



Clergy: Father John Hindley
Saint Marie's Presbytery
Almond Brook Road
Standish, Wigan, WN6 0TB

Telephone: 01257 423291

Serving the Churches of:

St Marie of the Annunciation
Standish

www.stmariesstandish.co.uk

St Bernadette Shevington

www.stbernadetteshevington.org.uk

jointparishes@gmail.com

www.twitter.com/stmstb

Download our parish app at

www.myparishapp.com

Parish Office at St Marie's:

Open Monday to Friday
from 9.00 am to 12 noon

Baptisms: By prior arrangement.
Information available at weekend
Masses. All baptisms take place
during Mass. St Bernadette's first
Sunday, St Marie's third Sunday
of the month.

Confessions: Saint Bernadette's:
Sunday 9.10 to 9.20 am. Saint
Marie's: Thursday 6.30 - 6.50 pm.
or by request.

Church opening: Please
remember that Saint Marie's
Church is open for private prayer
during weekdays between 9.00
am and 12 noon.

Funerals and Marriages: By
arrangement.

Visits to sick and housebound:
Please inform Fr John if you know
of sick or housebound
parishioners who would like Holy
Communion.

Hospital Visits: If you wish to
see a priest please let the hospital
staff know.

Mass Requests: Place in an
envelope and hand in to the
Sacristy or to the Parish Office.
Please indicate your preferred
church, if any. Please also specify
the reason for the intention, i.e.
recently deceased, anniversary
etc. For a particular day, please
request early.

Newsletter Notices: Please e-
mail to jointparishes@gmail.com
or hand in to the Parish Office by
Thursday morning.

Repository: Open at the back of
church after each weekend Mass.

St Marie's Hall: All bookings for
hall usage should be made in
advance with the Parish Office
during the parish office hours.

Liverpool Roman Catholic Archdiocesan
Trustees Incorporated. A registered charity.
Number 232709.

CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN?

Christians seem to have lost any sense of expectation that Christ's second coming should feature in their daily lives. The Jews longed for the "anointed one of God" who would come and lead them into prosperity, but we're detached from any sense of urgency when it comes to Christ, the Messiah, retuning among us.

Is this because we think the odds are stacked against it happening during our lifetime? Is it because we just don't care? Or is it perhaps because we haven't really understood what the coming of Jesus really means?

It's easy to think that Advent is simply a time for contemplating the end of the world. But, of course, it isn't. It's about preparing for the definitive establishing of God's kingdom on earth.

When we celebrate the liturgy of Advent we are not simply recalling the first coming of Jesus in Bethlehem and vaguely acknowledging that he will come again. This is not true worship. It's simply cosy remembrance of the past and insurance

brokering for the future of our souls. It's not worship from the heart.

Our Advent liturgy demands that we take our baptismal promises seriously and that we act. What are we doing to bring Christ into our world? How do we make him present in the little worlds of our existence: family, work, friends etc?

All our Advent prayers and songs are discordant if they do not reflect what's going on in our lives. We can, and must, make Jesus come again by the way we live. Instead of thinking about fanciful scenes in the moon and stars, ought we not to realise that Christ comes again when his kingdom is established? And if we're not wholehearted about being part of this then what value do our prayers and songs have?

We can sing "O come, O come,

Emmanuel" until the cows come home, but it will be empty worship if we are not pledged to co-operate with God's Spirit in ushering in the kingdom by the way we live. Liturgy is about life. And Advent liturgy is about the kingdom coming. Now.



Mass Intentions this week

First Sunday of ADVENT		In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. (Jeremiah 33: 15)	
Day	Church	Time	Intention
Saturday	St Bernadette's St Marie's	5.30 pm	John Galvin (Anniversary)
		6.45 pm	Thomas Chatterley
Sunday	St Bernadette's St Marie's	9.30 am	People of the Parish
		11.00 am	Robert & Freda Margaret Pearson (FM)
Monday	St Marie's	9.15 am	Ann Ellen Higginson (FM)
Tuesday	St Bernadette's	9.15 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday	St Peter's St Marie's	9.15 am	Francis Adrian Stonehouse (FM)
		7.00 pm	No Mass
Friday	St Marie's	9.15 am	Lisa & Paul (Wedding Anniversary)
Second Sunday of ADVENT		Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever. (Baruch 5: 1)	
Saturday	St Bernadette's St Marie's	5.30 pm	Bill O'Connor (LD)
		6.45 pm	Andrew Whitley
Sunday	St Bernadette's St Marie's	9.30 am	Wyn Magrath (90 th Birthday)
		11.00 am	Special intention (H.B.)

This weekend:

CAFOD collection at all Masses.

Sunday after 11.00 am Mass: **Tea and coffee** in St Marie's Hall.

