

ST. TERESA'S CHURCH, 23, College Rd., Upholland, WN8 0PY

e-mail: stteresas.upholland@rcaolp.co.uk

Website: www.stteresas-upholland.org.uk

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| St. Teresa's School Tel 01695 623842 | Parish House & Office: Tel 01695 622001 | The Parish Focus Team Holding our course with the Parish Vision: |
| Headteacher: Mrs Cecilia Rigby Chair of Governors: Philip Holland PTFA Chair: Emma Stretton | Parish Priest: Fr. Philip Kehoe Parish Administrator: Eleanor Williams Parish Club: (622609) Janette McNamara | John Hartill, Bernard Keyworth, Cecilia Rigby, Andrew Southworth, Jennifer Brave, Ann-Marie Sandelands, Noreen Clayton |

Sunday, 9th December – 2nd Sunday of Advent

LITURGY AND SPIRITUAL LIFE

COMMUNITY LIFE AND SERVICE

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| Masses at Don Orione | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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THE WEDNESDAY WORD

Preparing next Sunday's Mass: First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18 *Rejoice, Daughter of Jerusalem!*
 Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7 *Be joyful in the Lord!*
 Gospel: Luke 3:10-18 *John the Baptist's Counsels*

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

In this second of the two Advent Sunday gospels about John the Baptist we first hear details about how to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Luke is always aware of the dangers of wealth and money, so he concentrates on avoiding its misuse. First he teaches equal sharing with the needy, no hoarding but generosity. Then he turns to financial exploitation. Tax-collectors had to pay for the right to collect taxes, and would be tempted to extort a nice margin to cover their own needs. In the same way soldiers could be tempted to abuse their power by bullying those they were meant to protect. The second half of John's task is to point away from himself towards Jesus, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Luke's gospel and the Acts of the Apostles are full of the Holy Spirit. Luke must have been vividly aware of the working of the Spirit in the Church, in its ministers of all kinds and in the life of the Christian communities. He warns also of the fierce fire which will purge away impurities; for John the Baptist the Messiah is a stern figure who will burn away the rubbish in human hearts to make room for the Spirit.

What is the "rubbish" in my life which needs to be burnt away to prepare for the coming of Jesus?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

This reflection is taken from "The Wednesday Word", download more at: www.wednesdayword.org/parish
 and also try: www.sundaygospel.co.uk

PARISH VISION

Illuminated by the light of Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, we St Teresa's Parish strive always to be a loving and welcoming community where all people are included and valued, and strangers are treated as friends. Fed and nurtured by scripture, prayer and the Sacraments, we journey together, seeking always to come closer to God, so that we can proclaim His love in our thoughts and words and by our actions in the world.

FR. PHILIP'S REFLECTION

On this second Sunday of Advent we hear a voice crying in the wilderness "prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight...all mankind will see the salvation of our God". In our preparation for the "adventus" "the coming" of Our Lord we need to get ready. At home for visitors who may come to see us, and in our hearts by recognising the Lord in His many guises: the poor, the lonely, the unloved, the forgotten. Hopefully it won't take three ghosts to bring us to our senses!! **Happy Advent**

POPE FRANCIS'S MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTIONS 2018

December: Evangelization: In the Service of the Transmission of Faith

That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time. Further information can be found at:

www.apostleshipofprayer.org

YOUTH NEWS

Youth Group Christmas Party is **Saturday, 22nd December**, in the Club Lounge (more details to follow).

RCIA (ASK Group): The next meeting will take place this **Monday, 10th December, 7.30pm** in the meeting room. The group supports and encourages those who want to learn about the Catholic faith. All welcome. Please contact Pam Ashcroft or leave a message in the office if you would like to attend.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS IN CHURCH: We will be decorating the Christmas Tree (kindly donated by Pimbo Garden Centre) and decorating the church after Mass today **Sunday, 9th December**. Offers of help very much welcomed.

CAFOD Carol Service will be held in Church this **Tuesday, 11th December, 7.30pm**. Always a beautiful occasion. Wine and mince pies are provided afterwards in the Club.

ECUMENICAL CAROL SINGING: Upholland Churches Christmas Carol Singing will take place on **Saturday, 15th December, 10am** at the Co-op, then onto the Premier before finishing at the Britannia at 12 noon where we will sing at their Christmas Fayre. All welcome – please do come and support it and get into the Christmas spirit! Wear your Christmas jumpers and hats if you have them.

