

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
GAUDETE SUNDAY
Reading Cycle B
Psalter Week 3
Sunday 17TH DECEMBER 2023**



**ST PATRICK'S GRANGETOWN
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MASSES AND SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

SAT	16 TH DEC	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT GAUDETE SUNDAY	6.30pm	Bernard Bradley R.I.P Eileen and Fred Calford + R.I.P
SUN	17 TH DEC		10.00am	William Mooney R.I.P Filomena and Domenico Dimonaco R.I.P
MON	18 TH DEC	FUNERAL SERVICE	12.00PM	SUSAN MARIE CRABTREE
TUES	19 TH DEC	Weekday in the Third Week of Advent	6.30pm	Dan and Popsie Callan and Pat Davies R.I.P
WED	20 TH DEC	PENITENTIAL SERVICE FOLLOWED BY MASS	5.30pm	People of the Parish
THURS	21 ST DEC	COMMEMORATION OF ST PETER CANISIUS	10.00am	Audrey and Roy Prew R.I.P
FRI	22 ND DEC	Weekday in the Third Week of Advent	10.00 am	Maureen and Tom Spear R.I.P
SAT	23 RD DEC	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	6.30pm	Eileen and Fred Calford + R.I.P
SUN	24 TH DEC		10.00am	Staff and Children of our School
	CHRISTMAS EVE	CAROL SERVICE FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS	6.30PM	FR JACK FAHY
MON	25 TH DEC	CHRISTMAS DAY	10.00am	People of the Parish

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, ANNIVERSARIES AND THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED:

We pray for those in our families or in our Parish Community who may be sick, housebound, worried or in need. We ask that the love of the Lord be with them during the coming week. To all our parishioners who are indisposed we ask that they may receive every grace and blessing.

We also pray for Cyril Union, Arthur Dacey, Reginald Hodge, Fr Jack Fahy, Fr Denis Torney, Josephine McCarthy, Hugh Kildea, Margaret Rose Murray, Thomas McTighue, Jane Daly, Daniel Callan, Avril Baines, Brenda Knight, Kevin John McCarthy, Carol Micallef, Elizabeth and Edna Hurley, Dorothy Irene Johnson, John 'Bena' Donovan, Eileen and Fred Calford, Roy Prew, Lawrence Jones, Brynley Hudd, Thomas Spear, Domenico Malacrino, Betty Muscat, Francis Jenkins, Patrick Middleton, Vivian Taylor, Richard Mulhall, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Susan Crabtree, Josephine Reece and Anne Hawkins who passed away recently. May they rest in peace.

Do not forget to pray for all those who have died and for their families, particularly those who have no-one to remember them.

CANDLES You can buy a 7 day candle (£5.00) which will be left either at the Sacred Heart and Our Lady's Altar for the duration of a week. **This week's candles will be lit for Margaret Gould and Sharon**

If you choose to light a T-Light (20p each) please start from the top row down on the votive stands and light them with care.

WALK WITH ME ADVENT BOOK Available at the back of the Church £1.00

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Please take a leaflet with all the times of the Christmas Services. Times are also on this newsletter.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE: There will be a Penitential Service and the opportunity for personal Confession on Wednesday 20th December from 5.30-6.30pm. This will be followed by Mass at 6.30pm. What a good opportunity to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Hopefully our three priests will be available at this time.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS: As usual the collections at the Christmas Masses will be for the Priests of our Parish. This will be their first Christmas with us and we thank them for becoming part of our Parish Family.

WEEKDAY MASSES: Now that the weather is getting colder, most of our weekday Masses will be celebrated in the Sacristy.

COFFEE, TEA AND CAKE !. Everyone is welcome but please give a monetary donation toward the cost of the refreshments. All donations are most welcome.

RAFFLE WINNERS: Would the ticket holders of these numbers please contact Chris. You have won a prize. Please bring your ticket.

