

St. Joseph's and St. Peter's

The Roman Catholic Parishes of Ansdell & Lytham

Clergy: Parish Priest Fr. Peter Clarke, Deacons Michael Harrison, David Pope & William Riley (Retired)
Parish Hub: 16, Woodlands Road, Ansdell FY8 4EP; Telephone 01253 737037; Email sjsp.lsa@lrcd.org.uk

The Epiphany of the Lord 'C' 5th January 2025

“All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.”

Weekend 4th/5th The Epiphany of the Lord 'C'

Saturday 4 th	6pm	St. Joseph's	Mass People of the Parishes
Sunday 5 th	9:15am	St. Joseph's	Mass Fred and Maureen McLeod
	10:30am	St. Peter's	Mass Thomas and Annie Ainsworth

Monday 6th No Mass
7pm St. Peter's Evening Prayer and Benediction

Tuesday 7 th	No Mass		
Wednesday 8 th	9am	St. Peter's	Mass Tom and Monica Hindley
Thursday 9 th	10am	St. Joseph's	Mass Margaret Bron

Weekend: The Feast of the Baptism of The Lord

Saturday 11 th	6pm	St. Joseph's	Mass People of the Parishes
Sunday 12 th	9:15am	St. Joseph's	Mass Richard Smith
	10:30am	St. Peter's	Mass For a dear Brother

No Sacrament of Reconciliation with Exposition this week.

This Sunday's Readings: Christ is the light of all the nations and peoples of the earth. Let us go with the Magi to worship the infant Christ, who is fully divine and fully human.

First Reading *Isaiah 60:1-6* Isaiah prophesies that the Messiah will be the light and salvation of all the world.

Second Reading *Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6* In the incarnation of Christ, God's plan of salvation is revealed. The Gentiles now share in God's promises.

Gospel *Matthew 2:1-12* The Magi represent the Gentiles who are now called to become part of God's people. They come to worship the infant Christ.

Message from Father Peter: And so today we celebrate the visit of the three kings to the stable in Bethlehem. Well yes and no. The meaning of today's feast, which you will have come to know and understood through my erudite sermon at our masses this week, is clear, but there are a few questions as to the first statement I made in this message. The only mention to this event is in the Gospel of St. Matthew in which he describes some men coming from the East. Tradition, which is hugely important to our faith, has led us to believe they are Kings because of the richness of the gifts, and wise men, because of their studies of stars which led them to Bethlehem. Whereabout in the East they came from is not mentioned, though some scholars suggest Arabia, due to the nature of the gifts, or Persia, whose religious leaders were renowned stargazers. The number of the Kings settled at three because of their three gifts, and by 700AD the names of Melchior, Caspar and Balthasar were recorded. The alleged bodies of the Kings are in Cologne Cathedral, where it states they met their final days in Armenia, all dying in the first week of January, having celebrated mass, and all living to be over one hundred years old. But did they visit the stable, as is often pictured? St. Matthew implies that the events of Christmas happened quickly, one after the other, but references in Luke to the Holy Family settling in Nazareth after the Presentation, and not returning to Bethlehem, suggest the Epiphany could have taken place there – possibly when Jesus was up to two years old, but before the flight in to Egypt, obviously, as Herod wanted to kill all children below the age of two. It's those things that theologians and scholars like to get in a twist about. Perhaps it's just better to pray *O Holy Magi, you were living in continual expectation of the rising of the Star of Jacob, which would announce the birth of the true Son of justice; obtain for me an increase of faith and charity, and the grace to live in continual hope of beholding, one day, the light of heavenly glory and eternal joy. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*



St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Ansdell

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Clarke.

St. Joseph's Presbytery, Woodlands Road, Ansdell,
Lytham St Anne's, FY8 4EP. Tel: 01253 737037

Website: www.st-josephsansdell.net Email: sjsp.lsa@lrcd.org.uk



First Week of the Month at SJSP Evening Prayer and Benediction This Monday 6th January at St. Peter's at 7pm

Confirmation 2025: Bishop Paul will be coming to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday 10th February next year. **The Sacrament is open to our young people in Year 6 and above.** If you would like to receive the sacrament, please see Father Peter for an application form. **The course starts Next Monday 13th January, so please return your forms soon as possible.**

SJSP Late Late Christmas Party Games and Songs and Food and Entertainment!

Everyone welcome for a lovely evening!
Saturday 18th January 7pm in SJ's Hall:
Tickets after Masses this week!

