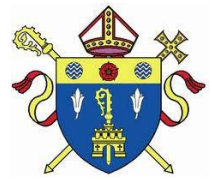




# Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

The Priory, Banklands, Workington. CA14 3EP. Phone: 01900 602114.  
Email: info@christ-the-good-shepherd.co.uk Website: christ-the-good-shepherd.co.uk  
Live Streaming: mcnmedia.tv Find us on Instagram & Facebook  
Priests of the Parish: Fr Philip Conner P.P. & Canon John Watson.  
Parish Sister: Sister Eleanor 01900 602028 eleanorgenevieve@hotmail.co.uk



## Parish News & Events

Key: SM = St Mary, SG = St Gregory, OLSM = Our Lady & St Michael,  
**Sat 23 Dec 2023 Vigil: 4th Sunday of Advent**

17.45 SM Confessions  
18.00 SM Mass (People of the Parish)

**Sun 24 Dec 4th Sunday of Advent**

09.15 SG Confessions  
09.30 SG Mass (Ted Brown)  
10.30 OLSM Mass (Annie Armstrong & Deceased Family)

**Sun 24 Dec Vigil: Christmas Day**

16.00 SG Mass (Mary Graham)  
18.00 SM Mass (People of the Parish)  
18.30 OLSM Mass (Smith & Devlin Families)

**Mon 25 Dec Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ**

10.30 OLSM Mass (Annie & Lawrence Murray)

**Tues 26 Dec St Stephen**

10.00 OLSM Mass (Tom & Lily McMullen)  
18.00 OLSM Evening Prayer

**Wed 27 Dec St John**

11.30 SG Lectio Divina  
12.00 SG Mass (Sloan & McAllister Families)  
18.00 OLSM Evening Prayer  
18.30 OLSM Mass (The Holmes Family)

**Thur 28 Dec The Holy Innocents**

10.00 SM Mass (The Curwen Family)  
18.00 OLSM Evening Prayer

**Fri 29 Dec St Thomas Becket**

11.30 SG Adoration  
12.00 SG Mass (Eileen O'Sullivan)  
18.00 OLSM Evening Prayer

**Sat 30 Dec 6th Day of Christmas Octave**

10.00 OLSM Mass (Christine Smith)  
10.30 OLSM Confession, Adoration & Rosary

**Sat 30 Dec 2023 Vigil: The Holy Family**

17.45 SM Confessions  
18.00 SM Mass (Betty Sheard & Family)

**Sun 31 Dec The Holy Family**

09.15 SG Confessions  
09.30 SG Mass (Margaret Pattinson)  
10.30 OLSM Mass (McKenna & McCourt Families)  
12.00 OLSM Baptism - Daisy Hunter  
18.00 OLSM Mass (People of the Parish)

**Sanctuary Lamps (week beginning 24.12.2023)**

**OLSM:** In Loving Memory of Gerard & Molly Doran  
**Lady Altar:** Memories of the Deceased Members of the Gilmore & Cunningham Families

**SG:** In Loving Memory of George McKeown

**SM:** In Loving Memory of Lisa & Arthur Brady

**Sacred Heart Altar:** In Loving Memory of Margaret Youngusband

**Christmas Lanterns:** Jack Lannaghan, Peter Scott, and Forgotten Souls.

**(Sanctuary Lamp dates now available for 2024)**

**Please remember in your prayers the sick & housebound:** Catherine Wilson, Mabel Tognarelli, Doreen Doran, Fletcher Ditchburn, Anne Braniff, Dennis & Susan Castleton, Jack Gullen, Veronica Tubman, Joan Rodgers, Margaret McAleavey, Ibrahim Tobbya Shsha, Maureen Dolan, Brendan McManus, Donald Pettitt, Linda Tallentire, Mary Cronolly, Gilbert Carruthers, Marie Blair, Mary Murphy, Jim Cunningham, Geoff Williamson and Helen Bailey. **And those whose anniversaries occur around this time:** Joseph Flynn, Mary F Carr, Rosalyn Milbourne, Michael Benson, Harry Wharton, Alice Eglitis, Joan Wilkinson, Eileen Crone, Dennis Hodgson, John Hill, Irene Ditchburn, George Henry Pape, Mary McClintock, Anita Gorman and John O'Mahony. **Thank you** for last week's Offering £788.25, Details for online banking: Account - LRC DTR Christ the Good Shepherd. Sort Code: 40-27-02. Account No. 91752146. **2024 Lancaster Diocesan Directories** are now available from our Piety stalls - £6.00

