



The Catholic Parishes of Holy Souls' and St Bernadette's, Scunthorpe

Mass Timetable for week beginning
Fourth Sunday of Advent - 18th December 2022



Parish Clergy: Canon Matthew Jakes, Fr Limnyuy Gamsi and Deacon Sebastian Grab

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Date/Of the Day	Holy Souls	St Bernadette's	St Norbert's	St Thomas'
Saturday, 17th Advent Feria	4.00 to 4.25 pm ◆ Confession 4.30 pm Vigil ◆ Stuart Ainsley RIP	10.00 am ◆ Massimo Napolitano RIP 10.30 am to 11.00 am ◆ Confession 6.00 pm Vigil ◆ Jude Papp Intention	-	-
Sunday, 18th December 2022 Fourth Sunday of Advent	9.30 am ◆ People of the Parish 4.30 pm Polish ◆ Polish Priest Intentions	11.00 am ◆ John & Michael Keane RIP	8.45 to 8.55 am ◆ Confession 9.00 am ◆ Margaret & Barry Watson Intentions	11.00 to 11.10 am ◆ Confession 11.15 am ◆ TBA
Monday, 19th Advent Feria	4.00 pm Reception ◆ Julia Neary RIP	9.30 am ◆ Michael Walsh RIP	-	-
Tuesday, 20th Advent Feria	11.00 am Funeral Mass ◆ Julia Neary RIP	8.00 am ◆ Margaret Jackson RIP	-	-
Wednesday, 21st Advent Feria	-	-	10.00 am ◆ TBA 6.00 pm - Carol Service	-
Thursday, 22nd Advent Feria	9.30 am ◆ Mark Barnaby Intentions 6.00-7.00 pm Confession	9.30 am ◆ Fr Michael Moore Intentions	-	-
Friday, 23rd Advent Feria	-	6.00 pm ◆ Felix Prior RIP 6.00-7.00 pm Confession	1.00 pm Funeral Mass ◆ Patrick Fitzgerald RIP	10.00 am ◆ TBA
Saturday, 24th The Nativity of The Lord	6.00 pm Vigil ◆ In Thanksgiving 12.00 midnight Polish ◆ Polish Priest's Intention	10.00 am ◆ Ronald Golding RIP 10.30-11.00 am Confession 5.00 pm Vigil ◆ Mary Morrissey RIP 11.30 pm Vigil ◆ People of the Parish	-	-
Sunday, 25th December 2022 The Nativity of The Lord	11.00 am ◆ People of the Parish 4.30 pm Polish ◆ Polish Priest Intentions	8.30 am ◆ Mahony & Conneely Family RIP	9.00 am ◆ TBA	10.00 am ◆ TBA
Monday, 26th St Stephen	11.00 am Polish ◆ Polish Priest's Intention	12.00 noon ◆ In Thanksgiving	-	-
Tuesday, 27th St John	10.00 am ◆ Matthias & Doris Kempen RIP	-	-	-
Wednesday, 28th The Holy Innocents	5.00 pm Reception ◆ Michael O'Connor RIP	-	10.00 am ◆ TBA	-
Thursday, 29th St Thomas of Canterbury	12.00 noon Funeral Mass ◆ Michael O'Connor RIP	-	-	-

Canon Matthew's Catechesis The Season of Advent (Part 2)

There is a Latin saying "Lex orandi, lex credendi". The Latin language has an ability to say an awful lot in just a few words, and that, I suppose, is why despite the decline and fall of the Roman Empire 1500 years ago, we still make use of their language in all educational disciplines and in the Church. "Lex orandi, lex credendi," literally means "the law of praying, is the law of believing". That is the words we use in prayer to inform our belief. Inspired by this idea, let us look at some of the prayers we use in the latter part of Advent. These will elucidate what we believe about this season. From the 17th December onwards, the focus of Advent changes from the second coming of Christ, to preparing to celebrate the great feast of his first coming at Christmas. Therefore, the post communion prayer at Mass on the fourth Sunday of Advent gives us this theme: "We pray, almighty God, that, as the feast day of our salvation draws ever nearer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly to the worthy celebration of the mystery of your Son's Nativity." The tone of this prayer is one of joyful and even exciting anticipation. Note that we have to celebrate this great feast worthily, which means some spiritual preparation, perhaps by taking time to go to an extra weekday Mass; to make a good confession; and to do some spiritual reading and prayer. We must recall that the Nativity of Christ is referred to as a "mystery." This is a spiritual reality which doesn't easily give up its full meaning. It requires pondering on, as Our Lady did, and also prayer and study. It is a great mystery that God should become a man. How could this even be possible, given the tremendous difference between God's nature and ours? The condensation required for this step alone boggles the mind. We, who have been brought up as Christians are frequently unaware of how astounding our belief in the Word of God made flesh is to others.

