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# CORPUS CHRISTI

ST. ALPHONSUS AND ST. MARGARET RC CHURCH

Margaret Road, Headington, OX3 8AJ

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CHURCH

Crown Road, Wheatley, OX33 1UL

[www.corpuschristiheadington.co.uk](http://www.corpuschristiheadington.co.uk)

Birmingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees, Registered Charity No. 234216

Pope's Prayer Intention  
for December

Let us pray for the catechists,  
summoned to announce the  
Word of God: may they be its  
witnesses, with courage and  
creativity and in the power of  
the Holy Spirit.

## Third Sunday of Advent



### The Preaching of St. John

Pieter Bruegel the Elder ca. 1520 – 1569  
Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest

*Today's Gospel: John declared before them all: "I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out."*

**B**ruegel would often use biblical themes to depict village-life as he knew it. This is another fine example. The viewer's attention is first drawn to the figures in the foreground, then to the river in the background and only then to John the Baptist, wearing a garment of camel hair.

### The Advent Wreath

Today we light the rose coloured candle, representing the joy of the shepherds that Jesus came for the humble people, like themselves, people in the margins, not the rich and privileged.



### Please Note every week:

**S**ACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION  
(CONFESSION)

SAT 10.30 am to 11am and on call.

**B**ENEDICTION most Fridays  
after Mass.

### Christmas Masses:

**Corpus Christi:**

Christmas Eve at 6.00pm

Midnight (Vigil Carol Service 11.30pm);

**Christmas Day: 9.00am and 11.00am.**

**NO 6.00pm Mass on Christmas Day.**

### Our Lady of Lourdes, Wheatley:

**Christmas Day: 10.00am.**

## Live-Stream Masses; Public Worship

Year C SUNDAY  
12 December 2021

**Parish Priest: Rev. Canon Mervyn Tower**

**Parish Administrator: Mrs Leti Gomes**

**Parish Safeguarding Officer: Ruth Kennel**

**Parish schools:**

St Joseph's Primary School; 01865 763357.

The Presbytery, 88 Wharton Road,  
Oxford, OX3 8AJ. t: 01865 762433  
e: [corpuschristi.oxford@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:corpuschristi.oxford@rcaob.org.uk)

[www.st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.st-josephs-pri.oxon.sch.uk)

St Gregory the Great Secondary School; 01865 749933. [www.stgregory.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.stgregory.oxon.sch.uk)

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Gaudéte Sunday 12 December 2021

Saturday 6.00pm at OLL, Wheatley; People of the Parish.

Sunday 9.00am Adeline Weekes thanksgiving birthday.

11.00am Mike Bishop RIP

6.30pm Mariano & Mariana RIP & Family.

### Weekday Masses:

Cycle of the year C; Breviary Week 3

Mon 13 9.15am Kunt Marcelle RIP

**St Lucy**

Tues 14 9.15am Rogerio da Silva.

**St John of the Cross**

11.30-12.30 Holy Hour with Benediction.

Wed 15 9.15am Good health and safety of Joy's whole family.

**Advent FERIA**

Thurs 16 No Mass

**Advent FERIA**

Fri 17 9.15am Joe, Maggie, Dennis Cooney RIP & Family.

**Advent FERIA**

followed by Benediction.

Sat 18 10.00am Esaltina Maria RIP

**Advent FERIA**

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

19 December 2021

Saturday 6.00pm at OLL, Wheatley; People of the Parish

Sunday 9.00am Mary + Patrick Masterson RIP

11.00am Gabriela Da Cruz & all the deceased family.

3.30pm Advent Service

6.30pm Arnaldo Afonso & Carlota Do Rego RIP & Family.

### Liturgical colour: rose (or violet)

**R**ose is a lighter version of violet, because today the penitential violet is mixed with the white of the approaching festival.

It is part of human nature that we cannot go on being penitent for a long time, or we sink into a settled and insincere gloom rather than working at the definite and active spiritual exercise called penance. The Church knows human nature, and both in Advent and Lent there is a moment where the atmosphere of penance and preparation is brightened by a shaft of light from the glorious season we are preparing ourselves for.

