



**St John Paul II Parish
Preston**
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17TH DECEMBER 2023

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT – GAUDETE SUNDAY

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS

200 CLUB DRAW

10/12/23 Wk 37 No 37 F Seed £20

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS & ATTENDANCE

Sacred Heart	£302.90	146
SS Peter & Paul	£125.00	31

MINISTRY OF THE WORD: At every Mass we listen to the Word of God being proclaimed to us. The Gospel is proclaimed by either a Deacon or a Priest. The other passages from Scripture are the remit of Lay People. This applies to both our Sunday Masses and our weekday Masses as Masses return to normal. Currently, we have a severe shortage of Lay People who are willing to undertake this essential Ministry during the week. If any of you are interested in exercising this Ministry, please contact Fr. Sam or Rev. Chris and Rev. Jim.

CUPBOARD LOVE FOOD BANK: Thanks to your continued generosity, volunteers will be filling 80 bags with foodstuffs and other items to be taken to Sacred Heart school in time for them to find their way to needy families before the end of term. The bags will be filled next Monday and Wednesday at St Michaels and will be taken to school on the Wednesday. We have about 50 empty bags. If anyone can offer more empty, clean, paper or plastic bags for life (not the larger ones) could they take them to St Michaels on Tuesday morning. This will ensure sufficient bags for filling. Thankyou for your kindness. Christmas retains its true meaning in this neighborhood..

For the dates please follow St Michaels website and Facebook pages <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelschurchpreston> and <https://www.stmichaelswithstmarkpreston.co.uk/> Anyone new wishing to volunteer at the foodbank should contact Paul.j.taylor345@gmail.com

ROSARY: The Rosary is prayed together at SS Peter & Paul's Church on every Saturday morning at 10.30am. The Rosary Intention for December is **Peace in our Troubled World.**

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2024: Please join Bishop Paul Swarbrick on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes on 23rd – 30th July 2024. The Youth Section will travel by coach with an evening and a day sightseeing in Paris 22nd July – 1st August 2024. For further information please check out the Diocesan Pilgrimage website www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk or email operationsdirector@lancasterlourdes.co.uk and for the youth email youth@lancaster.co.uk Please see the posters in the church porch. Please see Fr Sam for a Booking form.

ECUMENICAL WALKING NATIVITY & CAROL SING: Thank You to everyone who joined us last Saturday and/or supported the Ecumenical Walking Nativity and Ecumenical Carol Sing in any way. Despite the severe weather, over 50 people from our local churches joined us as we sang and told the Christmas story around the local streets. Children dressed up and read the script beautifully, passers-by joined us, families and parishioners kept the spirit alive and the event was hailed a success. I can't thank you enough for your support, and look forward to working together again in the future. Luke Eidsforth (Ashton Covenanted Churches Co-ordinator)

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

Pat Whiteside, Patrick McGuill and James Montgomery
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND:

Sheila Pullman & George Woods
(Names of Sick and Housebound should only be given with the agreement of the family) Please pass any names to the clergy.

BULLETIN: Kindly send in your message/s for the bulletin at the latest Thursday evening for production on Friday. Please when booking your Mass Intention(s) kindly indicate the Church and Time preferred and give as much notice as possible to avoid duplication of times. In cases of duplication Masses will be said on a first received basis.

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK & MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 16th December	SS Peter & Paul	10.30 a.m.	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary November List
	SS Peter & Paul	11.00 a.m.	
Sunday 17th December THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT GAUDETE SUNDAY	Sacred Heart	10.00 a.m.	Rose Avila McCullough – New Grandchild safely delivered.
	SS Peter & Paul	11.30 a.m.	People of the Parish
Monday 18th December	Sacred Heart	9.30 a.m.	Gregory Maduka RIP
Tuesday 19th December	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	6.15 p.m. 6.30 p.m.	Advent Reflection In remembrance of Margaret & Bert Swarbrick RIP
Wednesday 20th December	Sacred Heart	9.30 a.m.	Kathleen McCarney RIP
Thursday 21st December	SS Peter & Paul	10.00 a.m.	James Montgomery RIP (Anniversary)
Friday 22nd December	Sacred Heart	9.30 a.m.	P J & Margaret Higgins – Christmas Blessings
Saturday 23rd December	SS Peter & Paul	10.30 a.m.	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary
	SS Peter & Paul	11.00 a.m.	Deceased MSPs
Sunday 24th December FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT Day Of Prayer for Expectant Mothers	Sacred Heart	10.00 a.m.	Deceased family of E Monks
	SS Peter & Paul	11.30 a.m.	Kathleen McCarney RIP
CHRISTMAS VIGIL	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	5.30 p.m. 6.00 p.m.	Carol Singing & Children's Tableaux Andrew Carmichael RIP & Margaret Gilleran RIP

SACRED HEART CHURCH NEWS

BINGO: The next bingo session will be held this Thursday, 4th January in Sacred Heart Centre 2 – 4pm Please come and join in a fun afternoon.

TEA & COFFEE AFTER SUNDAY MASS: Tea and Coffee will be served in the porch after Sunday Mass. Please stay and enjoy a cuppa and a chat.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE: The numbers for the raffle have been drawn and there is a list of winners at the back of the church. Thank you to all who donated and bought tickets. £163.10 has been raised for Parish Funds.

SPONSORED FLOWERS: As usual we will be having sponsored flowers for Christmas. There is a list with instructions at the back of Church.

CHRISTMAS BITS & BOBS STALL: Do visit our "Bits and Bobs stall" after Mass for Christmas crafts at bargain prices.

SS PETER & PAUL CHURCH NEWS

FOOD DONATIONS: Any food donations brought to church will now go to Refugees at Talk English. Cash donations will still go to the Cupboard Love food bank.

SS PETER & PAUL CHRISTMAS FLOWERS - the church will be decorated for Christmas on Saturday 23rd December and as ever volunteers are needed to help. Greenery is desperately required too and if you can leave this in the church porch after 11:00 on 23rd that would be great. All money donations towards the cost would be more than gratefully received as well and can be put in the collection box in the porch. Give Una a call on 07918 021328 if you can help in any way.

TALK ENGLISH: Everyone at Talk English would like to pass on many thanks to the parishioners of SS Peter & Pauls church for food and toiletries donated to the refugees and asylum seekers. It is much appreciated and a massive help. Also, to Cupboard love and the churches of Ashton. Thank you Dot.

A BLESSED MESSIAH IS BORN – MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2023 AT 7PM: You are invited to a performance of sacred music in preparation for Christmas at **St Joseph's Church**, Skeffington Road, Preston, PR1 5UQ. The concert is performed by Occento choir conducted by Nathan Smith, with the repertoire including pieces such as: Away in a Manger, *The Crown of Roses*, *In Dulci Jubilo* and *Gabriel's Message*. See the poster in the church porch.

FUTURE PARISH EVENTS

BINGO in Sacred Heart Hall – Thursday 4th January 2-4pm – All welcome

GENERAL NEWS

SVP: If you would like a visit from any of our members or are lonely or housebound please contact Bernard Unsworth, 01772 875151

CAN ANYONE GIVE A HOME TO A PIANO: One of our parishioners is looking for a home for a full size electric piano. It is a Casio Celviano model with many functions and comes with a piano stool. It will be ideal for a competent pianist and also for a beginner. For more information /details please speak to Annie our choir leader or ring 07539 100855.