Year of Jubilee 2025. As Bishop Paul explained in last week's Pastoral Letter Pope Francis has begun a Year of Jubilee for 2025 by opening the Holy Doors in St Peter's Basilica and in the Arch-Basilica of St John Lateran, the Cathedral of Rome. These Jubilee Years have been announced by popes every twenty five years since 1300 AD and the theme of this Jubilee is hope. Pope Francis has published a Bull of Indiction – an official document to proclaim the Jubilee. It is entitled *Spes Non Confundit* 'Hope does not disappoint' (Rom 5:5). You can download a pdf of the document, in which the pope speaks about the themes of the Jubilee at:

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.pdf

Crib Offerings: Bishop Paul has asked that Collections this year be sent to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem who are helping support the Catholic Christians in the Gaza Strip during this time of terrible conflict and suffering. Bishop Paul asks that we keep this collection open until the Feast of the Lord's Presentation, 2nd February.

Continued Christmas Thanks: First of all, let me thank everyone who has helped make our beautiful Christmas Masses so special, but in doing so, I'm really thanking everyone who works so hard throughout the year for us all here at SJSP's. So many people who work in the Church and Sacristy, on the Altar, around the Church, behind the scenes, in the gardens and grounds, in the house and the Office, in our church and house buildings, in our organ lofts and our choir benches and musician areas, and in our bell Towers, in our amazing Schools and in all our work with our young people, in our Parish Halls, and in our Parish Hall kitchens, in raising funds and ministering to those outside the Church, and in our own homes and families; and huge thanks to our friends and Deacons Michael and David. We already know we are blessed to be such a wonderful community, so let's continue to gratefully receive and celebrate God's blessings, and share them with others throughout this coming year. Amen.
Personal Thanks from FrP for all the kind gifts, cards and offerings over the Christmas season. Huge Thanks and Many Blessings to you all.

SJSP 2025 Calendars still available at just £5.



the star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them

COLLECTION COUNT: for December: *with grateful thanks*
Gift Aid £351.00 Non Gift Aid £1031:25 SO £3266.50
St. Joseph's Care £458:3805 Flowers: £5

Please pray for all who have died recently, especially Alan Bealey, and those whose anniversaries occur about this time Catherine Hylton, Marie McKenna, Chris Saum, Thelma and Hugo Coulter, Peter Seryem, Eileen McDonald, Brian Lenton and William Murphy

Please pray for the sick and housebound of the Parish, especially: Paul Bunyan, Michael Cookson, Andrew Cox, Judith Cross, Rosaline Fox, Cathy Gaughan, Patrick Gilligan, Pat Heeny, Christopher Hill, Christopher Hunter, Peter Jones, Sr Kay, Caroline Ledward, Margaret Long, Maureen Lundy, Pat Marion, Paul Meskell, Anne Meyer, George Morgan, Pat Moss, Molly Murphy, Zivile Petravičiute, Bob Osachuk, Alison Singleton, Margaret Spillane, Susan Standing, Sr Michaela Toulmin (Hynning), Alan Watkins, Brenda Wilmot, Phil Winstanley, Kath Woods, Albert Zammit, Emmanuel Zammit.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY at Sunday Morning Mass!

COFFEE & BACON BUTTIES after 9.15am Mass this week.

ST JOSEPH'S CARE: Do you know of anyone in our community who is in need or might need a little more support, and would like either a friendly visit, or Holy Communion at Home? Please let St. Joseph's Care Visiting Team know by emailing or phone the Parish on the above contact details.

BELL RINGING PRACTICE every Thursday from 7-8.30 pm. If you are interested in learning to ring the bells at St Joseph's, please get in touch with Tower Captains James (07743684900) and Stacey (07921032390) and they'll show you the ropes!

REPOSITORY: Mass cards, a selection of greetings cards, Rosary Beads, Prayer cards and statues always available. Orders for other items can be taken, too. If you are interested in joining a rota for either of the weekend Masses please contact Margaret on 07711698195

LECTIO DIVINA Scripture prayer and discussions in the hall on Wednesdays at 10am.

THE HOLY ROSARY: every Thursday after 10am Mass in Church, for this beautiful prayer.

Rotas for weekend 11th /12th January

Readers

Sat Vigil: Mary Wren Hilton 9.15am Peter Benning

Meet and Greet

Sat Vigil: M & D Ghee

Sun 9.15am: P. Benning and M. Herron