



# FROM THE SPIRE

News & updates from our Shrine Church of Saint Walburge in Preston, Lancashire.



## Dominica I Adventus ~ I. classis

**“Don't get upset with your imperfections. It's a great mistake because it leads nowhere - to get angry because you are angry, upset at being upset, depressed at being depressed, disappointed because you are disappointed. So don't fool yourself. Simply surrender to the Power of God's Love, which is always greater than our weakness.” St Francis de Sales**

### Presbytery Office

#### Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,  
Friday and Saturday  
9:30-12 and 2-5

### Saint Benedict's Cultural Centre

saintbenedicts@icksp.org.uk  
www.icksp.org.uk/saintbenedicts

### Donations:

Institute of Christ the King/St  
Walburge Charity number: 1144783  
Donations via Bank Transfer:  
Name: ICKSP;  
Sort Code: 40-10-22;  
Account Number: 52347733  
Gift Aid forms and offertory  
envelopes  
can be obtained at the Presbytery.

### CONTACT US

07 927 96 56 96 Rev. Can. Cristofoli  
07 770142336 Rev. Can. Heppelle  
07 771445967 Rev. Can. Bunnens  
preston@icksp.org.uk

Our Safeguarding Representative:  
Mr. Peter Dilworth--  
postmaster@dilworth49.plus.com

### Enrol your family and loved ones in the Christmas Novena of Masses

From the 24th of December to the 1st of  
January, one of your canons will offer a  
Novena of masses for all the intentions that  
you will entrust to us.

- Take one (or more) of the packages, each containing a gift envelope, a Christmas card and a white envelope.
- Enrol the person(s) by writing their name on the card and on the gift envelope.
- Pass the gift envelope with your offering inside to one of your canons
- Send the card in the white envelope to the person you have enrolled. They will be very pleased to know your thoughtfulness and very precious Christmas gift.



**29th November - 7th December: Novena in preparation to the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Every day at 6pm (except Sundays at 5:30pm): Decade of the Rosary, Sermon, and Benediction with hymn Tota pulchra es. Theme of the Novena: Our Lady and the Beatitudes.**

### Guest Preachers:

**Saturday: Rev Canon Joseph Heppelle**

**Sunday: Rev Deacon Chris Barwise**

**Monday: Rev Fr Stuart Chapple**

**Tuesday: Rev Canon Gwenael Cristofoli**

**Wednesday: Rev Fr John Millar, Dean of the Cathedral of Lancaster**

**Thursday: Rev Canon Adrian Towers,  
Dean of Preston**

**Friday: no sermon but talk on Liturgy at 7pm.**

**Saturday: Rev Canon Antoine Bunnens**

**Sunday: Rev Fr Daniel Etienne**



# TRANSLATION OF THE EPISTLE AND GOSPEL

## Dominica I Adventus ~ I. classis

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### Epistle -Rom 13:11-14

Brethren: Understand, for it is now the hour for us to rise from sleep, because now our salvation is nearer than when we came to believe. The night is far advanced; the day is at hand. Let us therefore lay aside the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light. Let us walk becomingly as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in debauchery and wantonness, not in strife and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Gospel-Luke 21:25-33

At that time, Jesus said to His disciples: There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations bewildered by the roaring of sea and waves; men fainting for fear and for expectation of the things that are coming on the world; for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the son of Man coming upon a cloud with great power and majesty. but when these things begin to come to pass, look up, and lift up your heads, because your redemption is at hand. And He spoke to them a parable. Behold the fig tree, and all the trees. When they now put forth their buds, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things coming to pass, know that the kingdom of God is near. Amen I say to you, this generation will not pass away till all things have been accomplished. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.

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### Prayer Intentions

Please keep in your prayers Arthur and Maxine Frankland, Bob and Jane Latin, Anita, Denis and Margaret Smith, Dennis Brophy, Terry Carradice, Christopher Moloney, Rosemary Hough, Michael Cross, Ewa, Alexander, Mark MacKay, and the residents of Swansea Terrace Care Home.

Please pray for our catechumens, Luke, David, Alexis, Luca, Scot, Linda, another David, Jonathan, Sophie.

