
 3rd Sunday of Advent (A) Mass Times and Intentions Divine Office – Psalter Week 3 		
Saturday 13 th December	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 14 th December	11.00am	Deacon Vin Anderson
Tuesday 16 th December	1.30pm	Funeral Service for Ruth Ann Orchard
Wednesday 17 th December	7.00pm	Michael Prendergast (Speedy Recovery)
Thursday 18 th December	9.30am	Fr Alan Devaney
Saturday 20 th December	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 21 st December	11.00am	Ken Fidler

Sunday Liturgy

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Preface	Advent I	p. 65
Eucharistic Prayer	Prayer 3	p. 28

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>The Roman Catholic Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians Portico Lane, Prescott, L34 2QT Administrator: Fr Andrew Rowlands VF Deacon: Rev Tom Simms Email: smaaa@rcaol.org.uk Tel. 0151 546 9687</p>	
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3rd Sunday of Advent (A) 14th December 2025



In the First Reading from the Prophet Isaiah, the prophet is describing the joy that will come over the people of Israel who have been patient and didn't give up hope while waiting for deliverance from captivity in Babylon. In the same way the faithful, who are waiting for deliverance from this life on earth in order to enter heaven, "we shall enter singing, crowned with everlasting joy."

In the Responsorial Psalm, the psalmist extols the goodness and generosity of God who, in His own good time, provides all the necessities of humankind. However, it is often difficult for us to see this in the midst of life's struggles. Therefore, we must constantly call upon God in prayer to renew our faith and grant us the virtues of hope and patience.

In the Second Reading from the Letter of St. James we hear the apostle encourage his flock by advising them to be patient. This letter was written during a period of severe persecution when all seemed doomed; but James suggests that the people look to the prophets of old who were despised by their own people, yet never gave up hope. Or consider Job, who lost everything; yet because of his faith and hope in God, he regained everything and more.

In the Gospel Reading from the Gospel of Matthew we hear the familiar story of John the Baptist, the last of the Old Testament prophets, who was in prison at this time. He must have been very discouraged knowing that his end was near. He sends friends to Jesus to learn if He, Jesus, is the "One who is to come?" This is another phrase meaning "Messiah." Jesus, rather than answering with a subjective or abstract "Yes," points out the things that He has accomplished--- the blind recover their sight, cripples walk, deaf hear, etc. This must have encouraged John the Baptist because it was for just this very reason that he had worked so hard at preaching a baptism of repentance. Now he can rest in peace. But listen to the last sentence. It should cause one to sit up and take notice. Jesus says "...the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" (John the Baptist). How can that be?



Offertory Collection/Donations

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

Christmas Mass Times

Wednesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

5.30pm Vigil Mass

7.00pm Vigil Mass

Thursday 25th December (Christmas Day)

11.00am Christmas Day Mass

Christmas Raffle

There's still a chance to buy tickets for our Christmas Raffle. The Draw will take place in the Church Hall after the 11.00am Mass this Sunday, 14th December. Thank you for your generosity.

Portico Fundraisers

Our Christmas tombola and plant sale will be held in the parish hall over the weekend of 13/14 December.

SVP Collection

Thank you a thousand-fold for all the money donated to the SVP, to be used across the schools and parishes of St Helens. The total from both Masses is **£615.40p.**! What a difference you are making to people! Thank you very much! Hilary Shacklady. SVP."

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?

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.

Confirmations in 2026

Anyone in Year 8 or above can now register to be Confirmed in 2026. Register: www.liverpoolcalled.co.uk

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 this Sunday, 14th December. Do



come and join us as the service takes us through the longing of the Chosen People of the Old Testament as they looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, through to the birth of Jesus and the true beginnings of our salvation. A wonderful way to prepare for Christmas!

Feast Days This Week

Monday

St Paul of Latros - Byzantine hermit, sometimes listed as "the Younger." Paul was born at Pergamos, near Smyrna, in [Asia](#) Minor, the son of an officer in the Byzantine army. His father was killed in battle, and after his mother died, he became a [monk](#) in a community on Mt. [Olympus](#) in Greece, with his brother, Basil. Paul later left the monastery and became a hermit on Mount Latros in Bithynia, [Asia](#) Minor. Soon he attracted followers, and Paul was compelled to organize them into a laura, or community. After twelve years, Paul departed Mount Latros and settled on the island of [Samos](#) to live in a cave. More followers gathered around him and Paul oversaw the [creation](#) of several more lauras before returning to Latros, where he died after years of [prayer](#) and mortifications.

Tuesday

St Ado of Vienne – Ado was born in Sens in France and educated at the Benedictine abbey of Ferrieres. Abbot Lupus Servatus, an outstanding humanist of the time, trained Ado and was impressed by his obvious holiness. A noble by birth, Ado renounced his inheritance and became a Benedictine. Ado's holiness made him enemies, and he went to Rome on pilgrimage and remained there for two years. He served as pastor in Lyons until the year 860, when Pope Nicholas I appointed him Archbishop of Vienna. He reformed the clergy and opposed the actions of King Lothair II who tried to set aside his lawful wife to marry his mistress. He remained in Vienne until his death in 875.

Wednesday

St Olympias – She was born into a wealthy noble Constantinople family. She was orphaned when a child and was given over to the care of Theodosia by her uncle, the prefect Procopius. She married Nebridius, also a prefect, but was widowed soon after. She entered the consecrated life and with several other ladies founded a community. She was so lavish in her almsgiving that her good friend St. John Chrysostom remonstrated with her and when he became Patriarch of Constantinople in 398, he took her under his direction. She established a hospital and an orphanage, gave shelter to the expelled monks of Nitria, and was a firm supporter of Chrysostom when he was expelled in 404 from Constantinople and refused to accept the usurper Arsacius as Patriarch.

Thursday

St Rufus – Rufus and Zosimus were citizens of Antioch who were brought to Rome with St Ignatius of Antioch during the reign of the Emperor Trajan. They were condemned to death for their Christianity and thrown to the wild beasts of the arena two days before the martyrdom of Ignatius.