

# The Catholic Parish of The Sacred Heart, Darwen



“Are you the one who is to come or  
shall we look for another?”

**St. Joseph's Church**  
Bolton Rd

**Parish Office**  
Church House  
370 Blackburn Road  
Darwen, BB3 0AA  
01254 702525

**St Edward's Church**  
Blackburn Rd

**Priest's Residence**  
St. Joseph's Presbytery  
149 Bolton Road  
Darwen, BB3 2PG  
**01254 702026**

[www.darwencatholic.org.uk](http://www.darwencatholic.org.uk)  
Priest Fr. Brian Kealey

**Gaudete Sunday of Advent Year A**

**14<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**St Edward's**

**St Joseph's**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.15 p.m.</b>		<b>Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9.00 a.m.</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>	<b>Mass Gaudete (Rose) Sunday of Advent Year A</b>
Monday	9.15 a.m.		Mass
Tuesday	9.00 a.m.	10.00 a.m.	School Mass Eucharistic Service followed by tea/coffee and cake and the wrapping of the astonishingly expensive present for Fr Brian.
Wednesday	9.15 a.m.		Mass
Thursday			No Service Fr Brian spends the day at St Bede's
Friday	9.15 a.m.		Mass
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6.15 p.m.</b>	<b>9.15 a.m.</b>	<b>Mass</b> <b>Vigil Mass</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9.00 a.m.</b>	<b>11.00 a.m.</b>	<b>Mass 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Advent Year A</b>

## Christmas Masses

The Christmas Eve Vigil Mass will begin with poems and carols on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December** at St Edwards starting at 6.30 p.m.  
Midnight Mass at St Joseph's at Midnight  
Christmas Day Mass 9.00 a.m. St Joseph's and at 11.00 a.m. at St Edwards Church.

**PLEASE NOTE** There will be NO Vigil Mass at St Edwards on the Evening of **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December**, but the Sunday Mass will be at 9.00 a.m. at St Joseph's and 11.00 a.m. at St Edward's will be as normal.

## Reverse Advent Calander

The Knights of St Columba are once again asking for the parish to participate in the Reverse Advent Calander in support of the food bank. This is to help those less fortunate than ourselves at this Christmas time. A donation of food or toiletries will make a big difference.

## Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre takes place this **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December** in St Edward's Church Hall following Mass, about 12.00 noon. Half the Fayre's takings and the whole Christmas mass collections will go to our local hospice. Thanks to all who work to make this a great social, and financial occasion. It is never too late to contribute to the cake stall, the toy stall, or the tombola and the fun. Father Christmas is going to be there at 12.15pm and we expect to be finished by 2.00pm. Come along and make sure the children meet with Father Christmas.

## Christmas Meal

The S.V.P. are hosting their annual Christmas meal for the elderly of the parish on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> of December**. If you do not receive an invitation, please feel free to enter your name on the lists at the back of each church. Names needed by the 14th December for catering requirements.



**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:** Anne Crudge (LD), Eileen Woodman (LD),

**Anniversary:** Giovanni Turco, Derek Walsh, Helen Cowell, Mary Louisa Kerrane, Gary Francis, Brian Christopher Walsh, Christopher Burke With Love, Ellen Shuttleworth, Annie Doyle, Esther McIntyre,

**Christmas Special Intentions:** Peter Bolan, Eileen Entwistle, Gordon Waddicor, The Hacket Family, Frank Helliwell, Annie Doyle, Bernard Healy, Conlon Family, Durkin Family, Wickers Family, Ellen Shuttleworth,

PLEASE SEND ANY SPECIAL INTENTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS EARLY TO ENSURE PUBLICATION

## Christmas Posters

This Sunday, after mass, the Knights of St Columba will again be handing out "Keep Christ in Christmas" Posters at the back of St Joseph's Church. The posters are free, but any small donation towards the Knights national Charity appeal will be gratefully received.

Please look out for the Bookmarks in the Hymn books These are to celebrate 100 years of the Darwen Council of the Knights of St Columba serving the Parish. Please feel free to take one home with you.

## Offertory Envelopes

The Offertory Envelope are now ready for collection and will be available for you to pick up from the back of Church from Alec. Thank you if you have signed up for a gift aid donation as this helps bring in extra money without any additional cost to yourself.

## Christmas Tree

There are gift tags at the back of church upon which you may write intentions or the names of those you love with which we will decorate the trees. A tree decorated with prayer.

## Drug Addicts Anonymous

The next meeting of this group is on **Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> December** in St Edwards Parish Hall. The meetings will run from 7.00 pm until 8.15 pm.

## Play Group

The next Play Group held in St Edward's Church Hall will be open **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December**.



## 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)



## St Edward's School

Blackburn Rd., Darwen, BB3 0AA

[office@stedwards.blackburn.sch.uk](mailto:office@stedwards.blackburn.sch.uk)

Tel. 01254 701616

[www.stedwardsrcdarwen.co.uk](http://www.stedwardsrcdarwen.co.uk)

## Third Sunday of Advent

Further thoughts for the period of Advent. These are some suggestions you may like to consider.

**Monday** Who was the person who was not in the family but influenced your life the most?

**Tuesday** Who has made the most generous contribution to your life from outside the family (time, money, love)?

**Wednesday** Who do you feel you gave love to outside the family?

**Thursday** Who would you truly love to see again?

**Friday** What was the greatest joy of your last 20 years?

**Saturday** What did you believe you needed, and what succeeded?

## St Bede's High School Visit

This week the entire top year of St Bede's visited St Joseph's church to reinforce their RE studies. Half the day with us and half visiting a synagogue in Whitefield. This week there will be a series of assemblies and a staff mass at the school. The young people are a credit to the work of the school.

## Becoming Catholic

If you are interested in becoming Roman Catholic or simply want to explore what is involved in the teaching of the church, then you are invited to attend one hour sessions of information.

The last of these sessions is on **Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm**. All taking place in St Joseph's house and with a promise that they last precisely one hour.

## Rotas this weekend 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> December 2025

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

**Sun 9 am:** M. Alvarez **11am:** J. Fitzgerald

**Eucharistic Ministers Sat: 6.15pm:** P. Ainscough

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

## Rotas next weekend 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025

**Readers Sat: 6.15 pm:** P. Craven

**Sun 9 am:** B. Hughes **11am:** P. Simms

**Eucharistic Ministers Sat: 6.15 P.** Craven

**Sun 9 am:** G. Brindle **11 am:** B. Beardsworth