Please pray for our first communicants: Elisabeth, Inigo, Mary-Rose, Miracle Eze, Francis, Tobias



***WE WANT  
YOU***



**Any donations of Bottles, Bric a  
Brac, raffle prizes, chocolates  
etc...**

**For the Christmas Fair**



**A PASTORAL LETTER  
FROM THE BISHOP OF LANCASTER  
For the First Sunday of Advent 2025**



**APPOINTED TO BE READ AT ALL PUBLIC MASSES IN ALL CHURCHES AND CHAPELS IN  
THE DIOCESE OF LANCASTER ON THE WEEKEND OF 29th/30th November 2025**

My dear people, as we begin the Holy Season of Advent my thoughts turn to Mary, our Blessed Lady, beginning the final month of her pregnancy. She is carrying Life. For eight months she has sensed this child growing within her, this child given to her, and taking from her. As unborn children we feed on our mother's blood, warmth, nourishment. It is as though the mother says to her child, *'Take and eat, this is my body for you. Take and drink, this is my blood for you, that you may have life from me.'* In her case of course this nourishment is of a created type. Many years ahead, she would receive food given her by her Son, food of a different type, giving her eternal Life.

Let us reflect on this young pregnant woman as she offers us a way into this new Advent. She is expecting, preparing and waiting. She invites us to take on these same tasks in our own times by spending time meditating on her as she approaches the end of her pregnancy. We are so easily tempted to rush on to the events of the 25th of December, counting down the days, but that is to miss so much, as if we are so taken by the gift that we completely overlook the care taken by the giver of the gift. The gift has been chosen for us, prepared for us, brought to us, shared with us. None of this should be taken for granted.

Before the shepherds are disturbed at night, before angel choirs fill the skies, before the Magi leave their homelands, and whilst Herod remains in the dark concerning world events, this young woman carries in her womb the Lord of Life, already started on His work of Salvation. Even before her delivery she has so much to share with us. For her the Word became flesh nine months before Christmas, on the Solemnity we barely notice these days, the Annunciation of the Lord. She knows Him best of all.

What a precarious approach the Giver of Life has taken. From her village life Mary would be well acquainted with the risks of pregnancy. She would know of women who died in childbirth, of babies lost. She would know of difficult deliveries and infection risks. Added to that she now has an unwelcome 80-mile journey to make from Nazareth to Bethlehem and it has come at exactly the wrong time. St Joseph may be a good carpenter, but he is no midwife. While in Nazareth she was amongst her own



people and could count on the care and support of devoted family and neighbours experienced in these matters, and she had the comfort of familiar surroundings. Now however she is to be at the mercy of strangers, in a place unknown to her, full of uncertainties. It seems circumstances conspired against her and this little blessed life she carried within her. Thank God, with St Joseph by her side, she was able to trust in God's protection for herself and for the child in spite of the odds.

We need to reflect on this because we live in a culture which is increasingly losing sight and understanding of the gift of life and losing sight of the Giver of Life. Sadly, for all the advances in society, in healthcare and useful technology, there is much in our contemporary culture that works against life, particularly vulnerable life. Unborn children are severely and increasingly at risk. Each year hundreds of thousands are killed. The elderly are facing increasing pressure to effectively end their own lives. In hospitals DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) is often put on the records of disabled and sick by medical professionals without any reference to family. It is becoming an 'undisclosed policy'. Government chooses to cut Development-aid in favour of Defence budgets. The lives of millions of the poorest are adversely affected. From my years in Zambia and my visits to Ethiopia, South Sudan and Kenya I have seen what a difference it makes to the people whose living conditions are little different from those that the Mother of our Redeemer would have experienced. It seems that those who are born disadvantaged are subject to ever-increasing disadvantage. I strongly recommend to you Pope Leo's recently published first Apostolic Exhortation, *Dilexite* (On love for the poor).

There is another event and another date that remains hidden from us, brought to our minds every Advent; the Second Coming of Christ. He promised to come again, and He keeps His promises. It will happen at an hour we do not know, but we must expect and prepare and wait.

