



Timetable and Intentions for Sundays and Weekdays Masses



DATE	TIME	DEDICATION	INTENTION	CHURCH
Sun 14 th Dec.	9 am	Third Sun of Advent	Harry Jackson (A) Parishioners	Holy Family
Sun 14 th Dec.	11.15 am	Third Sun of Advent	Chris Cresswell RIP	Our Lady V
Sun 14 th Dec.	3 pm	Tercer Domingo de Adviento	<u>MISA EN ESPANOL</u>	Our Lady V
Mon 15 th Dec.				The church is closed
Tue 16 th Dec.	12 noon	Requiem Mass	Michael Rodney	Holy Family
Wed 17 th Dec.	9 am	Weekday of Advent	Robin Smith (LD)	Our Lady V
Thu 18 th Dec.	9 am	Weekday of Advent		Our Lady V
Fri 19 th Dec.	9 am	Weekday of Advent		Our Lady V
Sat 20 th Dec.	12 noon	Our Lady on Saturday		Our Lady V
Sat 20 th Dec.	1 pm	<u>Baptism</u>	Ludovic	Holy Family
Sat 20 th Dec.	3 pm	<u>Wedding</u>	Maria & Gustavo Guinea	Our Lady V
Sun 21 st Dec.	9 am	Fourth Sun of Advent	Ron Parker (LD)	Holy Family
Sun 21 st Dec.	11.15 am	Fourth Sun of Advent	Frances O'Brien (LD)	Our Lady V

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions: Tue 9.30am to 10am; Sat 11am to 12

Holy Rosary & Divine Mercy Devotion: Tuesdays 9.30 am OLOV.

Baptisms, Weddings: by appointments. Wednesday Club: / Tuesday Nursery: You are welcome!

We pray for all who are sick and elderly:

Marie Tyrer, Ray Sherwood, Betty Maurey, John Evans-Freeke, Henry Henderson, Anne and Mike Quinn, Ronnie Baybut, Geoff Morrissey, Michael Hyland, Paul Blackford, Harry Caine, Sophie Caine, Christine Watts, Deacon John and Ann Crooks, Joan Callaghan, Natalie Kavanagh, Sue Swift, Hannalor Mainey, Betty Costello, Pauline Hayes, Irene Halsall, Mark Fieldsend.

We pray for those whose Anniversary occurs at this time: Isabella Caush, Fr Billy Mills, Norma Crouch, Harry Jackson, Margaret Ashton, Christina O'Neill, Anthony O'Sullivan,

We pray for those who have died: Michael Rodney R.I.P.

The Parishes of Holy Family Ince Blundell

Our Lady of Victories, Hightown

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Presbytery: Sandy Lane, Hightown, L38 3RP

Parish Priest: Fr Sergio Haro

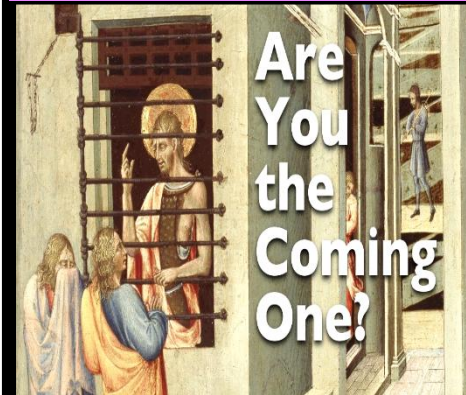
Archdiocese of Liverpool, Reg. Charity Number 1199714

OLOV, Hightown: Sort Code: 40-29-12, Account: 01544993

Holy Family: Sort Code: 40-29-12, Account: 71545094



Third Sunday of Advent(A): 14th December 2025



the blind see
the lame walk
lepers are cured
the deaf hear
the dead are raised

AND THE GOOD NEWS?
It is being preached
to the poor!

Mt. 11:2-11



John the Baptist, who had never known doubt, was puzzled and doubting about the identity of the Messiah because Jesus seems different from what John had expected.

