HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, MARPLE
www.holyspiritmarple.com
Fr.Bill Fitzgerald 427:4922
29th November 2020
1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: (Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8)
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down.
Second Reading : (1 Corinthians 1:3-9)
We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.
Gospel: (Mark 13:33-37)
Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.

Pope Francis's prayer intention for December: That our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Sunday **Private Pray and Taize Reflections**	**29th November** **2.45pm-3.45pm.**	**Thursday** **Church closed**	**3rd December**
Monday **Church Open for Private Prayer**	**30th November** **1.30pm-2.45pm.** **EXPOSITION**	**Friday** **10am**	**4th December** **Holy Souls**
Tuesday **Church closed**	**1st December**	**Saturday** **Church closed until Vigil at 4pm**	**5th December**
Wednesday **10am**	**2nd December** **Parishioners** **Mary Bowles**	**Sunday** **Vigil 4pm** **Vigil 6pm** **Morning Mass 9am**	**6th December**

One decade of the Rosary	**Suspended**
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Adoration and Rosary	**Suspended**
Baptism/Marriage	By appointment
Sacrament of Reconciliation	After Private Prayer or by appointment.
Collection	

Those who are sick:
Please pray for Bill Davies, Christopher Brown, Stuart Madden, Christopher Clifford, James Tanner, Annie Shufflebotham, Marie Sidebottom, Malcolm Garrett, Libby Webb, Nina Noworyta, Marie Hayes, George Williams, Ruth Grace Crosby, Jarek Tomaszewski, Emily Small, Ann Crossley, Kathryn Smith, Steven Platts, Fr.Kevin Gradwell, Pauline Magrath, Kathleen Jones, Father Pat Munroe, Renata Broda, Cyril Nield, John Kirrane.

.A warm welcome to everyone. If you are new to the parish, please fill in a card and give it to Fr Bill. We shall be glad to visit you and make you as welcome as possible.

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A/C details:Account Name: "The Holy Spirit Development Account" Account No. 58710368
Sort Code 30 15 52

SOCIAL

Happy "New Year" to everyone, I remember making the same wish at about this time last year, parishioners looked at me some what bemused, of course I then qualified it by saying "New Liturgical Year." Could anyone have imagined then that our Churches would be closed for the Public Celebration of Mass for almost five months of the Year. There are many signs of hope on the horizon as we begin the "2020/21 New Liturgical Year" with the arrival of a "Vaccine" that will soon be authorised for use, our Churches about to reopen for the "Public Celebration of Mass" enabling Advent/ Christmas to be celebrated in the traditional manner. Fr.Bill has heard from the Diocesan Trustees with regard to the reopening on December 2nd and the guidelines remain pretty much the same as before. Unfortunately we are not open for the "Celebration" of Mass" on this coming Sunday which is the "First Sunday of Advent 2020," however we will have a period of "Private Prayer combined with "Taize Reflection" which will begin at 14:45 and end at 15:45 which we hope will attract a good attendance. Fr. Bill is in final stages of preparing a "Schedule of Church Services for the remainder of the "Advent Season & the Christmas Season" this will be published prior to the reopening on December 2nd. Directives like "Social Distancing / Sanitising of Hands/ Mask Wearing" will all continue to be essential elements of this "Second Reopening" so in that regard nothing will change. If you as a Parishioner or Friend of the Parish have been attending one of the "Saturday Evening Vigil Masses or Sunday Morning 9am Mass" and wish to continue doing so, you do not need to do anything once the Public Celebration of Sunday Mass will resume on the 5/6 December "Second Sunday in Advent" as your name is already on the "Track & Trace List" for that Mass. If you have not been attending Mass prior to this "Second Lock Down" and now wish to start back, simply contact Fr.Bill on (Mobile 07929-446490) or email:fitzgerald123@btinternet.com and he will place your name on the "Track & Trace List" for the "Weekend Mass" of choice. There will be an "Advent Carol Service" on Sunday 13th December at 4pm. if you wish to attend, you will be invited to fill in a Track & Trace Sheet" giving your Name & Tel No.(This sheet will be on the Table in the Church Foyer in the very near future & the number able to attend, regrettably will be limited) There will also be "Sheets for Parishioners / Friends of the Parish / Visitors/ to fill in for the "Christmas Eve Masses & Christmas Day Mass" again these "Track & Trace Sheets" will be available in plenty of time, to enable you to make a choice as to which Mass you wish to attend over Christmas. Once we re-open again in December we invite Parishioners and Friends of the Parish to endeavour resuming their "Offertory Collection Donations" if anyone using "Weekly Offertory Envelopes" can transfer to "Standing Orders" please speak with Michael Blundell on 0161 - 427- 1953.

SCRIPTURE READINGS – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent is more than a time of personal conversion and preparation. The Scriptures of Advent remind us that we are preparing for a "Renewal of Cosmic Proportions." The Universe groans in longing anticipation for the "One Who Came" the "One Who Is To Come" and the the "One Who Is To Come Again" Everything around us should awaken us from the slumber of complacency which speak to us in the powerful symbols of Wreath and Coloured Candles. We are invited to fill the "Liturgical Space of Advent" by emptying ourselves of false expectations, and waiting expectantly for the true light that takes all Our Darkness away. In the "first Reading from Isaiah" this weekend we hear the "Advent Cry" to prepare the way for the "Redeemer" who is to come. The Church is still looking for a "final rending of the heavens" when the Son of Man will come again. Indeed, the Church experiences a rending of the heavens in each liturgy, when Christ comes down in "His Sacrament" the "Sacrifice of the Mass" to visit his people in their time of need. St. Paul in writing to the Corinthians is keen on inviting the community to give thanks to God who has gifted them with charismatic gifts and speech, even if later he will write again to the Community at Corinth criticising them for their misuse of these very same gifts. St. Mark's Gospel insists that the return of Jesus is ever near, we are to be ready at all times. "Mark's Jesus" urges his listeners and subsequent generations of believers to be ever watchful for the return of a beloved family member. It is after all a facet of our faith, that the "Beloved Master will with certainty return and will expect to be welcomed by the "Christian Family" in a fitting fashion.

AN ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS: Due to Covid restrictions, rather than send Christmas Cards within the parish this year, we invite you to make a donation to CAFOD, then send an email with a Christmas Message to holyspiritxmas20@gmail.com. And we will post them on the website.

WOOD STREET MISSION: We are not able to donate toys etc., this year but you can still donate through their website: https://www.woodstreetmission.org.uk/our projects christmas.

ADVENT PRAYER BOOKLETS are on sale in the Foyer priced £1 each. Please leave money in the envelope provided. An excellent little booklet to help you prepare for Christmas.