



# The Catholic Parish of The Sacred Heart, Darwen

St. Joseph's Church  
Bolton Rd

St Edward's Church  
Blackburn Rd

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"..you know not at what hour the Son of man will come."

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Advent</b>			<b>3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023</b>
<b>St Joseph's</b>		<b>St Edward's</b>	

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.15 p.m.</b>	<b>9.15 a.m.</b>	<b>Mass Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9.00 a.m.</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Masses</b>
Monday	9.15 a.m.		Eucharistic Service
Tuesday	9.00 a.m.	10.00 a.m.	St Joseph's School Mass. Eucharistic Service followed by Tea and Coffee and a return of young Jim Elgin's marbles.
Wednesday			No Mass - St Bede's students to visit church
Thursday	9.15 a.m.		Mass
Friday	9.15 a.m.		Mass
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.15 p.m.</b>	<b>9.15 a.m.</b>	<b>Mass Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9.00 a.m.</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>

### Christmas Fair

Very many thanks to all who have committed themselves to the Christmas Fair this Sunday.

Half the funds raised will go to the Parish with the other half going to the Pulmonary Fibrosis Charity.

However, the hope is that the Fair will not just be measured in terms of financial gains, but also, in terms of it being a community event, the appearance of Father Christmas and all of us all having a fun time.



### Advance Notice for Christmas Masses

There will be 6.15 p.m Mass at St Joseph's Church on **Saturday 23rd of December**, but no 9.00 a.m. Mass at St Josephs on the **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December** morning.

An 11.00 a.m. Mass will take place at St Edwards on the Sunday morning (Christmas Eve) **24<sup>th</sup> December**.

The Christmas Eve Vigil Mass will start at 6.30 p.m. at St Edwards. The Midnight Mass will take place at St Joseph's Church.

There will be a 9.00 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day at St Josephs, also an 11.00 a.m. Mass at St Edwards.

Like Father Christmas, Fr Brian will then go to bed.

### St Bede's Students

Students from the final year of St Bede's will be visiting St Joseph's Church on Wed 6<sup>th</sup> December to prepare for their exams. They will also visit a Synagogue in Manchester. This is an opportunity to take a more adult view of what they may often have taken for granted.

### Prayer Decorations

At the back of church. you will find lots of Christmas gift tags for you to write a prayer upon. (Or maybe someone you wish to remember, or a hope for the future) These will be used to decorate the Christmas tree when it eventually goes up.



**Live-Stream St Joseph's:**

<https://www.churchservices.tv/darwen>

A special word for all those at home who follow the Church services on our streaming service. You remain very welcome and a real part of our praying community.

## Mass Intentions

**Lately Dead:** Andrew Helme (LD), Declan Troy (LD), Jill Montague (LD).

**Anniversaries:** Conlan Family, Wickers Family, Durkin Family, Blanche Elizabeth Grime, Joan Wright, Gary Francis, Esther McIntyre, Charles McIntyre, John Morrin, Derek Walsh, Mary Louisa Kerrane.

**Special Intentions:**

### Candidates to become Catholic.

Informative sessions for those who wish to become a catholic are held at 7.00 pm at St Joseph's presbytery. There will be further discussions on Friday 8th Dec, and Friday 15th Dec.

The sessions last no longer than one hour and are designed as an introduction to the faith as there is always so much more to learn.

### SVP Christmas Gifts

The SVP have arranged for handmade Christmas gifts comprising of earrings and brooches to be on sale at the rear of St Edwards Church. The gifts will then be available at St Joseph's Church for those last-minute Christmas purchases.

All these jewellery items are priced at £2, and all the proceeds will go towards the work of the SVP.

### CAFOD update:

A huge thank you to everyone who signed 'Salina's letter' this summer. Salina is the small-scale farmer from Bangladesh who is calling on the World Bank to protect the rights of farmers over their own seeds. 70,000 parishioners across 762 parishes in England & Wales signed the letter. (Including 3,500 signatures from 37 churches in this diocese.)

Salina said, "I am very happy to know about 70,000 signatures along with mine." Your support helped CAFOD to secure initial meetings with World Bank staff, who heard the message that seeds are for all. This is a long struggle but it's a very good start.

Thank you for adding your voice.



### St Edward's School

Blackburn Rd., Darwen, BB3 0AA  
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Tel. 01254 701616  
[www.stedwardsrcdarwen.co.uk](http://www.stedwardsrcdarwen.co.uk)



### St Joseph's School

Limes Avenue, Darwen, BB3 2SG  
[office@stjosephs.blackburn.sch.uk](mailto:office@stjosephs.blackburn.sch.uk)  
Tel. 01254 706264  
[www.stjosephsrcp.co.uk](http://www.stjosephsrcp.co.uk)

### SVP Christmas Meal

A Christmas Meal for the Elderly and Housebound has been arranged for **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December** at St Edwards Hall at 1.00pm. Please put your name on the list at the back of each church if you wish to attend.

### Prayers for the Pope

This week Pope Francis reluctantly withdrew from a visit to the conference on Climate change in Dubai. This was a decision forced upon him as a result of poor health. Please pray for this 86 year old man who has massive responsibilities.

### Reverse Advent Calendar

The **Knights of St Columba** are running a Reverse Advent Calendar again this year. The purpose of this is to give back to those less fortunate this year.

Collect your items throughout November and December such as toiletries, beans, pasta, etc... maybe a toy or two. Bring to the food bank by 18th December so that we can distribute to the families in need during this Season of Goodwill.

### Knights of St Columba

The Knights plan to help us all keep Christ in Christmas by providing Posters and Stickers for us all to use. These are now available to collect from both churches.

### Faith Gathering

We have planned to hold a future event on the **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024** at St Edwards Parish Hall from 12.30. You are all warmly welcome to join us and we hope to discuss what we have in common and what divides us.

### Red Missionary Collection Boxes

It is that time of year to receive the Mill Hill Missionary Calendar. Maggie Alvarez will be delivering them over the next few weeks and will empty your box for December.

It is worthy of note that you pay for these beautiful church's used by so many. So, thank you and pray that we can keep on going.

**Thank you for your support.**

**A/C: TSDT Sacred Heart**

**A/C no. 40835803 Sort code: 205534**

### Rotas this Weekend 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

**Readers:** 6.15pm: L. Atherton

9am: S. McMillan 11am: J. Ainsworth

**Eucharistic Ministers:** 6.15pm: R. Knowles

9am: G. Brindle 11am: T. Kennedy

### Rotas next Weekend 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Readers:** 6.15pm: D. Witherington

9am: G. Brindle 11am: A. Atkinson

**Eucharistic Ministers:** 6.15pm: P. Wardle

9am: M. R. Gordon 11am: P. Corran