

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 3rd4th 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>
<i>The Feast of the Epiphany</i>			
	7pm	St. Joseph's	Mass For the Caulfield and Edwards Families
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
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
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 Holy Day of Obligation.

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



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 Meskell, Anne Meyer, George Morgan, Pat Moss, Molly Murphy, Zivile Petraciute, Bob Osachuk, Val Sunderland, Alison Singleton, Margaret Spillane, Susan Standing, Mandi Taylor, Sr Michaela Toulmin (Hyning), 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 a 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