Winning tickets are: 84, 85, 97, 98, 100, 102, 107, 116, 118, 123

ARCHDIOCESAN YEAR BOOK : **Bargain! £4.00** Available at the back of the Church

MASS INTENTIONS At the back of the Church there are envelopes for you to put your donation and the details of when you would like a Mass and for whom. Please put your envelope in the Offertory Bag or the Brown Box at the back of the Church. The new Mass Diary for 2024 is now open.

NEW TO THE PARISH? If you have been coming to St Patricks for some weeks and would like to be listed as a new Parishioner please complete the proforma at the back of the Church and give it to one of the priests.

CONFIRMATION: Names are being taken for Preparation Classes for the Sacrament of Confirmation (Year 8 and above). Please give your name to Mary Taylor or Chris.

BIRTHDAYS AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: If you would like these occasions to be celebrated in Church, please put details on the sheet and Chris will put it in our new 'Celebrations Book'

FOOD AND TOILETRIES APPEAL : Thank you to all who are helping to support the Fair-Priced Food Shop with donations of tinned goods and toiletries. Goods can be left by the table at the back of the Church and then they will be taken to the School.

SAFEGUARDING: Please click on the link for Helplines and Information on the Parish Website Homepage

GOING INTO HOSPITAL? Cardiff & Vale Hospital Chaplaincy 02921 843230 (new number) Please let the Hospital know that you are a Catholic and would like a visit from the Chaplain.

PIETY STALL: Lastminute purchases! There are packs and boxes of Christmas Cards, Diaries, and many gift ideas, **Please take care if you wish to look in the glass cases. There is a step !**

ONLINE DONATIONS: On the Home page of the Website is a link to enable you to donate directly to St Patrick's. Many of us are not using cash as much as we once were and if this is helpful please try it. Gift Aid can be automatically added with no cost to you.

GIFT AID If you pay Income Tax, St Patrick's can collect Gift Aid with no cost to you at all. This is an extra 25p for every £1 you give. All you have to do is sign a consent form. Please consider this.

QR CODE: Many of you will have seen the poster displaying the QR Code for the Parish. This is another way you can donate to the Parish. You will need a QR Code reader on your Phone.

HOUSEBOUND COMMUNIONS: If you know of a parishioner wishing to receive Holy Communion or if you need help please contact Frs Valentine, Solomon or Malachy

PARISH WEBSITE Each day there is something new to read.

CHURCH COLLECTIONS: December 9th/10th £633.02

WEEKLY MESSAGE

The third candle of Advent symbolizes **Joy**. As we continue to approach Christmas Day, our joy grows more and more. The third candle takes us back to the joyful anticipation of the shepherds who journeyed to see Jesus in Bethlehem, even before the wise men. On this third Sunday of Advent, called "Gaudete Sunday," meaning rejoice or praise, we light this candle. Traditionally it has been called the Shepherds' Candle and is pink or rose coloured.

In the Gospel passage today we hear about St. John the Baptist, the one who is the Herald of the Lord, in how he revealed and directed each and every one of us to the salvation in God, in pointing us to the One in Whom we ought to be rejoicing and celebrating. And as we heard from the Gospel passage, he also showed great humility that despite the fame and the great following he had at that time, he remained humble and consistent in his message, and in leading everyone to the one true Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. As we come ever closer to the time of Christmas, that is less than a week from now, this passage reminds us yet again of why we rejoice and celebrate at Christmas; it is because our Lord Himself has come, hope and joy have been restored to us, and we rejoice because through the Lord, there is indeed plentiful redemption, strength and joy.

Let us all remind ourselves and one another that Christmas is truly not about comparing who among us can celebrate more beautifully or wonderfully, or whether we will get more presents and gifts than last year, and what kind of presents, gifts and good things we may gain. Instead, Christmas is about us sharing the joy which we have received from Christ our Lord Himself, the fountain of our joy and hope, Who has given us His everlasting love and peace. Let us all be the joyful bearers of God's love to all the whole world, and beginning from ourselves, let us all truly, in all things, properly and worthily welcome the Lord into our midst, as we come to His Presence, seeking Him, our true Joy and Hope, now and always.

May the Lord be with us all, and may the expectation of His Joy continue to strengthen us for the rest of this Advent season and thereafter.

