady Family
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am	Get Well Soon (JO'H)
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December		NO MASS
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30am	Pat Johnson
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00am	Deacon Vin Anderson

## Sunday Liturgy

<b>Proper of the Mass</b>	<b>p. 85</b>
Profession of Faith	Nicene p. 11
Preface	Advent I p. 65
Eucharistic Prayer	Prayer 2 p. 25

## The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for 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.

**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. "

	<p><i>The Roman Catholic Parish of</i>  <b>Our Lady Help of Christians</b>  <b>Portico Lane, Prescott, L34 2QT</b>  <b>Administrator: Fr Andrew Rowlands VF</b>  <b>Deacon: Rev Tom Simms</b>          Email: <a href="mailto:smaaa@rcaol.org.uk">smaaa@rcaol.org.uk</a> Tel. 0151 546 9687</p>	
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## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent (A) 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025



The Readings for the Second Sunday in advent all refer to the coming of the King. In the Old Testament the reference is to the coming of one of the Davidic kings of the ancient Jewish Monarchy. In the New Testament, the readings refer to the coming of the great "King of kings" who is Jesus Christ, the only one that could fulfil all such prophesies or references.

In the First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah the prophet has just announced the imminent destruction of the kingdom of Judah and its centre, Jerusalem, with its temple. However, at the same time, He holds out a branch of hope to the people of Israel. One of their descendants will bring Jerusalem great honour and glory, and He will out-shine all the previous kings of Israel. This prophesy could only be filled by the Anointed One of God, Jesus Christ.

The Responsorial Psalm, although composed originally for the anointing of one of the Davidic kings, the accolades are too grand and far-reaching to be referring to any earthly person and can only be attributed to God in the person of Jesus Christ, the "King who was and who is and who is to come.

In the Second Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans we hear Paul exhort the early Christians to prepare for the coming of the Lord. This "Letter" was written during a very difficult time for the early Christians, much like the Jews of Isaiah's time. Conditions were much the same, the Romans were about to destroy Jerusalem. Paul counsels the Christians to be patient and refer back to earlier scripture that tells of the glory and honour to come for those who are faithful. In turn, this will give honour and glory to the "Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ."

In the Gospel Reading from Matthew we hear the familiar story of the preaching of John the Baptist, the last of the Old Testament prophets, whose sole mission was to announce the coming of the "Anointed One of God." Sometimes familiar stories just float "in one ear and out the other." We should stop and really listen to this story and its message.



## Offertory Collection/Donations

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

### Christmas Raffle

The Finance & Admin Committee are holding a Christmas Raffle to boost Church Funds. Tickets are on sale in the Church Shop up until the 14th December. Please pay a visit to the Church Shop to help our cause. Tickets on sale Now!!! 50p each - a book of 5 only £2.50. Lots of prizes, see the poster in the Porch for more details. **Please return counterfoils to the shop no later than 13<sup>th</sup> December.**

### Carol Service with St James

We will be holding a joint Advent Service of Readings and Carols with the parishioners of St James Church. It will take place at St James at 6.00pm on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December. **We need three more people to do Readings during the Service – would anyone like to volunteer?**

### 50 Plus Group

There is no meeting of the 50 Plus Group this month but the Christmas Meal is on Thursday 11th December at 1:30pm in The Grapes Hotel.

### Portico Fundraisers

Our Christmas tombola and plant sale will be held in the parish hall over the weekend of 13/14 December. Order forms for the plants must be returned by the 29/30 November. Please note ALL ORDERS ARE CASH ONLY. Thank you for your support.

### First Holy Communions 2026

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.

### Metropolitan Cathedral – A Celebration of Christmas

A Celebration of Christmas returns this year on Saturday 13 December with a night of musical cheer, guaranteed to get you into the festive spirit. Join the Metropolitan Cathedral Choir and some very special guests for what promises to be a magical event for all the family. Tickets: £10 each/ £18 family, available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/metcathedral)

### 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

**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY** – This Solemnity celebrates the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary free from original sin by virtue of the merits of her Son, Jesus. The Catholic Church teaches that God acted upon Mary in the first moment of her conception, keeping her “immaculate” and worthy to be the Mother of God’s only Son. This feast day is also an affirmation that human life begins at the very moment of conception.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception is closely related to the Feast of the Assumption because, having led a sinless life and because of her role as the Mother of God, it would not have been appropriate for her body to have been tainted by corruption. And so, at the end of her earthly life, Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven.

### Tuesday

**St John Diego Cuahltlatatzin** – Living from 1474 – 1548, the Virgin Mary appeared to John Diego Cuahltlatatzin (Talking Eagle), an Aztec Indian in Guadalupe, Mexico. Juan repeatedly went to the clerics in the region and told them of his vision. On his last attempt to prove it was real, he returned with his tilma (cloak) filled with rose blossoms, believed to be miraculous since they grew at the wrong time of the year. When he opened his cloak, not only did the roses spill out, but also imprinted on the cloth was an image of the Virgin. St Juan is an important symbol for those who have suffered persecution, including slavery.

### Wednesday

**Our Lady of Loreto** – A record dating from 1465 states that during the night between 9-10<sup>th</sup> December 1294 the Holy House was discovered on the very hill where it still stands. The Holy House is the origin of the Marian devotion found at the shrine of Loreto, a reminder of the mystery of the Incarnation and of the Gospel example of the Holy Family at Nazareth. Many popes have bestowed their apostolic attention on the shrine of the Virgin of Loreto, whom Pope Benedict XV proclaimed the patron of those traveling by air. The Litany of Loreto has spread through the Universal Church.

### Thursday

**Pope St Damasus I** – He was born of Spanish descent about the year 305; his father was a priest. He became a deacon under Pope Liberius and was later ordained priest. In the year 366, during very troublesome times, he was ordained Bishop of Rome. He called together a number of synods against the heretics and schismatics, and he did much to promote the veneration of martyrs, whose tombs he embellished with sacred verse. He promulgated the Canon of Scripture and commissioned St Jerome to translate the Scriptures into Latin to replace the many different versions then in existence. He changed the liturgical language of the Church from Greek to Latin and saw to the housing of papal archives. He died in the year 384.

### Friday

**Our Lady of Guadalupe** – Commemorating the appearances of Our Lady to St Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531. It is the title of the Virgin Mary associated with a celebrated pictorial image housed in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Pope John Paul II entrusted the cause of life to her protection, and especially the innocent lives of children and those in danger of not being born,

### Saturday

**St Lucy** – One of the most famous of the Virgin Martyrs, her name is mentioned in the ancient Canons. She suffered martyrdom at Syracuse about the year 304, probably during the persecution of the Emperor Diocletian. Devotion to her spread almost throughout the whole Church and dates back to the earliest times. Her name was inserted into the Roman Canon.