

## St Joseph and St Peter, Newchurch

### St James the Less, Rawtenstall

Second Sunday of Advent

4th December, 2022

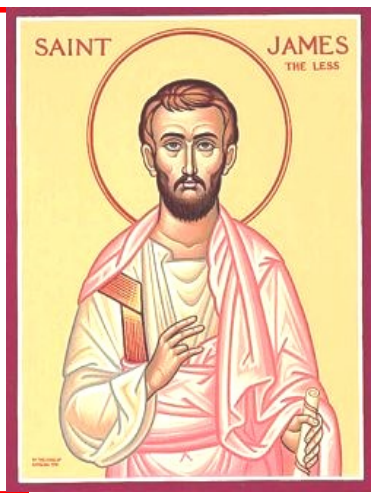
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#### Masses in St Peter's

Tuesday 6th December	Holy Mass 9.30am
<b>Thursday 8th December</b>	<b>Holy Mass 9.30am</b>
<b>Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady</b>	
Saturday 10th December	Holy Mass 11.00am

Sunday 11th December	Holy Mass 9.00am
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#### Confessions in St Peter's

Saturday 10th December	10.00am - 11.00am
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#### Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday	10.00am - 11.00am
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#### Reader at Sunday Mass 11th December

#### Masses in St James the Less

Monday 5th December	Holy Mass 9.00am
Wednesday 7th December	Holy Mass 9.00am
Friday 9th December	Holy Mass 12 noon

Saturday 10th December	Vigil Mass 6.30pm
Sunday 11th December	Holy Mass 11.00am

#### Confessions in St James the Less

Saturday 10th December	5.30pm - 6.15pm
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#### Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Wednesday	8.00am - 9.00am
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#### Readers at Sunday Masses 10th & 11th December

6.30pm	Ruby Wilson
11.00am	Paola Coe

**Mass Intentions Received: Sick:** Rita Bones

**Lately Dead:** Jean Crook, Jack Magee.

**Anniversary:** Peter & Kathleen Boardman; Fredrick Dawes; William & Teresa Mary Boyle; Michael & Alice Manning. **Birthday Anniversary:** Maureen Haworth; Kenneth Harvey. **Other:** Mary & Peter Connolly (December RIP) **RIP:** Anthony & Annie Christian; Joe Chesworth; Winifred Horan.

#### Welcome

We welcome into the new life of grace **Elodie May Smith & Mason Alexander Smith** who were Baptised on Saturday 3rd December at 12.30pm in St James the Less. Please pray for these children and their family.

#### Sacramental Programme Presentation

This Sunday, 4th December, we welcome the children and families on the Sacramental Programme from St Joseph's and St Peter's to the 9am Mass in St Peter's. The children will be presented to the Parish during that Mass as they officially begin the Sacramental Programme. Please keep these children in your prayers and give a warm welcome to their families as they make this important journey of faith.

#### Father Stamp's Raffle

Tickets for Father Stamp's Raffle with lots of exciting prizes, including some fantastic vouchers from local businesses, are on sale after the Masses this weekend. This raffle will be called at the Christmas Fayre.

#### Christmas Fayre

Next Sunday, 11th December, is the day of our Parish Christmas Fayre at St Peter's in the Hall. The Fayre begins after the 9am Sunday morning Mass. Many thanks to all of those parishioners, both from St Peter's and St James the Less, who have volunteered to help, and many thanks to those who attended the meeting this past week to make sure all of the plans were in place for the day.

Please do support this Fayre by coming along on the day. There are lots of exciting attractions, including all of the usual stalls, as well as lots of activities for the children, including a Balloon Lady, a Creepy Crawly Road Show with snakes and tarantulas and Christmas Craft stalls, tattoos and face painting. There are also refreshments for adults, including baked goods, Irish Coffee, mulled wine and bacon butties! Let's make this a really good day for our Parish.

If you haven't managed yet to donate any goods to the Fayre, it is not too late to bring some goods either to the Presbytery porch at St James the Less or up to the Hall at St Peter's which will be open for setting up quite a bit over the coming week.

Many thanks to those who took part in our first Football Sweepstake which finished a couple of weeks ago, and congratulations to the winners. We will be holding a second sweepstake for the second half of the Season, and Peter will also be at the Christmas Fayre to sell tickets for that Sweepstake, so please come along and take part in that as well. You have to be in it to win it! Prizes of £100.