The Centenary year is over. The year of Jubilee will soon be completed. This has been a rich year of Grace and Blessings for us. Blessings are more than favours or tokens of approval from a kind Lord. They are given as 'cage-rattlers' to wake us from sleep and pull us back from our distractions. They are given as tonics to strengthen us for what still remains to be done if we are to complete our journey of faith. They are given to enable us to expect, prepare and wait. Like Mary, I am called to be a guardian of creation, a guardian of life by becoming a guardian of The Life. If I fail in this, whatever else I may achieve will count for nothing.

With my blessing on you and your families,



+Rt Rev Paul Swarbrick  
**Bishop of Lancaster**





# Rorate Mass

**Saturday 6th  
of December  
2025  
6.30am**



Come take part in the beautiful Advent tradition of the dawn Candlelight mass this December! Starting at 6:30 AM, come and share in this beautiful devotion to Our Lady!



Saint  
Walburge's  
Church,  
Weston  
Street,  
Preston  
PR2 2QE



ST WALBURGE'S, PRESTON  
PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS



# Carol Service

FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER,  
2025 6PM

ST WALBURGE'S SHRINE  
CHURCH PR2 2QE



THIS IS THE PERFECT WAY TO EMBRACE THE PEACE OF CHRISTMAS WITH JOYFUL MUSIC, BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS, AND A WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE.  
REFRESHMENTS IN THE HALL AFTERWARDS

WESTON STREET, PRESTON  
LANCASHIRE

PRESTON@ICKSP.ORG.UK

# WINE & CHEESE

*Christmas Festivity  
for St Walburge's  
Volunteers*

**SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 21ST  
1 PM - 3 PM**

St Walburge's Rectory, Weston Street,  
Preston, Lancashire, PR2 2QE.  
Register:  
canon.cristofoli@icksp.org




# Spire At Night 2026

Saturday  
10th, 17th,  
24th January  
From 4pm to  
6:30pm  
Tickets  
available at  
Christmas  
Fair 7th  
December or  
online.  
£12

Discover Preston and  
Lancashire from a new  
perspective!  
Climb the tallest parish  
Spire in the Country

<https://buytickets.at/stwalburgeshrinechurch/1954268>





# Mass settings: Kyrie XVII and Credo III

## Recessional: The angel Gabriel 534

Ordo	Daily Schedule:		Mass Intentions
<b>Sunday 30/11</b> <b>First Sunday in Advent</b>	8am Confessions 8.30am Low Mass 10am Confessions 10.30am High Mass	5.00pm Vespers 5:30pm Novena Immaculate Conception and Benediction (no confessions) 6.30pm Low Mass	<b>Canon Cristofoli: Novena Holy Souls</b> <b>Canon Heppelle:</b> Geraldine Johnston <b>Canon Bunnens:</b> Edmond Weber
Monday 1/12 Votive Mass of Christ the King	7.30am Lauds & meditation 8.30am Low Mass 12noon Low Mass	5.30pm Vespers 6pm-Novena Immaculate Conception, confessions and Benediction 7:30pm Choir Practice	<b>Canon Cristofoli:</b> Novena GZ <b>Canon Heppelle:</b> Cecilia Wolfenden <b>Canon Bunnens:</b> Edmond Weber
Tuesday 2/12 St Bibiana	7.30am Lauds & meditation 8.30am Low Mass 12noon Low Mass	5.30pm Vespers 6pm-Novena Immaculate Conception, confessions and Benediction 7pm Compline	<b>Canon Cristofoli:</b> Novena GZ <b>Canon Heppelle:</b> Msgr Gilles Wach <b>Canon Bunnens:</b> Edmond Weber
Wednesday 3/12 St Francis Xavier	8.30am Low Mass 12noon Low Mass	5.30pm Vespers 6pm-Novena Immaculate Conception, confessions and Benediction	<b>Canon Cristofoli:</b> Novena GZ <b>Canon Heppelle:</b> David & family <b>Canon Bunnens:</b> Edmond Weber
Thursday 4/12 Jesus Eternal and Sovereign Priest St Peter Chrysologus	7.30am Lauds & meditation 8.30am Low Mass All day Adoration 12noon Low Mass	All day Adoration 5.30pm Vespers 6pm-Novena Immaculate Conception, confessions. All Night Adoration	<b>Canon Cristofoli:</b> Novena GZ <b>Canon Heppelle:</b> Joan Rodrigues RIP <b>Canon Bunnens:</b> Edmond Weber
Friday 5/12 Sacred Heart 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday St Sabbas	8am Benediction 8.30am Low Mass 12noon Low Mass	5.30pm Vespers 6pm-Novena Immaculate Conception, confessions and Benediction 7pm Catechism Sacred Liturgy and St Joseph boys club	<b>Canon Cristofoli:</b> Novena GZ <b>Canon Heppelle:</b> Joan Rodrigues RIP <b>Canon Bunnens:</b> Edmond Weber
Saturday 6/12 Immaculate Heart 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday St Nicholas	6:30am Rorate Mass 7.30am Lauds & meditation 8.30am Low Mass 9:15am Confessions 12noon Low Mass	5.30pm Vespers 6pm-Novena Immaculate Conception, confessions and Benediction	<b>Canon Cristofoli:</b> Novena GZ <b>Canon Heppelle:</b> Joan Rodrigues RIP <b>Canon Bunnens:</b> Our Lady of Fatima school
<b>Sunday 7/12</b> <b>Second Sunday in Advent</b>	8am Confessions 8.30am Low Mass 10am Confessions 10.30am High Mass	5.00pm Vespers 5:30pm Novena Immaculate Conception and Benediction (no confessions) 6.30pm Low Mass	<b>Canon Cristofoli:</b> Novena GZ <b>Canon Heppelle:</b> Tanner & Amy Carlile <b>Canon Bunnens:</b> can. Malinowski

