

St. Joseph's and St. Peter's

The Roman Catholic Parishes of Ansdell & Lytham

Clergy: Parish Priest Fr. Peter Clarke, Deacons Michael Harrison, David Pope & William Riley (Retired)

Parish Hub: 16, Woodlands Road, Ansdell FY8 4EP; Telephone 01253 737037; Email sjsp.las@lcrd.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Representatives: SJ's M.Gregory 07711698195, K.Godden 07932048793 SP's T.Mallabone 07843151914

Second Sunday after the Nativity 'A' 3rd/4th January 2026

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us”

Weekend 3rd/4th January: Second Sunday after the Nativity A

Saturday 3 rd	6pm	St. Joseph's	Mass Michael Wren Hilton
Sunday 4 th	9:15am	St. Joseph's	Mass People of the Parishes
	10:30am	St. Peter's	Mass Mary Johnson

Monday 5 th	9am	St. Peter's	Mass Eileen Illingworth <i>followed by Expositions and Confessions till 10am</i>
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The Feast of the Epiphany

	7pm	St. Joseph's	Mass For the Caulfield and Edwards Families
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Tuesday 6 th	9am	St. Peter's	Mass Joe Ainsworth
	10am	St. Joseph's	Mass Intentions of Terry Thompson and Family

Wednesday 7 th	9am	St. Peter's	Mass Arthur, Mary and Kathleen Horton
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Thursday 8 th	10am	St. Joseph's	Mass Mark William Pollard
	2:45pm	Carlton Crematorium	Service for Doreen Boyes

Weekend 10th/11th January: The Baptism of the Lord A

Saturday 10 th	6pm	St. Joseph's	Mass People of the Parishes
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Sunday 11 th	9:15am	St. Joseph's	Mass Mrs Howard
	10:30am	St. Peter's	Mass Elizabeth Whelan Contoni

Sacrament of Reconciliation with Exposition this week. Monday 9:30-9:55am at St. Peter's

Confession is also available by arrangement with Fr. Peter. Tel. 737037

This Sunday's Readings: With the coming of Christ into the world, God enters into our human hearts and history in a totally new way. We are asked to receive him into our lives with joy and openness, accepting the challenge to offer his love and truth to all we meet.

First Reading *Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2.8-12* God's wisdom is an eternal presence with us.

Second Reading *Ephesians 1:3-6.15-18* Paul sends greetings to the Ephesians telling them, and us, that we were chosen in Christ before the world was made.

Gospel *John 1:1-18* The Word of God is made flesh and lives among us, so that we may share in the fullness of God's grace.

Message from Father Peter: I mentioned in my Christmas Sermon that I always listen to Handel's 'Messiah' around Christmas. Well around Epiphany I always listen to 'Amahl and the Night Visitors', Gian Carlo Menotti's children's opera, based on Italian folk tales of the Nativity and Epiphany, which is a retelling of the story of the Three Wise Men from the point of view of a young disabled boy named Amahl, who lives in poverty with his widowed mother near Bethlehem. He sees a bright star in the sky one night and tells his mother to go and look, but she brushes him off, as he is always making up stories, and she is more concerned over their poverty, and whether they are going to be able to support themselves in the coming year. That night, to Amahl's mother's amazement, three kings come across their falling down hut and seek shelter, having travelled for hundreds of miles, following the star, which Amahl's mother had not believed in. They bring with them gifts to give to 'the Child' who has just been born and who will reign over all. Amahl's mother, in her desperation tries to steal just a bit of the treasure, thinking of what it could do for her disabled son, but is caught red-handed. The three Kings are understanding of the Mother's temptation, and tell her she can keep the gold because '*The child we seek doesn't need our gold. On love, on love alone he will build his kingdom. His pierced hand will hold no sceptre. His haloed head will wear no crown. He will bring us new life, and receive our death, and the keys to his city belong to the poor.*' The Mother realises that this is the kind of King that she and the whole world are waiting for, and she hands back the gold. Amahl decides that he wants to give the new born a gift, so offers the only thing he has, his crutch. And he as he hands it over to the Kings to give to the child, he is miraculously cured. '*He walks! It is a sign from the holy child. We must give praise to the newborn king. This is a sign from God. Truly he can dance, he can jump, he can run!*' Amahl's mother allows him to go with the Kings to present the crutch himself, and as Amahl and the three night visitors set out across the darkened land, they hear the sounds of shepherds singing, '*All the stars have left the sky. Sweet dawn - oh dawn of peace.*' Because peace and healing has indeed truly dawned. Lovely story, and a lovely little opera for this week's feast. (You can catch the whole thing on the YouTube). May God bless us with the gifts of faith and perseverance this Epiphany and throughout the whole of the New Year.



St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Ansdell

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Clarke.