### Parish Mass Times

Many thanks to those who responded to the request for feedback to the suggestions made by parishioners to put the 6.30pm Vigil Mass an hour earlier at 5.30pm and standardise the weekday Mass times at 9.30am every day except Saturday. All of the feedback I received, both verbal and written, was very helpful and provided food for thought.

Whilst there were a few parishioners in favour of the earlier Mass time on Saturday evenings, the overwhelming majority who responded so far were in favour of keeping the later time at 6.30pm.

A majority of parishioners who responded were, however, in favour of moving the weekday Mass times to 9.30am each day, with only one parishioner objecting. Despite this, another parishioner pointed out that, at St James the Less, the children arrive for the pre-school which meets each day in the Old School Room at 9.15am, which could cause a bit of a log-jam in the car park if the Mass were at a later time. This is an important consideration. For that reason, we will maintain at present the current times, both on Saturday evening and on the weekdays while keeping the Mass times as part of the ongoing consultation. If you would like to comment on any of the current Mass times or make suggestions for change, all of these suggestions and comments will be gratefully received and taken into consideration going forward.

### Heating in Church

I have been receiving a number of complaints about how cold the churches are and a request for the heating to be turned on.

Can I first of all clarify that the central heating has been switched on in both churches for several weeks. Unfortunately, it became apparent that the radiators in both St James the Less and in St Peter's were only heating up on side of the church, while the radiators on the other side were still cold. This is why the churches have felt so cold and not because the penny pinching Parish Priest was trying to save money!

I had hoped that this was simply a result of both sets of radiators in need of bleeding of air. Over the past week, I have bled all of the radiators in both churches. In St James the Less, this has fixed the problem and all of the radiators are now heating up, which will hopefully mean parishioners will feel warmer at Mass. The heating will be on for all of the weekend and weekday Masses.

Unfortunately, this did not fix the problem at St Peter's. There is no air in the radiators, but the water on one side of the church is still running through as cold. When the Diocese recently surveyed the properties at St Peter's, they recommended that both the boiler and the heating system in church is in need of a complete replacement. Hopefully this will begin, along with an electrical re-wiring, after Christmas. In the meantime, I will see if it is possible to tinker with the current system to attempt to get the radiators on the right side of the church operational again. Until then, I can only apologise for the lack of heat and advise everyone to get their thermals on!

### Football Sweepstake - Winners and Consolations!

Our first Football Sweepstake has now drawn to a close. Many thanks to all who took part in raising funds for our Parishes. My sincere thanks to Peter for organising this.

**Winners: £100**

12 Arsenal	Christine Collis	St Peter's
24 Burnley	Claire Searle	St Peter's
64 Plymouth Argyle	Clare Atherton	St James'
91 Leyton Orient	Tony Higgins	St James'

**Consolation Prizes: £10**

11 Wolves	Catherine Wallwark	St James'
26 Huddersfield	Michael Tester	St James'
72 Forest Green C.	Hodgson	St James'

### Christmas Posters - Keep Christ in Christmas

At the back of both churches this weekend there are some posters produced by the Knights of St Columba which can be displayed in house windows reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas. Please feel free to take one of these posters - there is no charge - and display it in your home over the Christmas Season.

### Salford Diocesan Almanac 2023

The new Diocesan almanacs have arrived with all of the information about the Diocese, including Parishes throughout the Salford Diocese, for the year ahead. These are priced at £3.50. There are copies available in both churches if anyone would like to purchase.

### CAFOD Advent Raffle

The CAFOD Group at St James the Less would like to extend a sincere thanks to all who took part in their Advent Raffle which was called after the 11am Mass last weekend. There are still a number of prizes to be claimed in the Presbytery.

### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

This **Thursday, 8th December** is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Our Blessed Lady. Our Mass that day is in **St Peter's at 9.30am**. Celebrating this beautiful Feast is a wonderful way for us to prepare for Christmas in the Season of Advent by remaining very close to Our Lady. On this day, we celebrate the fact that Our Lady was conceived without the stain of Original Sin in the womb of St Anne, thus preparing her to be a worthy dwelling for God the Son, Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Because God is not bound by time and space as we are, He was able to save Our Lady in advance, through the merits of Our Lord's Passion and Death which were applied to Our Lady from the moment of her conception, a conception which was thus immaculate in every way. Even if we are unable to attend Mass on that day, it would be very good for each of us to celebrate this Feast, so central to our Faith, in some way. Perhaps we could pray a family Rosary, or sing a hymn to Our Lady in front of one of her images.