**Gaudéte, rejoice!** The third Sunday of Advent tells us 'Gaudéte, rejoice!' because the Lord is near and the fourth Sunday of Lent says 'Lætáre, Ierúsalem, be joyful, Jerusalem, and all who love her!' because she herself is loved by the Lord. On Gaudete and Laetare Sundays, therefore, the dark penitential violet may be lightened to what the documents call 'rose' but most laymen would call 'pink'.

**TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE PARISH,  
PLEASE CLICK ON BUTTON:**



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## Scripture Reflection

Luke presents the different groups who come to John the Baptist for his baptism: the people as a whole, some tax collectors and some soldiers. He orders them to follow what are usual prophetic principles of social justice. John also points to the much more powerful and definitive baptism of the One to come (Gospel: Luke 3:10-18). Zephaniah urges Jerusalem to rejoice with the description of the Lord among them as the one who fights and dances with his people (First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18). The joy flowing from the Lord saving his people (being literally their Yeshua (Jesus) – salvation) is sung of also by Isaiah (Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12). Paul urges the Christians in Philippi to demonstrate their deep joy (Greek: chaire – still used as a greeting in modern Greek) that the Lord is coming soon (Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7).

**Responsorial Psalm meditation: "People of Zion, sing and shout for joy!" (Isaiah 12:6)**

**Scripture Readings**

**Monday**

Numbers 24: 2-7, 15-17; Ps 24; Matthew 21:23-27.

**Thursday**

Isaiah 54:1-10; Ps 29; Luke 7:24-30.

**Tuesday**

Zephaniah 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 33; Matthew 21:28-32.

**Friday**

Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Ps 71; Matthew 1:1-17.

**Wednesday**

Isaiah 45:6-8, 18, 21-26; Ps 84; Luke 7:19-23.

**Saturday**

Jeremiah 23:5-8; Ps 71; Matthew 1:18-24.

## Prayer for the Preparation of Mass

God our Father,  
you call us to gather for this Sunday Mass.  
Help us to draw strength  
from the Holy Scriptures and from the Holy Eucharist,  
so that we deepen our love for you.  
May we be enlivened by the Holy Spirit  
to mirror the words and actions  
of your Son Jesus Christ  
and become more clearly  
your instruments of mercy to others.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Parish news

### Advent Reflection at Corpus Christi

Please Note  
Change of  
Date

A quiet service of readings, prayer and music  
**3.30pm on Sunday 19 December**  
followed by mulled wine and mince pies,  
in aid of the Friends of the Holy Land

### Oxford North Deanery:

The clergy of the Deanery will be meeting (as usual on the second Tuesday of most months) here at

**Corpus Christi this Tuesday 14 December.**

This will include a Holy Hour from 11.30 – 12.30, concluding with Benediction. All are welcome as we continue to pray for the Lord's guidance for the Synodal Pathway.



### Why not give a Bible as a present this year?

We now have copies of the Revised New Jerusalem Bibles for sale at £30.00. Please get one from the Office if you would like to do so - but hurry, while stocks last.

### Thank you from the Salvation Army

Here is a photograph of just some of the toys donated by our Parish to the Salvation Army's appeal.

Major Tim Johnson said: "Thank you to everyone at Corpus Christi and Our Lady of Lourdes for your generous gifts so that we can help to show some practical love to less fortunate households in Oxford and the surrounding area. We expect about 470 requests this year. **Happy Christmas and God bless you all.**"



# WORLD GIFTS

Water for a family  
£33

### Give World Gifts for Christmas

World Gifts are a range of virtual charity gifts that will delight the people you give them to and help transform the lives of families living in poverty.