1.- Why was the Baptist doubting? Among the varieties of Judaism of the first century – for example, Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes-, there was a corresponding variety of images and expectations of the Messiah. Some expected the Messiah to emerge from the priestly caste. Others looked for a prophet like Moses. Many expected the Messiah cut from the same combative cloth, such as a warrior king who would defeat their enemies and establish political autonomy for the people of Judea.

2.- How could John the Baptist expect the Messiah to be? John was in prison because he confronted King Herod who had taken his brother's wife as his. At an early age, John was inspired by the Spirit of God to leave home, go into the wilderness, and adopt the lonely lifestyle of an hermit. His only home from childhood had been the open desert. He has an ascetical discipline of prayer, penance and fasting. He spoke the truth bluntly, sparing no one and blasting everything that was false. He never tolerated hypocrisy or complacency. Now, John walled up in prison and waiting for a brutal senseless death, he was wondering about Jesus because the truth and worth of his life's work depended on the answer.

John would have expected the Messiah arriving with fire and whirlwind to crush the foes of God, shake off the rule of Rome and rid Israel of the Scribes and Pharisees. But Jesus moved in different direction and style from what John would have expected. Jesus mixed freely with his fellow Israelites, socialised with life's losers, journeyed through towns and villages of Galilee, preached not the wrath of God, but instead mercy, healing, reconciliation, forgiveness and love. John was experiencing a crisis of faith and could not grasp the true nature of Jesus' style and mission.

3.- Why did Jesus give that answer? Jesus didn't give John's messengers a Yes or No answer. But instead a "look and see what's happening" answer. Like a, "See what I have done, put your trust in me and don't lose heart". The messengers returned to John with joy and excitement at the Good News that the Messianic Age has dawned. Isaiah had linked that healing with the coming of the Messiah and the complete restoration of Israel.

4.- What's the Message for us today? Like John, we experience times of doubt, darkness, despair and anxious expectations in our life, or in the life of others. One of our children does not work out the way we had planned, for example. When our hopes are dashed and our dreams shattered, we lose heart. At these times we need reassurance to continue believing that God is at our side, that our future is in his hands, and we are perfectly safe in his presence. No matter how hard and rocky the road, God is at our side making us strong, giving us peace, freedom, and joy. Advent is all about waiting patiently for the Lord to come. He is coming! Don't you feel his presence? He is healing our wounds, freeing us from all our anxieties, and giving us the peace that the world cannot give.

Father Sergio, Parish Priest



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Gustavo Guinea Flores & Maria Villalta de Guinea

Who will celebrate the Sacrament of **Marriage** on Saturday 20th December at Our Lady of Victories Parish Church, Hightown.

Ludovic William Welsby Bagley

Who will celebrate the Sacrament of **Baptism** on Saturday 20th December at Holy Family Parish Church, Ince Blundell.

Gaudete Sunday: The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called "GAUDETE SUNDAY" from the Latin word meaning to "rejoice". We are to rejoice because our salvation is near, the time of Advent waiting is nearly over, as the celebration of the birth of Christ draws near. Thus, the purple colour of penance is lightened to a rose colour. Thus, this Sunday, John the Baptist urges us once more to conversion and repentance in our lives, to truly prepare for Christ to enter fully into our lives.

WEDNESDAY 24TH DECEMBER CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASSES:

3 pm: Holy Mass - OLOV Hightown in Spanish

7 pm: Holy Mass - Holy Family Ince Blundell in English.

THURSDAY 25TH DECEMBER: CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES:

9 am: Holy Mass - Holy Family Ince Blundell

11.15 am: Holy Mass - OLOV Hightown

LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT CYCLE A

First reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who have an anxious heart, 'Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Sion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord

Second reading: James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

At that time: When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'

And Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

'What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

'Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.'

'Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 146(145)

R:/ Come, Lord, and save us.

It is the LORD who preserves fidelity for ever,
who does justice to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the LORD who sets prisoners free. **R:/**

The LORD who opens the eyes of the blind,
the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down.
It is the LORD who loves the just,
the LORD who protects the stranger. **R:/**

The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The LORD will reign for ever,
your God, O Sion, from age to age. **R:/**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.