Confessions can also be arranged privately by texting a Canon (see front page)

The earliest available date for a Mass at the moment is: 21st December 2025.





# For your diary

✠ **Catechism about Sacred Liturgy:** 5<sup>th</sup> December, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 6<sup>th</sup> February and 6<sup>th</sup> March; 7pm at St Walburge's Rectory

✠ **Children's Eucharistic Adoration Society**, one Wednesday/month, 2-4pm Guided adoration by the canons and the sisters; craft and games, afternoon tea: 17<sup>th</sup> December, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 25<sup>th</sup> February, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 29<sup>th</sup> April. Please bring children to the church hall.

✠ **Guild Sundays:** 10:30 High Mass, 12noon packed lunch, 12.30 Conferences for all. 14/12, 18/01

✠ **St Joseph's Boys Club:** A regular event in the evening for fathers and sons to gather together and learn about valuable life skills, such as map reading, team building exercises, camping expedition preparations and much more. The meetings run for approximately 1 hour. It is strictly for fathers to participate with their sons (7-18 years of age).

Next Meeting: 5<sup>th</sup> December 6:45pm

✠ **Catechumens catechism Saturday 13rd December 10:30-11:30am at St Walburge's Presbytery.**

✠ **St Margaret Mary Girls' youth club:** The convent of the Sister Adorers of the Royal Heart is open for an afternoon of fun, activities and faith from 2.00pm-5.15pm. The event is open to young girls of 13-18 years old. Please see Sister Jean-Marie for further details.

Next opportunities are: 20th December, 24th January, 21<sup>st</sup> February, 14<sup>th</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> April.

✠ **First Holy Communion service on Gaudete Sunday 14th December 2025.**

Sunday 23rd and 30th we will have a special catechism at 12 noon after the high Mass.

Saturday 13th December 2-4pm we will have a retreat and confessions for our first communicants

Please register now: [canon.cristofoli@icksp.org.uk](mailto:canon.cristofoli@icksp.org.uk)

## Announcements

**Piety shop:** New stock has arrived! Please support the piety shop - all proceeds go to St Walburge's Church. Christmas cards & gifts, rosaries, medals, scapulars, books, other religious items, and more!

Now available:  
**St Benedict's recipe book, free with a donation of £10 (or £9.99)**  
All proceeds for St Benedict's Cultural Centre.



Last week's collection: £754.91- Bank transfers: £307.00

**Thank You very much for your continuous generosity!**

**Thank you very much to our supporters!**



The  
**Latin Mass Society**  
OF ENGLAND & WALES

