

St Marie's Catholic Primary School

Learning through faith, love and respect



*Headteacher's Weekly Newsround
End of week 14, 15th December 2023*



Term 2023

Our Lady of the Annunciation and St Bernadette's Parish LITTLE CHURCH Nativity Story

On Sunday 17th December at **6.00pm**, we would like to invite you all to our 'Little Church Children's Liturgy Group' Nativity story. This is a very special time to be together in **St Bernadette's Church** and reflect on the importance of Jesus birth.

We will sing songs and read the Christmas story to the children. The children can come dressed in Christmas clothes or snuggly pyjamas or Nativity costumes. Please invite as many family and friends as you can. Refreshments will be served afterwards. See you on Sunday 17th December at 6.00pm

Love and prayers from the
Little Church Children's Liturgy Team



Advent Preparations Across School

The christmas festivities have begun in pre-school! The children listened to christmas music as they decorated the tree and the classroom. Good teamwork.





Well done on Wednesday evening at The Edge Year 5! You made us very proud!





Mrs O'Neill's Thought for the Week

*"What if Christmas he thought, doesn't come from a store.
What if Christmas perhaps means a little bit more."
Dr. Seuss, The Grinch.*

Christmas is not about what we give or receive in fancy wrapping
paper, or the clothes we wear to the party.

It's not about expensive gifts and saying 'yes' to every invite.

Christmas is about spending time with those you love; real quality
time.

It is about remembering the true meaning and celebrating
together with love.

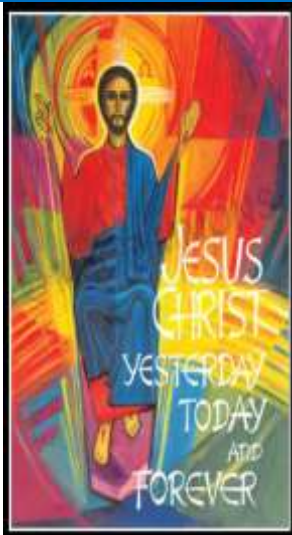
Just remember it's not what's under the tree this Christmas but
who is sat around it with you that really matters.

Enjoy every moment.

Merry Christmas to you all,

Mrs O'Neill





Sunday Gospel Message for the week ahead

'Joy'

Liturgical Year and Cycle: 3rd Sunday in Advent | Cycle B

Key Scripture: John's Gospel

"I baptise with water. But someone is coming soon who is more powerful than I am."

Pope Francis says to us all,

"Dear young people, If we are close to Jesus, we will have joy in our hearts and a smile on our face."

The 3rd candle on the Advent Wreath is pink for Joy. It is lit on the 3rd Sunday which is called Gaudete Sunday and means REJOICE. We joyfully celebrate

that Christmas is near – we rejoice that Christ is coming.

REFLECTION TIME

What does the word JOY mean to you?

When do you feel JOYFUL?

When did you bring JOY to others?

God wants us to be joyful, filled with joy. Jesus came to make our JOY complete.

Happiness can come and go, but the JOY that comes from close friendship with Jesus stays forever.



Dear Lord Jesus, please help our family to experience the joy that you bring, and to share your joy with all those that we meet. Amen.



Special recognition achievements



Preschool	Susie –Lily has shown lots of enthusiasm and excitement when joining in with our extracurricular activities- singing and signing with Fun Box Jo.
Reception	Lucas for always being caring towards everybody. He shares his friendship and smile with everybody.
Year 1	Reuben F for trying hard with his learning and his playtimes.
Year 2	Ayana for being helpful in the school nativity and always being helpful in class.
Year 3	Paige for trying exceptionally hard in all her maths work.
Year 4	Lily P for great behaviour, effort, attitude in all areas of school. Also for her enthusiasm and ideas about helping at lunchtimes.
Year 5	Miles for his excellent attitude and always being helpful to everybody.
Year 6	Harry M for his kindness in wanting to help others.

Special recognition for demonstrating School Core Values

Anton Y6 for helping Mrs Bunting in a very calm, responsible and caring way. Thank you

Harriet Y6 for trying her best in all enrichment activities to demonstrate her talents . She has achieved many awards at her new sport, karate, and we have celebrated this altogetehr. Kepp working hard.

