

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.lsa@lrcd.org.uk

Third Sunday of Advent Year 'C' 15th December 2024

“Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

Weekend: The Third Sunday of Advent 'C'

Saturday 14 th	6pm	St. Joseph's	Mass	Ann McLellan
Sunday 15 th	9:15am	St. Joseph's	Mass	The People of the Parishes
	10:30am	St. Peter's	Mass	In Loving Memory of Mark William Pollard

Monday 16 th	9am	St. Peter's	Mass	Fr. Flynn
	7pm	St. Peter's	Evening Prayer and Benediction	
Tuesday 17 th	10am	St. Joseph's	Mass	Joan and Harold Thornton
	6pm	St. Peter's	St. Peter's School Advent Service	
Wednesday 18 th	9am	St. Peter's	Mass	Sr. Mary Lalor
Thursday 19 th	10am	St. Joseph's	Mass	Intentions of the McLaughlin Family

Weekend: The Fourth Sunday of Advent 'C'

Saturday 21 st	6pm	St. Joseph's	Mass	Tony Gleeson
Sunday 22 nd	9:15am	St. Joseph's	Mass	Intentions of the Plant and Cassidy Families
	10:30am	St. Peter's	Mass	People of the Parishes

Sacrament of Reconciliation with Exposition this week. Monday 9:30-10am at St. Peter's;

Tuesday 9:30-9:50am at St. Joseph's Confession is also available by arrangement with Fr. Peter. Tel. 737037

This Sunday's Readings: As we meet in the name of Christ, he calls us to stand firm for him, and to live in ways that honour him. So let us come into his presence and seek his grace.

First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-18 Writing perhaps 600 years before Christ, the prophet looks forward to the liberation and renewal of God's people.

Second Reading Philippians 4:4-7 Paul writes from experience of discovering peace and joy through prayer.

Gospel Luke 3:10-18 John the Baptist gives his listeners practical advice on how to get ready for the blessings that Jesus will bring.

Message from Father Peter: Last weekend it was wonderful to see nearly forty of our tremendous children's liturgy children gathered in Church for a 'StoryBook Nativity,' wherein gathered around me on the sanctuary I was able to celebrate the 'greatest story ever told' with them, supported by their parents, and who created a Nativity scene for them. The Nativity Story I read them was a version I wrote during Covid for St. Bernadette's School called 'Why Christmas?' as after each part of the story (the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Shepherds, and so on) the children all shouted 'Why Christmas?!', with the answer being given by one of the protagonists in the 'infancy narratives' of Jesus as they are officially called. 'Why Christmas?' is question that might be on many of our lips during these days, sometimes somewhat despairingly as we realise how many Christmas cards we still have to write or mince pies to buy/cook/eat (delete as appropriate). The answer to the question in the Nativity varied from character to character: 'So that the world could once again live in peace and everyone could be happy again', 'So that Mary could become Jesus' Mother and the special Mother of each one us', 'So that we could all learn to help one another, especially those who are poorer than ourselves', and so on. But the final answer to the question 'Why Christmas?' was a simple quote from St. Paul: 'So that all beings, in the heavens, on the earth, and in the underworld should bend their knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord to the glory of God the Father. Amen.' Perhaps if we have that in our minds during these times, everything else will fall into place, and all our Christmases will be the most happy and appropriate celebrations they could possibly be. Incidentally, Why couldn't you eat any mince pies after Christmas dinner? Because $-\frac{1}{\sqrt{-1}} \frac{1}{64} - 1$. I'll get my coat. And my calculator. And my Christmas Crackers.

Christmas at St. Joseph's and St. Peter's

Tuesday 24th December: Christmas Eve

St. Joseph's 6pm Children's Mass of Christmas

All children (and any adults for that matter) are asked to come dressed as a character from the Christmas Story:

Mary, Joseph, an Angel, a Shepherd, a King, or an Ox, Donkey, or sheep, to create a 'living crib'.

St. Peter's 8pm CandleLit Mass of Christmas with Carols and readings from 7:30pm

Wednesday 25th: Christmas Day

St. Joseph's 9:15am and St. Peter's 10:30am Christmas Morning Mass.



St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Ansdell

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Clarke.

St. Joseph's Presbytery, Woodlands Road, Ansdell,
Lytham St Anne's, FY8 4EP. Tel: 01253 737037

Website: www.st-josephsansdell.net Email: sjsp.lsa@lrcd.org.uk



Advent Vespers Every Monday of Advent:

This Monday 16th at St. Peter's at 7pm.

Extra Times for Advent Reconciliation:

Monday 16th St. Peters 6:30-6:55pm

Monday 22nd St. Joseph's 6:30-6:55pm

Huge Thanks to the children and families and musicians and preparers, and Father Christmas himself, who helped make our (annual!) StoryBook Nativity so lovely last week. Our Parishes are very blest.

SJSP 2025 Calendars are now available, a bargain at just £5. The perfect Christmas gift!

Lancaster Diocesan Directories 2025 are available at the back of Church at £6. Buy one and find out where all your favourite priests have been moved to.

Please take a Christmas Mass Card Timetable and hand it to a friend a neighbour to invite them to SJSP's for our beautiful Christmas Services. If you use 'Social Media' perhaps you could use your contacts to invite people to our lovely Christmas Masses.

Confirmation 2025: Bishop Paul will be coming to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday 10th February next year. **The Sacrament is open to our young people in Year 6 and above.** If you would like to receive the sacrament, please see Father Peter for an application form.

Toys for the Children, our annual Toy Appeal! This year, we are asking for your generous donations of new toys to support families in need. Please leave your new toys in the back of the church (*or into the Presbytery. FrP*) by Sunday, December 15th. I will take care of wrapping the toys before they are passed on to those who will benefit from your kindness. Thank you for your generosity and support in making this holiday season brighter for those in need! *Emma Cox*

Big Thanks to all who attended and supported our SJSP **Christmas Bingo** last Friday. We raised £274 for our Parishes funds. It was a very entertaining evening with our resident bingo caller Father Peter and our ukulele band. Thanks again to all and to all who helped put this event together. *Ali Croft*

SJ's Annual Christmas Breakfast: Sunday 22nd December after SJ 9am mass. Adults £5, children £3. Sign up sheet at the back of mass. Be quick, places are sure to fill up fast!!



COLLECTION COUNT: for November: *with grateful thanks*
Gift Aid £323.00 Non Gift Aid £1107:66 SO £2927
Special Collections Gift Aid £81 Non Gift Aid 110:76
St. Joseph's Care £150:05 CAFOD: £268

Please pray for all who have died recently, especially Alan Bealey, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time Brian Connolly, Eileen Robson, Ivy Cunliffe, Christopher Norman and Terry Jones.

Please pray for the sick and housebound of the Parish, especially: Paul Bunyan, Michael Cookson, Andrew Cox, Judith Cross, Rosaline Fox, Cathy Gaughan, Patrick Gilligan, Pat Heeny, Christopher Hill, 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 Petravičiute, Bob Osachuk, Alison Singleton, Margaret Spillane, Susan Standing, 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.

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: Christmas cards, packs and individual ones now on sale as well as Advent Candles and Children's Christmas books. New Sunday Missals now in stock at £15. All our usual items, Mass cards, selection of greetings cards, Rosary Beads, Prayer cards and statues etc are still available. 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.

Rotas for weekend 21st /22nd December
Readers

Sat Vigil: Richard Golding 9.15am The Children

Meet and Greet

Sat Vigil: Sheila and Paul

Sun 9.15am: P Benning and M Herron