Preface II of Advent, which is mandated for all Advent Masses from 17th to 24th December, also sets the scene: "For all the oracles of the prophets foretold him, the Virgin Mother longed for him with love beyond all telling, John the Baptist sang of his coming and proclaimed his presence when he came." All the main aspects of Christ's birth were foretold in Old Testament prophecy. From Isaiah we get a prophecy of birth amongst animals (1 v.3), and later in the Book, the virgin birth, and saviour's divine nature. From Micah we learn of his birth in Bethlehem. From the psalms of David, we learn that kings would come from far away bearing gifts, and from Genesis that a woman (Mary, the Second Eve) would be the one to crush the devil's head by cooperating with the divine plan. Finally in Numbers chapter 24 the prophet Balaam proclaims the coming of the Messiah, symbolized by a star giving light in the darkness: "A star shall come forth from Jacob." To these prophets, the last of the prophets John the Baptist added his testimony, dancing in the womb of his mother in the presence of the Virgin Mother of God. May we too, like Mary, John the Baptist and the prophets, long for his coming.

In your charity please pray for

John Ingoldsby, Julia Neary, Michael O'Connor and all who have died recently, may they rest in peace. *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.* Please pray for their families at this difficult time; for those whose anniversaries occur at this time; for all who are sick and housebound and those who have no family to support them. We remember all those who are in hospital or are having treatment, those whose treatment has been cancelled or postponed and those who are in nursing homes or being cared for.

Second Collections

- ⇒ 15th January 2023 - Sick and Retired Priests Fund.
- ⇒ 5th March 2023 - CAFOD Family Fast Day

Christmas Church Cleaning

- * Monday, 19th December at 10.00 am - St Bernadette's Church.
- * Friday, 23rd December at 10.00 am - Holy Souls' Church.

Please do come along and help if you can - everyone welcome. "Many hands"

Christmas Cards/Calendars

are on sale in Holy Souls Church Hall after the Vigil and Sunday Masses. Proceeds to Church funds.

Refreshments

- Holy Souls - will be served after Mass this Sunday, 18th.
- St Bernadette's - there will be **NO REFRESHMENTS** after Mass this Sunday.

Holy Souls - First Holy Communion Forms

Are available at the back of Church. Please complete and return by **31st December 2022 WITH a copy of the child's baptismal certificate.** NB: if you require a further copy of the baptismal certificate from either Holy Souls or St Bernadette's Churches a charge of £20 will apply.

Diary Dates

- ⇒ **Thursday, 29th December** - Young Adults' meeting at 6.00 pm in St Bernadette's Presbytery.
- ⇒ **Thursday, 12th January 2023** - St Bernadette's PPC meeting at 7.00 pm in the Parish Centre.
- ⇒ **Monday, 13th February 2023** - St Bernadette's Finance Committee Meeting at 7.00 pm in the Parish Centre.

The Synod - Continental Stage Consultation

All the Synod feedback from parishes, dioceses, and national Bishops' Conferences around the world has been gathered, considered, discerned, and distilled into a Report which is now being given to each continent to consider in light of their own tradition, history, experience, and religious perspective. Within Europe we now have the opportunity to consider the Synodal feedback from around the world and to report on: what we feel resonates with our own experiences - list the top three priorities from those given; consider what are the challenges and tensions in each of those three areas and define the next steps which move us (parish, deanery, diocese, the Church) forward.

Please engage with this consultation by: completing the form available at the back of both Churches (or downloaded from the parish websites); complete the feedback form on-line at: <https://forms.office.com/e/2Yfs77hHsp>. **All responses should be received by 9th January 2023** so they can be included in the overall diocesan response. Let us dream of the Church the Holy Spirit is calling us to become.

Christmas Offerings

The Christmas Offering collections will take place during the Christmas Octave Masses and are your gift to our Parish Priests. Please remember that the collection goes to the priests as they do not receive a salary from the Church. Envelopes are available in our Churches from this weekend.

Pope Francis

Prayer Intention for December 2022

For volunteer not-for-profit organisations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

"Tweet" of the Week

✠ I invite you to pray, before the creche, that the Nativity of the Lord will bring a ray of peace to children all over the world, especially those forced to live the terrible and dark days of war.