Attendance and Punctuality

Well done everybody. We have nearly reached our school attendance target. The overall attendance for the school this week has been **96.4%**. Thank you for working in partnership to improve our school attendance which demonstrates the joy and support we all have for our school.

	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Attendance	94.7%	98.7%	100%	94%	96.7%	96.9%	93.8%
Lates	1	2	1	4	2	1	7

The morning bell is set for 8.45 am. The teachers have work set up and planned for this time. This work planned is designed to secure and apply their learning. Please try to arrive for this time as it helps your child settle into the school day and revisit skills they will need for their lessons during the day.

The registration bell goes at 8.55am. After this time, late marks are issued.

Thank you for supporting and understanding the importance of helping your child get to school on time.

The Importance Of Arriving On Time

Arriving at school and into class on time:

- Ensure that pupils do not miss out on important learning activities planned for the start of the new school day.
- Helps pupils to learn the importance of punctuality and routine.
- Gives pupils time to greet their friends before class starts.
- Reduces classroom disruption.
- Children's best learning time is at the start of the day.



PTFA

A huge thank you to the PTFA for all the extra effort that has been put in to make December a really busy and exciting time for the children.

Last week's Tea with Santa was a great success. Lots of smiles, dancing, the chance to say special words to Father Christmas, a tea party with friends and a live entertainer.

On Monday, they will again work hard again to bring a smile and a festive dance to Key Stage 2 at their Christmas Disco. This starts at 4.30 pm and collection time is 6.00pm. Thank you to all families who are supporting these events.

On Monday the Christmas baubles will be judged in the individual classes and then the children will bring them home. I have been amazed at the talent, time and creativity that has gone into decorating the Christmas Bauble. A new and innovative PTFA idea.



Thank you all.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank you all for the excellent work completed by the St Marie's TEAM - children, staff, families, friends and volunteers at St Marie's. It truly has been an outstanding, exciting, enriching Autumn term.

School will close for Christmas at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 20th December to return at 8.45 am on Monday 8th

January 2024.

Have a happy and Holy Christmas.



OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION AND ST. BERNADETTE'S PARISH

Third Sunday
of Advent

17th December 2023

PARISH PRIEST: FR. JOSEPH SIMONATO FDP

WEBSITE: [HTTPS://OLASB.CHESSCK.ORG.UK](https://olasb.chessck.org.uk)

St. Marie of the Annunciation RC Church
Almond Brook Road, Standish, Wigan WN6 0TB

St. Bernadette's RC Church
Wigan Road, Shevington, Wigan, WN6 8AP

Email: olasb@rccoal.org.uk Telephone: 01257 423291 Parish Office (at St. Marie's): Mon/Tue/Thurs/Fri: 9:45 am – 12 Noon

Mass / Services

Day	Date	Time	At	Intention / Note	Feast / Announcement
Sat	16 Dec	4:45 pm	St. B	Joseph & Jean Lawton (Chr. Rem)	Third Sunday of Advent
Sat	16 Dec	6:15 pm	St. M	"For Two Mums" (Rem)	Third Sunday of Advent
Sun	17 Dec	9:30 am	St. B	People of the Parish	Third Sunday of Advent
Sun	17 Dec	11:00 am	St. M	Bill McCracken (Ann)	Third Sunday of Advent
Mon	18 Dec	9:15 am	St. M	Katie Green (LD)	Weekday of Advent
Mon	18 Dec	9:45 am	St. M	Recitation of "Advent Rosary" / Confessions	Following Mass
Tues	19 Dec	9:15 am	St. B	Mary Hutchings (Ann)	Weekday of Advent
Tues	19 Dec	9:45 am	St. B	Recitation of "Advent Rosary" / Confessions	Following Mass
Thurs	21 Dec	9:15 am	St. B	May Hilton (Ann)	Weekday of Advent
Fri	22 Dec	9:15 am	St. M	Light Up a Life Intentions	Weekday of Advent
Sat	23 Dec	4:45 pm	St. B	Joe Hilton (Chr. Rem)	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sat	23 Dec	6:15 pm	St. M	People of the Parish	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sun	24 Dec	9:30 am	St. B	Light Up a Life Intentions	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sun	24 Dec	11:00 am	St. M	Derek Brindle (Chr. Rem)	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sun	24 Dec	4:45 pm	St. B	Margaret Astley (Chr. Rem)	Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
Sun	24 Dec	6:15 pm	St. M	John Molyneux & Elizabeth [Betty] (Rem)	Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
Mon	25 Dec	9:30 am	St. B	Pat Draper (Chr. Rem)	Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord
Mon	25 Dec	11:00 am	St. M	Beryl Linney & Jane Hall (Ann)	Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

