

**Third Sunday of Advent: Gaudete Sunday**

Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

"Rejoice: the Lord is nigh." As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Saviour means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The often repeated Veni ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament.

Gaudete Sunday is a joyous celebration. Although it takes place during the usually penitential period of Advent, Gaudete Sunday serves as a mid-point break from the austere practices to rejoice in the nearness of Jesus's return in three ways.



**Prayer for the Advent**

*Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church:  
the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and  
looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time.  
Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us  
from feeling the joy and hope which  
His presence will bestow, for he is Lord forever and ever.  
Amen.*



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*NRCDT- Registered Charity*

**Clergy:  
Fr. Gabriel Offor  
Dn Joseph S.**





**17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

*The Lord is very near*

Sunday 17.12	10am 11.30am	Steve & Irene -Wed Anniv Bernie Lipper RIP	Is 61:1-2.10-11 1Thess 5:16-24 Jn 1:6-8.19-28
Monday 18.12			
Tue 19.12	10am	Pat O'Rourke RIP	Jdg 13>2-7.24-25 Lk 1:5-25
Wed 20.12	10am	Pat O'Rourke RIP	Is 7:10-14 Lk 1:26-38
Thu 21.12	10am	Fr Paul's Intentions	Songs 2:8-14 Lk 1:39-45
Friday 22.12	10am	Thomas Doherty & Katie Doherty RIP	1 Sam 1:24-28 Lk 1:46-56
Sat 23.12	10am	John & Sheila - Intentions	Mal 3:1-4.23-24 Lk 1:57-66
Sunday 24.12	10am 11.30am	Phillis Byrne Tom Joseph	2 Sam 7:1-5.8-12.14.16 Rom 16:25-27 Lk 1:26-38

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 1 hour each day before weekly Mass  
Sacrament of Reconciliation after Mass on Saturday, or whenever required.**

**Feasts of the week: none.**

**SECOND COLLECTION TODAY FOR POOR AND NEEDY PARISHES.**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND MASS TIMES

Confessions: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December after 6.30pm Mass.

Christmas Eve:

Carol Service at 7pm  
Vigil Mass at 7.30pm  
Vigil Mass (Malayalam) 9pm  
10am and 11.30am

Christmas Day Mass:

**Christmas Carol** - If you would like to sing solo please do let Fr. Gabriel know.  
**Christmas Eve Vigil Mass:** the children of the parish are invited to dress up as nativity characters at this very special mass. In addition, these children will take the lead in singing the carol "Away in a Manger," to the remainder of the congregation. Older children are also invited to take part and dress up as carol singers. We look forward to seeing them all there.

**Please Note:** The collection at all Christmas Masses will be your offering to Fr. Gabriel. Please use your Gift Aid Envelope.

**ABBA Christmas musical** at St. Joseph's Church, Leicester on Monday December 18 all at 7.30pm. A unique 'interactive' feature of the production is that the audience are invited to sing the songs with the cast, who are at presented very excited at the opportunity of presenting it again. Tickets are £5 for adults, £3 concessions and, because of generous sponsorship, the entire proceeds will be distributed to charities in Hinckley, Loughborough and Leicester just in time for Christmas. Details from St. Peter's Priory, Leicester Rd., Hinckley LE10 1LW (Tel.01455 634443) or [hinckleypriory@gmail.com](mailto:hinckleypriory@gmail.com)

**Pilgrimage to Lisieux-** April 9th - 12th 2018. Full Board £300 sharing. £320 single room with En Suite facilities. Travel by Coach and and Ferry. Follow in the footsteps of St. Therese of Lisieux. Guided tour of the museum also included. Full guided pilgrimage by a Guide from the Pilgrim Centre in Lisieux. For more information & a booking form please contact Fr. John McCay at [jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk) or on 07853068189. Also a Pilgrimage to Lourdes & Nevers in June . If you would like to find out more, contact Fr John McCay on 0115 981 0320 Email [jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk) See details in church porch.

**VACANCY:** "St Augustine's Catholic Voluntary Academy, Stamford: has a vacancy for a permanent full-time head teacher commencing 1 September 2018. Full details are available from EPM, the school's HR providers, at [headship@EPM.co.uk](mailto:headship@EPM.co.uk). Visits to the school can be arranged by contacting Mrs Sue Bray, School Business Manager, on 01780 762094. The closing date for applications is noon Monday 22nd January 2018 with interviews being held on Friday 26th January."

Christmas Appeal 2017.

Please support the local charity Action Homeless, who have many hostels around the city, including one for abused women and their children. Public expenditure cuts make it very difficult for them to find money for basic toiletries such as soap, toothpaste, shower gels etc. Please help if you can by also leaving items such as chocolates, biscuits etc. under the table in the church porch. **Thank you for your support**



Please keep in your prayers all the sick and housebound people of the parish. If you know of anyone who would like a visit from Father Gabriel, please let him know.

**Financial details:** Loose Plate £169.46. Envelopes £197. Thank you very much for your kind donations.

**300 Club:** 10 December £50 M Spedding (282). £25 A McGowan (192), S Blake (252).

**Parish Hall Bookings.** For any enquiries on how to book the Hall, please contact 07527829413 or email [moghallbooking@gmail.com](mailto:moghallbooking@gmail.com)

**Thought for the week:** "Having faith will gift you more strength, more courage and more heart than giving up and giving in ever will." A. A. Malee



**It will soon be Christmas!** Please buy your Christmas cards, diaries, candles etc. from the Repository Stall. Also Christian postage stamps, which are available at any major Post Offices.



**If You have a charity box please bring it to church to be emptied. Thank you. Also collect your free 2018 Calendar.**

**Pope Francis December Intentions: The Elderly.**

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

**\*\*\* CAFOD: World Gift Catalogue available at the back of the Church \*\*\***



**Tea/coffee in the hall after the 10am Mass on Sunday. Please join us!**