

Mass Times, Services and Intentions

Saturday 2nd December *Weekday in Ordinary Time*

St Joseph's	4.30pm	Mass	Jeffry David Allinson Anniversary
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Sunday 3rd December *First Sunday of Advent*

St Joseph's	9.30am	Mass	Enid Kenwright Birthday Memorial
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Sacred Heart	11.00am	Mass	Arthur Williams R.I.P.
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Tuesday 5th December *Memorial of St John Almond, Priest*

Sacred Heart	11.30am	Exposition	
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Sacred Heart	12.00pm	Mass	Senal Simon R.I.P.
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12A School	2.00pm		Advent School Mass
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Wednesday 6th December *Weekday of Advent*

St Joseph's	10.30am		Advent School Mass
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St Joseph's	11.30am	Exposition	
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St Joseph's	12.00pm	Mass	Paul Unsworth R.I.P.
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Sacred Heart	1.30pm		Advent School Mass
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Thursday 7th December *Memorial of St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor*

Sacred Heart	10.00am	Mass	People of the Parish
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Friday 8th December *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception or the Blessed Virgin Mary*

St Joseph's	12.00pm	Mass	Safe Delivery
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Saturday 9th December *Weekday of Advent*

St Joseph's	10.00am	To 11.50	Sacrament of Reconciliation
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St Joseph's	12.00pm	Mass	
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St Joseph's	12.30pm	To 1.30pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
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St Joseph's	4.30pm	Mass	Doris & Eric Pendlebury R.I.P.
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Sunday 10th December *Second Sunday of Advent*

St Joseph's	9.30am	Mass	Kevin Brady Anniversary
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Sacred Heart	11.00am	Mass	Paul Crook
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Newsletter for the Parish of Saint Edmund Arrowsmith Served by the Churches of Sacred Heart and St Joseph



Sacred Heart Church
Walmesley Road
Leigh WN7 1YE

Parish Office
St Joseph's Presbytery
Mather Lane
Leigh WN7 2PR
01942 673517
stedmund.leigh@rcaol.org.uk

3rd December 2023
First Sunday of Advent

Clergy Team:
Parish Priest: Fr. Kieran O'Grady
email: k.ogradey@rcaol.org.uk
Deacon: Dcn. Dennis Vint



St Joseph's Church
Mather Lane
Leigh WN7 2PR

Parish Office Manager
Jacqui Unsworth

Office Hours:
Mon, Wed & Fri
9.30am—4.00pm

Food for Thought

Today we celebrate the first Sunday of Advent – the beginning of a new liturgical year. The challenge of Advent is how do we spend our lives while waiting for the days that are coming? I think the answer is given to us in the second reading. St Paul is so clear that we should thank God for all the graces that we have received, and He will keep us steady. How the world needs this reassurance at this difficult time! During the next few weeks, you will hear many people say, *I'll be glad when Christmas is over!* The relentless pressures to spend, spend, spend, can feel overwhelming. Instead of feeling stressed, make a Christmas wish list, not things that you want to consume or buy, but gifts to help you to grow... reconciliation.....peace ...joy....hope.....love. We are God's people, and we will only have peace and happiness if Christ is at the centre of our busy lives. This Advent, be expectant that God will renew, refresh, and invigorate your relationship with Him. May the Word of God today help us to see that we need to stay awake and keep our eye on the prize – Jesus himself. May we be ready to meet Him face to face –whenever and however that will be! **Stay Awake'..... 'Prepare'..... 'Rejoice'** as we allow the Word of God to guide us and mould us as we await the wonders of Christmas.

Praise Him!

Recently Deceased

We pray for those whose have died

**Joseph Tighe
Irene Marsh**

and those whose anniversary occurs at this time, may the peace of our risen Lord Jesus enfold us all.

Sick and Housebound

We hold in prayer all who are sick in body, mind or spirit and those who care for them:

**Vera Seventi,
Carol Greenhalgh,
Mary Griffin
Sean Fleming,
Craig Hardman,
Kitty Jones,
Baby Roman Bleu Emery,
Doreen Hayes,
Sr. Megan
Nellie Flynn
Mary Barnes
Archbishop Patrick Kelly
Catherine Peat
Sandra Smith
George Cartledge
Pat Avery
James Allen
Kathleen Holland
John Mulligan
Anthony Michael
Marian Hindley**

May the Lord embrace them with healing love.

Advent Service of Reconciliation Confesathon

Individual Confession will be held next
Saturday 9th December at St Joseph's Church

10.00am-11.00am Fr. Gordon Abbs
11.00am –11.50am Fr. Carl Mugan
12.30pm-1.30pm Fr. Kieran

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place during the Sacrament of Reconciliation
There will be Midday Mass

Christmas Flower Memorial

For a donation of £5 you will receive a candle for your loved one (s) which will be placed on the sanctuary and lit at the Christmas Masses. You will be able to take the candle home when the Christmas season is over, and your loved one's name will be then placed on the Lady Altar during the season of Christmas.

- ◆ Please print the name or names clearly on the piece of paper provided
- ◆ The name of the church where you want the memorial
- ◆ Place it in an envelope with your donation marked 'Christmas Memorial'.

Please note the deadline date:

Monday 11th December.

Altar Servers

This Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent, our altar servers will be enrolled at all three Masses into the
Guild of St Stephen.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

Food Bank Collection

This weekend is the second and final weekend for the Food Bank Collections at both churches.

The Food Bank at Atherton have asked for any non perishable food items (except beans & pasta) and toiletries. Items can be brought to all Masses or dropped off at St Joseph's Church Monday, Wednesday & Friday. The Food Bank service is in great demand at this time. For more details about the Food Bank, visit www.trusselltrust.org

LGBTQ+ Catholics

The next LGBTQ+ Family Mass will held at All Saints Church, Golborne on 10th December at 2.00pm. All are welcome especially family and extended family of the LGBTQ+ community.
Refreshments will be served after Mass.

St Mary's High School Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at St Mary's High School are putting together a Christmas Party on Thursday 14th December 12.00pm—2.00pm for the Senior Citizens of the local parishes. If you would like to go, please put your name on the list in the porch and any specific dietary requirements.

Sanctuary Lamps

This week our Sanctuary Lamp will shine at
Sacred Heart Church for
Pope Francis' Intention
At St Joseph's for
Archbishop Malcolm McMahon

Advent Reflection

As the days grow shorter and the nights become colder, we look for signs of hope during this Advent Season. There is hope in the evergreens that brave the cold. There is hope in children's hearts as they look forward to Christmas. There is hope as more candles are lit on the Advent Wreath. But the greatest hope is the promise:

"You are to conceive and bear a son and you are to name him Jesus. He will be great and be called Son of the Most High."

Second Collection

Next weekend **9th/10th December**, the Second Collection will be on behalf of the **St Vincent de Paul Society**

Christmas Concert

All Singers Great and Small present their **Christmas Concert** on Saturday 9th December at 7.00pm at St Thomas and All Saints Church,
Kenwood Avenue,
Leigh WN7 2LN
£6, pay at the door, includes refreshment and raffle.
All are Welcome.

Children's Corner



**When is a telephone cold?
When it goes Brr-Brr**

Why did the tomato run?