'Rejoice! The Lord is near.'

The readings on this Gaudete ('Rejoice!') Sunday are full of encouragement, resonating with joyful hope as we draw closer to the birthday of Jesus: God's Son coming to live amongst us. Isaiah, Mary, and John the Baptist all bear joyful witness to what God has done and will do for his people. Isaiah (**First Reading**) announces the coming of the anointed one: a cause for rejoicing. He will bring freedom, healing and good news to the people. Images of clothing bodies and growing seeds celebrate God's activity in the world and in our lives. Mary's Magnificat is a joyful song of praise to God, her Saviour who is rich in mercy. (**Psalms**) St. Paul (**Second Reading**) encourages us to be guided by the Holy Spirit in all that we do; we are to give thanks for all things to God, and to pray constantly. Paul urges us to be happy always, because Christ is faithful to his promise and will not fail us.

The focus of the **Gospel** is John the Baptist, who bears witness, testifying to the true identity of 'the light': Jesus himself. John answers the priests' questions about his own identity and ministry, then announces that the Saviour they seek, Jesus, is already amongst them, though 'unknown to them'.

As we continue preparing for Christmas, we rejoice that Jesus is already in our hearts and lives. Let's pray to receive the graces needed to announce his message and presence through our attitudes, actions and words.



PRAY & REFLECT: In today's reading we hear the words of the Prophet Isaiah that would later be proclaimed by Jesus at the onset of his ministry. At this time of year, can you let these words fill you once again with the anticipation of the coming King, the One who is born among us, who will one day return to reign? What do the following phrases remind you of as you hear them? Good news to the oppressed... bind up the broken hearted... proclaim liberty to the captives... release for the prisoners... comfort for all who mourn.

Perhaps a person or people come to mind. Pray for them now. As you think about the reading again, reflect upon the joy in the second half. 'so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.' Spend the remainder of your prayer time praying for any nations who are on your heart today.. *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.* We also remember to pray for those affected by war and for those who struggle with their faith.

Thank
You!

This week's
Offerings:
£ 1108.61

Direct Payments: Bank details below.



THE SANCTUARY LAMP
burns this week in both
Churches for:
"Anne Veronica Herbert"



THE PARISH DEVELOPMENT FUND
Thank you for helping.
Please give your Support.
Bumper Christmas Draw this December.



SUNDAY TEA AND CHAT

After Sunday Mass

St. Marie's Hall: Every Sunday
St. Bernadette's Lady Room: on the
1st Sunday of the month.
All proceeds to Charities.

SUNDAY TEA / CHAT

St. Marie's

after Mass each Sunday until the
17th December.
Then restarts each Sunday on
January 7th 2024.

St. Bernadette's

Resumes January 7th 2024.
Then 1st Sunday of each Month.

ST. MARIE'S LADIES SECTION

Last Tuesday each Month at 2:00pm
New and Existing Members welcome!
Next Meeting:

February 27th 2024

Marjorie: 424332 / Ruth: 422690

Sincere thanks to Fr. Barry for
offering Mass for us this past while.
With our Christmas wishes!

GRAVE POTS are on sale again at
£6.00 each. Please contact Bernie
on 01257 422225 or at 117 Wigan
Road. 100% of the money donated
will be given to the missions run by
the Sons of Divine Providence.



In our prayers we
fondly remember all
those who have
died recently.

Light Up a Life Intentions

May their souls and the souls of
the faithful departed,
rest in peace. Amen.