This week:

Monday: **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** at St Marie's at 2.00 pm. A quiet half hour before the Blessed Sacrament to prepare for Christmas.

Monday: **'With You Always'** programme session 3 in St Marie's Hall at 6.15 pm.

Thursday: **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** at St Bernadette's at 2.00 pm. A quiet half hour before the Blessed Sacrament to prepare for Christmas.

Thursday: **Christmas Fair** in St Bernadette's school at 6.00 pm

Thursday: **'He is the One'** nativity concert in St Marie's Church at 7.00 pm.

Friday: **Mass** in St John Fisher High School at 1.30 pm. All welcome.

Next weekend:

Sunday after 11.00 am Mass: **Tea and coffee** in St Marie's Hall.

Sunday: **Service of hope and comfort** for those who have lost a baby or child through miscarriage, termination for any reason, stillbirth or death at any age at St Teresa's, Upholland at 3.00 pm.

Thank you for your offerings
£1,528.12.

Catholic Pictorial

Free copies of the December edition of the Catholic Pictorial are available at the back of Church.

St Marie's Redecoration

The Archdiocesan Surveyor visited the parish during the week to discuss redecoration work at St Marie's. The work will be undertaken early in the New Year.

Masses this week

Eucharistic Service on Tuesday. Mass on Thursday morning will be at St Peter's High School. No Mass on Thursday evening.

Bible Alive bucket campaign

As our Advent Almsgiving, the parish will be taking part in a Bible Alive campaign. A bucket will be placed at the front of Church for contributions to send Bible Alive subscriptions, Bibles and other books to men and women in prison.

Amoris Laetitia

This week's extract from Pope Francis' recent document:

"The educational process that occurs between parents and children can be helped or hindered by the increasing sophistication of the communications and entertainment media." (Amoris Laetitia 278)

New forms of communication enable family members who live apart to keep in touch but there are also risks to family life as a result of these new forms of communication and media. In your particular family setting reflect on the extent to which the benefits of these new forms outweigh the risks and what you can do to monitor and improve this experience for your family.

Marriage Matters

Keeping the star of our love burning brightly

Jeremiah's joy reminds us of the weeks before our wedding, a time when we were deeply aware of our love for one another. Since then, many cares have threatened to divert us from that love and it has sometimes been necessary to make a special effort to share, listen and forgive to keep the star of our love burning brightly.

Homeless and Needy

For the annual Christmas appeal, parishioners are asked to consider giving tinned or packets of food or items of a seasonal nature for distribution to hostels and refuges in the area. Also, men's medium-sized underwear (new please), scarves, gloves and caps and toiletries are requested for the Brick. Please leave items at the back of St Marie's church. Any ladies toiletries and baby items will be donated to the mother and baby unit in the area. Thank you.

Friends of Standish Library

Christmas cards with an image of one of the stained glass altar windows in St Marie's are on sale for £5 per pack at the back of St Marie's church.

Gift Aid

Thank you to all parishioners who have gift aided their offerings for the tax year that has just ended enabling the parish to benefit by receiving from HMRC an amount totalling £16,019.98.

Christmas card campaign

Please consider taking part in the 2018 Christmas card campaign. Your cards are a great source of hope and encouragement to victims of human rights abuses, prisoners of conscience, those under a death sentence and many others. International mail can impress police, prison staff or politicians enough to keep victims safe. Information will be available at the back of Church. If you would like to help before or after 11.00 am Mass, contact C Manifold (Taysha), 426168.

Metropolitan Cathedral

For Christmas Masses and seasonal highlights at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, visit www.liverpoolmetrocathedral.org.uk or [liverpoolmetrocathedral](https://www.facebook.com/liverpoolmetrocathedral) on Facebook.

Knights of St Columba

The KSC has donated £150 to the Indonesian Disaster Fund and £100 to The Brick.

On Thursday, 20 December, the Knights of St Columba presents 'A Christmas Celebration' with the choirs of St Bernadette's & St Marie's schools and the Three Churches' Choir at 6.45 pm at St Marie's.

Bonus Ball

No.10 - John Braddock - £19.

St Marie's Sanctuary Lamp

Heather.

Baptism

This weekend, we welcome a new member to our Catholic Church community when James Andrew Trickett is baptised during the 9.30 am Mass. Congratulations!

Churches Men's Fellowship

The next meeting of Standish Churches Men's Fellowship is on Wednesday, 12 December at the Globe Inn, Standish from 7.00 pm, with a talk on "Life as a Probation Officer" by a currently operational Officer, followed by a buffet and raffle. £10 with all profit to local charities. Please contact Joe Fairhurst, 402185.

Pantomime

If you would like to attend the Pantomime on Tuesday, 22 January at Wigan Little Theatre, please add your name to the list at the back of church.