**Happy Christmas to you all!** Whether it's your first time here in our community or you're an old timer, each and every one of you is most welcome as we begin our Christmas celebrations, the long-expected moment when the Word is made flesh and Our Saviour is born for us today. Over the Advent Season, as Winter deepened and the dark nights closed in, our parish has sought to bring a little bit of that light into the world by gathering people together, making them feel welcome, and serving those around us who need support and help. The *Open Door* initiative continues with the support of the Cumbria Community Foundation's *Warm Spots* to create venues at our three churches for people to come together and enjoy each other's company, we have taken Christmas gift boxes of homemade goods to almost 100 housebound people, we continue to support our local food banks. There have also been a number of fantastic events to bring people together such as our Christmas Market in Banklands Hall, the Festive Organ Concert, the candlelit Family and Children's Nativity and Carols and all the school Christmas events. On behalf of the whole parish, the clergy would like to thank all those who have given of their time and energy to create a fantastic season of celebration and hope.

**Thank you.** My sincere and profound gratitude for your continued support of the Romania Charity which has raised £7,548.00 so far in this financial year. The homeless started receiving their daily hot meal in November and the other charity work done by our sisters continues. The "wanted appeal" (household items) continues and thank you for your amazing response so far, all items have been distributed to very grateful recipients. A happy Christmas to everyone. **Sister Eleanor**

**Feast of St Stephen.** There will be a special Mass for Altar Servers and their families on the Feast of St Stephen (26 December), 10am, Our Lady & St Michael's Church.

**Thinking of becoming Catholic, or maybe you know someone who is interested?** We will be beginning our journey of faith programme in the early New Year for those who want to find out more about the Catholic faith and would like to become full members of the Church. Please see one of the priests or contact the parish office.

**Christmas Flowers:** Donations for Christmas flowers will be gratefully received. Please mark envelope 'Christmas Flowers' and place in with the collection. Thank you.

**Poinsettia** - If you would like to donate a poinsettia, in memory of a loved one, please bring to church this weekend (23/24 December). We need a volunteer from each church to water the plants, (contact Sharon in the parish office or inform one of our priests). **On Sunday 7 January you are invited to take them home.**

**Crib Offerings.** This year Bishop Paul would like the Crib Offerings to be used for the Friends of the Holy Land. The story of Christmas takes place in Bethlehem and should beg the question what has happened to those first Christian communities founded in the place where our Hope was born. Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) help the most deprived Christian families, especially those living around Bethlehem, in Gaza, Israel and Jordan. FHL is committed to helping these families, it remains the only registered UK Charity with its own office, staff and volunteers in the City of Christ's birth. Further information on FHL is available on their website [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk)

**Memory Tree in Our Lady & St Michael's.** An opportunity to write down the names of loved ones who have died and place them on the Christmas tree in Our Lady's side chapel. If you would like to make a donation, we are raising money for the charity, *Mary's Meals*. *Mary's Meals* feed 2.4 million children across the world in their place of education, enabling them to escape the poverty trap and build a better future. It costs just £19.15 to feed one child for a whole year, and the Government is match-funding all donations to this charity before 22 January; all donations will be doubled.

**Open Door.** St. Gregory's church & Our Lady & St Michael's - postponed until the new year. St Mary's church hall, Harrington, Thursdays, 10.30am.

**Altar Servers Retreat** at Castlerigg Manor, Keswick, from 5pm on Friday 12 January - 2pm on Saturday 13 January. Please contact Paul Briers if you would like to go.

**Please take careful note of the Christmas Mass Times.**

**Christmas Eve - Sunday 24 December**

16.00 - Vigil Mass of the Nativity at St Gregory's church, Westfield.  
18.00 - Vigil Mass of the Nativity St Mary's church, Harrington.  
18.30 - Vigil Mass of the Nativity Our Lady & St Michael's church, Workington.

**Christmas Day - Monday 25 December**

10.30 - Morning Mass Our Lady & St Michael's (No evening Mass).

**Fr Philip, Canon John & Sr Eleanor**

*wish each of you and your family*

*great peace and joy over this Holy Season.*

*May you know that Christ is with you as your Saviour*

*Come, Holy Spirit!  
Give us the grace today to rise up,  
to open wide the doors,  
to go out of ourselves so as to  
draw others to Christ,  
to be disciples and to make  
disciples, that we may walk in your  
ways joyfully and build up Your  
Church across West Cumbria.  
We make this prayer through  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