Advent & Christmas Services 2023

THE ADVENT ROSARY will be recited after Mass each Monday (St. Marie's)
and Tuesday (St. Bernadette's) until 19th December.

Confession will also be available during the Rosary on Monday 18th (St.
Marie's) and Tuesday 19th December (St. Bernadette's).

St. Bernadette's Little Church: Nativity Story Sunday 17th December
at 6:00 pm (St. Bernadette's). See note below.

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 23rd December: Mass at St. Bernadette's (4:45 pm)
St. Marie's (6:15 pm)

Sunday 24th December: Mass at St. Bernadette's (9:30 am)
St. Marie's (11:00 am)

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve, 24th December: St. Bernadette's (4:45 pm)
St. Marie's (6:15 pm)

Christmas Day, 25th December: St. Bernadette's (9:30 am)
St. Marie's (11:00 am)

TUESDAY 26th AND WEDNESDAY 27th DECEMBER: No Services.

STANDISH CHURCHES TOGETHER EVENTS: See Leaflet in St. Marie's.

St. Bernadette's Little Church Children's Liturgy Group present a
"Nativity Story", on Sunday 17th December at 6:00 pm in St. Bernadette's
Church. The children will sing songs and read the Christmas Story. The
children can come dressed in Christmas clothes or snuggly pyjamas or
Nativity costumes. **All welcome:** please invite as many family and friends
as you can to come along to this special event and support the children.

St. Marie's Christmas Church Cleaning: volunteers much needed to
help with general cleaning, dusting and also with Brass polishing.
20th December 9:00 am – 10:30 am. Tea/Coffee Mince Pies served
afterwards in deep appreciation. Many thanks from Bea & Ruth.

Our Christmas Cursillo Mass & Celebration:

Tuesday 19th
December, arrive from 6:30 pm to be
seated for carols at 7:00 pm,
followed by Holy Mass Celebrated by
Bishop Tom Williams at Liverpool
Metropolitan Cathedral, Mount
Pleasant, Liverpool, L3 5TQ
(Entrance through underground car
park) **Everyone Welcome**

Advent & Christmas

Booklets: at the back of
each Church. Please take a
copy home for your family
and follow the Prayers and
Intentions. There are also
"Light Up a Life" Tags at the
back of each Church, you
may add any intentions until
Christmas onto our Trees.

Baptisms: By appointment. (Normally available at 12 noon on the 3rd Sunday of the month in St. Marie's after Sunday Mass).
Confessions: After Mass Thursday and Friday. See Newsletter and on request with Fr. Joseph. **Funerals and Marriages:** By arrangement.
Visits to Sick and Housebound: Please enquire via the Parish Phone Number. **Hospital Visits:** If you wish to see a priest, please let the
hospital staff know. **Mass Requests:** Place in an envelope with your own details (in case we need to contact you) and hand in to the
Sacristy or to the Parish Office. Also, by telephone or email. 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: names will be entered into the Published
Notices unless you state otherwise. **Repository:** At the back of Church. **Hall Hire:** enquires to the Parish Office. **Notices:** Please e-mail
to olasb@rcal.org.uk or hand in to the Parish Office **no later than Tuesday 12 noon.** Space is very limited, and notices may be edited.
Please provide brief details for printed notices; you are most welcome to request longer notices to be included on the Parish Website.

Parish Website: reflections and information, please see our Website at: <https://olasb.chessck.co.uk> Or just type: olasb.chessck.co.uk
Any ideas and helpful comments, please let us know. The Website is proving very popular with many visitors each week; local and worldwide.
We are also having higher visits to other websites using the links provided on the Newsletter locally and from around the world. Details of
any Parish Groups and Charities are very welcome to be included. Please apply to the Office. Reflections: © Ignatian & St. Bueno Outreach.

Bank Payments: St Marie & St Bernadette (001) HSBC account. Sort Code 40-29-12. Account number 61545922 Please ensure we can
identify you by stating your name and purpose of the payment e.g., Parish Offerings, Parish Donation. **No Baptism** donations please.

West Lancashire Deanery. Dean Rev Leo Daly.

Liverpool Roman Catholic Archdiocese. A registered charity. Number 1199714