

# CATHOLIC LOUTH AND MABLETHORPE

## S. Mary's Church

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## S. Joseph's Church

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## Week III of Advent

Year C, Year 1, Psalter Week III

(15<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> December 2024)

### MASS TIMINGS AND INTENTIONS

Sun the 15<sup>th</sup> **GAUDETE SUNDAY**

18.15 *The People*

9.00 *Elizabeth Bridget Weir (+)*

11.30 *Retired clergy*

S. Mary's

S. Mary's

S. Joseph's

Mon the 16<sup>th</sup> **Advent Feria**

Tue the 17<sup>th</sup> **Advent Feria**

Wed the 18<sup>th</sup> **Advent Feria**

10.00 *Mr. David Peter Stubbs (+)*

S. Mary's

Thu the 19<sup>th</sup> **Advent Feria**

10.00 *Vocations to the priesthood & religious life*

S. Joseph's

Fri the 20<sup>th</sup> **Advent Feria**

15.00 *Divine Mercy chaplet*

S. Mary's

Sat the 21<sup>st</sup> **S. Peter Canisius**

10.00 *Evangelical mission of the Church*

S. Mary's

followed by *The Holy Rosary*

18.15 *In honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

S. Mary's

Sun the 22<sup>nd</sup> **SUNDAY IV OF ADVENT**

9.00 *In honour of the Holy Family*

S. Mary's

11.30 *In honour of S. Joseph*

S. Joseph's

### NOTICES

- **Introduction to Catholicism w/ Fr Kevin, Mondays at 6 PM** on Zoom. Please email if you would like to attend.
- "I would like to **begin regular meetings for all who serve the liturgy at our two churches** in the new year. I don't wish this to be a burden, but a manner of support group and professional sharing. I am thinking of a quarterly (four times a year) system, but am open to adjustments. For the moment, I mean to arrange for Readers (Lectors), EMHCs (lay ministers of the Eucharist) and Servers. Please come up and talk to me with suggestions about how this could be arranged, taking into account the distance between the parish churches." Father Kevin
- Also from early in the New Year, following encouragement

from the Bishop, the **Sunday morning Mass will be preceded by a period of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**, and with Benediction just before Mass begins.

- **All applicants for Sacraments**, viz. Baptism, FHC, Confirmation, to apply to Father Kevin in person, preferably after one of the parish Masses, but otherwise by appointment (using e-mail or telephone).

### S. Mary's, Louth

- **December's CAFOD Collection raised £326.64.** Many thanks for your ongoing support and generosity.
- **Mr. John Dean would like to thank everyone for the telephone calls, well-wishes and prayers** that he received during his bout of illness a short while ago. It was the source of much encouragement and strength during a difficult time.
- **Win a basketful of goodies this Christmas** by trying your luck in our Christmas raffle. **Tickets (£1)** available before/after Sunday Mass. The draw will take place on Christmas Day. All proceeds will go towards the Building Maintenance Fund.
- **The Annual General Meeting of the Parish of Saint Mary** will be held on **Thursday, 9th January 2025 at 6 PM.** You will have the opportunity to appoint/meet the members of your **Parish Pastoral Council** and be informed of matters relating to the running of the parish. Please email any agenda items and nominations (to the council) to the parish office by 2<sup>nd</sup> January.
- Following a recent assessment of the parish buildings, it has been ascertained that we will need to spend **approximately £40,000 on essential repairs.** We will be running a number of fundraisers over the next several months to meet this need. In the meantime, any donations would be welcomed most gratefully:

**Account name** St Marys Louth RCP ;

**Account number** 00108605; **Sort code** 30-95-22

- **Safeguarding Officer:** Mr Paul Rudd, t: 075 1372 5463, e: <paul.ruddpsr@dioceseofnottingham.uk>
- **Teas & coffees:** after Mass on Wednesdays and Sundays.

### S. Joseph's, Mablethorpe

- **S. Joseph's repository: The pre-ordered Sunday Missals have arrived** and are available to purchase. The £10 paper-back edition is also available for anyone who is interested. We also have stocks of Christmas cards, Advent calendars and 2025 calendars, all at very attractive prices. Please feel free to take a look after Mass.
- **Teas & coffees:** Thursdays after the 10.00 Mass.

### PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

#### Those who are ill

**S. Mary's:** Pat Tiger, Sylvia Saxby, John Dean, Patricia Kerr, Peter Endean, Lea Small, Shirley Kirkham, Paddy Shillington, Margaret & Robert Gwynne, Kevin Keeley, Mary Norburn, Judith Brook, Sally Shillington, Catherine Keeley, Pam Stephens, Diane Benton, Patricia & Spencer Harvey. **S. Joseph's:** Fr. James Lynch, Joseph Wilson, Laura Guest, Odessa Louise-Therese, John Thompson, Shaun Hewson, Winnie Copp, Owen Jenkinson, Thecla Domici.

#### Those who have died recently (++)

**S. Mary's:** David Peter Stubbs, Edwin Wrigley, Elizabeth Melling, Christopher John Adlard, Ann Lavarack, Edward Noble, Kerry Ashby, Jim Ellison, Thomas Gallagher, Rev Dom Adrian Convery OSB, Stephen Curley, Richard Crean, Roger Norburn. **S. Joseph's:** Sandra Watkinson, Brenda Smith, Joyce Kerswell, Pamela Ogden, Larry Walsh, John Gallagher, Margaret Mountain, Madeleine Ovens.

#### Those with anniversaries this week (++)

Elizabeth Bridget Weir, Peter Dunn, Anna Tanzy, Maria Gibbons, Barbara Mary Dewar, Mary Kelly, Maria Cullingford, Ian John Greatorex, Jacob Patrick Hynes, Thomas Rice.

# GAUDETE SUNDAY

On Jordan's bank, the Baptist cries | He announces that the Lord is nigh | The people will be prepared for God

## Repent and give

“Because a coat is more necessary for our use than a cloak, it belongs to the bringing forth of fruits worthy of repentance, that we should divide with our neighbors not only our superfluities but those which are absolutely necessary to us, as our coat, or the meat with which we support our bodies; and hence it follows, And he who has meat, let him do likewise.” - *Holy Father S. Gregory*

## The Judgement of Christ

“...on the day of judgment He will discern the solid merits and fruits of virtue from the unfruitful lightness of empty boasting and vain deeds, about to place the men of more perfect righteousness in His heavenly mansion. For that is indeed the more perfect fruit which was thought worthy to be like to Him who fell as a grain of wheat, that He might bring forth fruit in abundance.” - *S. Ambrose*



## John the Priest

We don't tend to see John as much more than the herald of Christ, and some of us may remember that he baptised our Lord in the Jordan river. We know that he had a particular ministry to the people, and his own baptismal rite. And we know from S. Luke's narratives that his father Zechariah and his mother Elisabeth were both of the priestly family of Aaron the brother of Moses, and so John would have been destined from his birth for the priestly work. We call John 'the baptist,' the Jews who knew him would have called him John the son of Zechariah the priest. But he probably did not train for the Temple, and seems early on to have fled into the wilderness of Judah, where he conducted his ministry. And it was a truly priestly ministry. Just as the many priests of the past, he was a teacher and a ruler of the people, and made it his life's work to draw them into union with God and so prepare them for His arrival, and for His judgement of wheat and chaff. He would have had a considerable following as a Jewish rabbi, and we see glimmers of that in the gospel, when for example we hear that many of his disciples became followers of Christ. It is obvious from our reading today that John had a moral authority, and he desired above all to teach charity; hence the command to share, for tax-collectors and soldiers to not extort or exploit. John practically uses the words of our first reading today, from the royal prophet Zephanyah: the Lord is in your midst as a victorious warrior, He will exult over you and renew you with His love. And then the priest-prophet steps aside when God arrives, for his work is done. The second reading gives us a window into the soul of every priest of God's holy people, who prepares them for Him. The priest in this reading is S. Paul, a man who like John suffered very much to draw men and women to Christ. And he says here to his Philippians that he wants their ultimate happiness, which they will only find in God. He wants to see the love of God manifest in them. He wants them to trust God entirely and not worry. And he wants them to pray, especially for peace of heart in every circumstance, good or bad.

*“Then cleansed be every life from sin, make straight the way for God within; and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.”*