KNITTED OR FELT JESUS: Please could any parishioners make a knitted or felt Jesus. These are needed for **Sunday, 16th December, 10am Mass** – "Bambinelli Sunday" when we will invite the children to bring their baby Jesus from their home crib to be blessed. We want to make sure any child who does not have one can get one, so if you are able to make more than one, we would be extremely grateful. Patterns are at the back of church.

SHALOM FAMILY GROUP will be having a Christmas Party on **Sunday, 16th December** straight after morning mass in the meeting room. This will be a Jacob's table, tea and coffee provided. As always, everyone is welcome.

BUNGALOW FOR RENT

at Don Orione Centre, St. Gabriel's Close, Roby Mill, Upholland. Social Housing net rent £464.18 pcm, plus service charge of £51.86 pcm – Total payable £516.04 pcm.

For one or two persons; new roof; new bathroom/wet room; new kitchen; new boiler; parking space. Commercial rent also available for people downsizing – extra £100 pcm. Age 60+.

Apply to Fr. Stephen Beale at sbeale@orionecare.org or Tel: 01695 622516, or in writing to: 2 Walthew Green, Roby Mill, Upholland, Skelmersdale, WN8 0QT.

WORKFORCE DATE: There is no workforce date in December. The next date for the workforce to meet up is **Saturday, 19th January, 9-12 noon**. Anyone who can help with clearing out, sorting and targeted cleaning, please turn up at Church. Thank you.

MASS BOOKINGS: If you would like to book any Masses for 2019 please see Eleanor in the office between 9am and 12 midday Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday. Envelopes are also available at the back of Church if you cannot come between these times.

INTERN EXPERIENCE: If anyone is looking for a fascinating short term intern experience in Brussels, with some travel within Europe, then please feel free to share the following link:

http://fafce.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=501:call-for-applications-2019-fafce-internship-program&catid=37:events&Itemid=237&lang=en

All details are either in the link or can be found by direct contact with Nicola Speranza (Mr.) Secretary General (n.speranza@fafce.org)

SKELMERSDALE FOODBANK APPEAL

This weekend, we make our monthly appeal to help those people less fortunate than ourselves. Especially required are instant mash, tinned mixed vegetables, sugar, coffee (large and small jars), long life fruit juice, plain egg noodles, rice, sweetcorn, tinned sponge puddings and snacks. Last year, 400 children received 3 toys each as Christmas presents from the Foodbank so donations of new children's toys are welcomed. Also tins of sweets such as Roses, Heroes, Quality Street, tins of biscuits to make a great treat for families, and suitable small gifts for adults.

Thank you from Skelmersdale Foodbank to St. Teresa's Church for the kind donation of 25kg of food from the Harvest Festival. Your kindness is much appreciated.

35th CAFOD FUN RUN will take place on **Thursday, 27th December** at Wavertree Athletics Centre and Park, Liverpool, L15 4LE. Registration will be from 12pm and the runners and walkers start at 1pm on the 4km or 8km run and 2km walk. For further details contact 0151 228 4027 or liverpool@cafod.org.uk

CHILDREN'S LITURGY ADVENT COLLECTION: The children will be collecting after **10am** Mass for the next 3 Sundays to support the work of CAFOD. The money will be used to buy CAFOD World gifts.

SUNDAY 23RD DECEMBER The **10am Mass** on the 4th Sunday of Advent will be led by the children. We hope that you can join us.

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY Christmas Carol Service, with Archbishop Malcolm McMahon at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, on **Friday, 14th December, 2.00pm**. Featuring students from St. Benedict, Netherton and Holy Family Liverpool Catholic Primary Schools, plus the "Songs we Remember" Choir. Refreshments available afterwards in the Gibberd Room. Further information at m.knight@rcaol.co.uk or 0151 522 1046. See poster at back of church.

MONEY MATTERS

Thank you for last week's offertory of £437.92 + S/O £270

Thank you for donations to the Crib Collection of £112.74.

Christmas Bingo: We raised £1800 at our Christmas Bingo, £900 to Don Orione, £900 to the parish, £50 of which was given to the Lourdes fund. Thank you so much for your support.