St. Joseph's Presbytery, Woodlands Road, Ansdell,
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Second Sunday after the Nativity 3rd/4th January 2026

This Tuesday 6th January is The Feast of the Epiphany, a HolyDay of Obligation.

Masses are at HolyDay times of 7pm Vigil on Monday
at SJ's, and Tuesday 6th 9am at SP's and 10am at SJ's

Mass on Wednesday Morning will be at St. Peter's at 9am at which we will be joined by the school to celebrate an Epiphany mass all together. (So no Saltcotes mass this month).

Continued Huge Thanks to All involved in our Christmas Services: The Altar Teams and Sacristans, the Musicians and Choir and Bell Ringers, the Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Collectors, Offertory Processors, the Flower People, crib putter-uppers and decorators, rota preparers, Cleaners, everybody who does their jobs in and around the Sacristies, the Churches, the House, the Office, and the grounds, the refreshment and social people, all those who work with the children – our Amazing Children's Liturgists, the Catechists, the Teachers, everyone at St. Peter's School, and St. Bede's School the Parents, and all the children, our great Deacons Michael and David, and **Everyone who helped to make Christmas 2025 such a wonderful religious celebration, And continues to make SJSP such a wonderful Catholic Community every day of every year!** May the Lord give us many Blessings. **Let us continue to celebrate together throughout the whole of 2026!**

Personal Thanks from Father Peter for all the kind Cards, Gifts, and Offerings over the Christmas season. Mass will be said in thanksgiving for all your intentions. God bless you.

And Feline Thanks from Tobias, the Presbytery Cat, for all the kind treats and toys received over the Christmas season.

SJSP Confirmation 2026. The Bishop will be coming to SJSP's to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday 10th February at SP's at 6:30pm. Candidates in Year 6 or above are welcome to get an application form from the sacristy. Forms should be returned **NEXT WEEKEND** at the latest.

And we can look forward to the
SJSP Late Late Christmas Party
Saturday 17th January at 7pm,
with a Jolly Quiz, Food and Song!
Tickets available after Masses.



COLLECTION COUNT: for December: *with grateful thanks*
Gift Aid £454 Non Gift Aid £1638:39 SO £3193
St. Joseph's Care £335:27

Please pray for all who have died recently, especially Doreen Boyes and Sue Brockbank, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time Maurice Crilly, Bernadette McGladdery, Catherine Hylton, Marie McKenna, Chris Saum, Thelma and Hugo Coulter, Peter Seryem, Brian Lenton, and William Murphy.

Please pray for the sick and housebound of the Parish, especially: Paul Bunyan, Michael Cookson, Andrew Cox, Damian Crean, Ann Cullen & The Cullen Family, Theresa and Denis Flannigan, Rosaline Fox, Cathy Gaughan, Patrick Gilligan, Fr. Peter Hart, Pat Heeny, Christopher Hunter, Peter Jones, Sr Kay, Caroline Ledward, Margaret Long, Maureen Lundy, Pat Marion, Paul Meskill, Anne Meyer, George Morgan, Pat Moss, Molly Murphy, Zivile Petraviciute, Bob Osachuk, Val Sunderland, Alison Singleton, Margaret Spillane, Susan Standing, Mandi Taylor, Sr Michaela Toulmin (Hynning), Alan Watkins, Brenda Wilmot, Phil Winstanley, Kath Woods, Albert Zammit, Emmanuel Zammit.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY at Sunday Morning Mass!

COFFEE & BACON BUTTIES after 9.15am Mass this week. (*New Years Diet starting on Monday. FrP*)

ST JOSEPH'S CARE: Do you know of anyone in our community who is in need or might need a little more support, and would like either a friendly visit, or Holy Communion at Home? Please let St. Joseph's Care Visiting Team know by emailing or phone the Parish on the above contact details.

BELL RINGING PRACTICE every Thursday from 7-8.30 pm. If you are interested in learning to ring the bells at St Joseph's, please get in touch with Tower Captains James (07743684900) and Stacey (07921032390) and they'll show you the ropes!

REPOSITORY: Cards and gifts for different occasions available, including first communion cards and Rosary beads. Orders for other items can be taken, too. If you are interested in joining a rota for either of the weekend Masses please contact Margaret on 07711698195

LECTIO DIVINA Scripture prayer and discussions in the hall on Wednesdays at 10am.

THE HOLY ROSARY: every Thursday after 10am Mass in Church, for this beautiful prayer. All welcome. **Thursday at 10:30am** in Church.

Rotas for weekend 10th/11th January.

Readers

Sat Vigil: Catherine Ralston 9.15am Anne Wormleighton

Meet and Greet

Sat Vigil: 6pm O&J Baker Sun 9.15am: W&E Doyle