**Click here to browse and order CAFOD World Gifts**

### Click here to email the Editor

If you have suggestions for improving the newsletter - or items that you think could be included, please send them: [corpus.OLL.news@gmail.com](mailto:corpus.OLL.news@gmail.com)

To receive newsletter each week, email [corpus.christi.group@gmail.com](mailto:corpus.christi.group@gmail.com) or [OLL.wheatley.group@gmail.com](mailto:OLL.wheatley.group@gmail.com). Please note - you cannot send a circular email to everyone using these addresses.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

**the sick and the housebound:** Archie Allen, Antony Ayton, Fr. John Baggley, Patricia Barfield, Margaret Bond, Alan & Rita Booker, Christopher Browne, Pedro Busette, Kumu de Silva, David Diggins, Maureen Felix, Philomena Garvey, Yvonne Goonesekera, Antoinette Harvie, Sue Holbrook, Joanne Kay, Mario Kim, Joan Knatt, Theresa Johnson, Cynthia Lobendhan, Victoria Maceda, Carmel McGarry, R. J. Matava, Averil Nathaniels, Melani Parana, Celine Peiris, Peter Perera, Maxwell Rogers, Angela Scott-Smith, Rachel Smith, Alba Thorning, Aileen Vangramberg, Diana Walden, Mary Wallace, Pat Walsh, Liz Ward, Mai Wick, Louise Williams. Dorren McDonald. Nalen Uddamalay, Michael Kenworthy-Browne, Fr Timothy Radcliffe.  
**those who have died:** Patrick McCarthy, Hans Allen Dinglasan.  
**those whose anniversary occurs this week:** Amanda Croker.

All those in the sick list must actively agree to their inclusion. The prayer list will be reviewed regularly - if names can now come off the list or if new names should be added please send an email to: [corpus.OLL.news@gmail.com](mailto:corpus.OLL.news@gmail.com).

### Musical Journey through Advent

The Archdiocese of Regina in Canada has chosen music for the Advent journey. [Click here for Gabriel's message...](#) and if you listen on spotify, [click here for a selection of advent music.](#)

### BIBLE STUDIES ON THE ADVENT SUNDAY GOSPELS

Mauro Iannicelli will break open the forthcoming Advent Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. **Click here for information and to register**  
Wednesdays: 15 Dec | 22 Dec (7-8pm UK Time).

### PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND, 2022

led by Fr. Mervyn next year, **July 5th -13th 2022.**

[Click here for more details](#) [Click here for Booking Form](#)

### BBC TV: Midnight Mass from St Chad's Cathedral

The first Mass of Christmas to be televised this year from St Chad's Cathedral, our Diocesan Mother Church. The Dean of St Chad's, Monsignor Timothy Menezes, said, "This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the first Mass of Christmas in the company of a television audience. This will be a very special occasion for the cathedral and the Archdiocese of Birmingham. The celebrant and preacher will be the Archbishop of Birmingham, the Most Revd Bernard Longley.



**Sign up for Daily Advent reflections direct to your inbox.** An opportunity to pause and reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas.

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER**

### Register for the 2022

**First Confession & Communion**  
12 June 2022 at all Sunday Masses

**Confirmation: Saturday 21 May 2022 at 6pm**

First Confession and Communion - **Year 3 or above**,  
Sacrament of Confirmation - **Year 6 or above.**

Complete a form at the back of the church or **CLICK HERE** to email the Parish Office. Sr Marie Ann will contact you.

### Have you registered on DONA yet?

To register for Gift Aid donations you must first register your contactless card by making a donation on-line from your computer using the DONA button above.



Donate with Dona

### New Gift Aid Parishioners needed

It is now easier than ever to arrange to Gift Aid your donations to the Parish. If you would like to start a new Gift Aid through a standing order at your bank, the whole process can be undertaken on-line. For every £4 you donate, the Parish receives an extra £1 from the tax man. If you pay tax through PAYE, you do not have to tell your employer or fill in any special tax forms. To start the process, please [click here](#) to email [corpus.standingorder@gmail.com](mailto:corpus.standingorder@gmail.com) and you will be sent a form to complete on-line and information on how to start a new standing order on-line at your bank.