

## Cat – echist Blitz

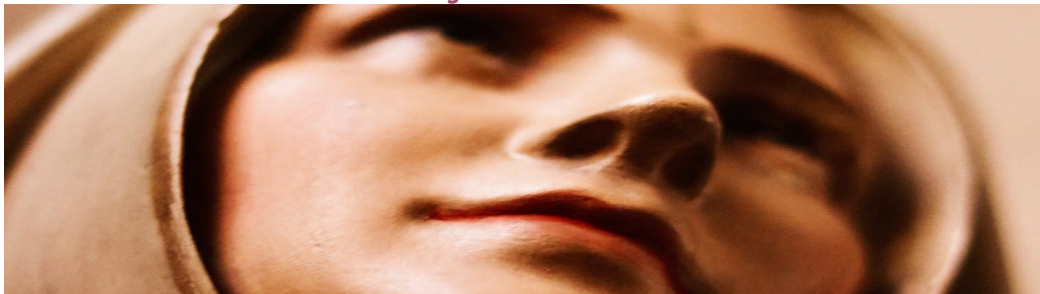
A bite size portion from the catechism each week.

### Their Work Now (334-336)

The Church benefits from the help of angels. At funerals, the angels are asked to lead the deceased into Paradise. All believers have a guardian angel who watches them from conception to death. Angels surround all human life with their care.

### Catholic 365 – Third Sunday of Advent

#### Theme for the Week: A Servant's Song of Praise



This devotional reflects on the scriptures of incarnation and exaltation in order to take you on a journey of thoughtful self-reflection. May you find joy and discover strength as you walk this wondrous journey to Bethlehem, always holding within your heart the image of the Hill of Calvary and the hope of the Age to come when Christ will return to call his people home!

**Incarnation** – *And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name." (Luke 1:46-49)*

**Exaltation** – *"For behold, days are coming, says the LORD, when I will restore the fortunes of my people, Israel and Judah, says the LORD, and I will bring them back to the land which I gave to their fathers, and they shall take possession of it." (Jeremiah 30:3)*

The Magnificat was a personal prayer and a prophetic word that burst forth from the lips of Mary. She who had submitted completely to the call of God could not contain the profound truth and incredible joy that had filled her heart. Like the words of the prophet Jeremiah, her sweet song sang of coming home, of restoration, salvation, and eternal glory. It was a deep and profound message for all who would experience the Saviour. Mary's words echoed the words of the Old Testament saints; and yet, they were her own. Through her servant's heart, these words have become our words as well!

These words teach us that we too need a Saviour as we long to come home. They show us that God keeps his promises and works out his plan in the perfection of his great love. We become a link on the long chain of salvation history, connecting to the eternal through the coming of the baby of Bethlehem. We become God's servants and carry the Christmas message to all the world as we live out the power and presence of the Saviour in our lives. What a tremendous blessing that is!

**Prayer: Father, teach me through Mary's Magnificat how to place all things past, present, and future, in your hands. May the song of my heart reflect the wonders you have done in my life and lead me to praise your name to all the world...Amen!**

## St Joseph's Catholic Church Newsletter

16th December to 24th December 2023.

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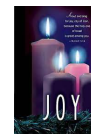
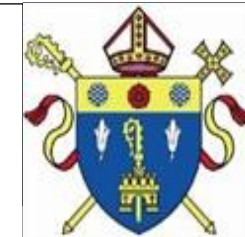


'St Josephs Lancaster'



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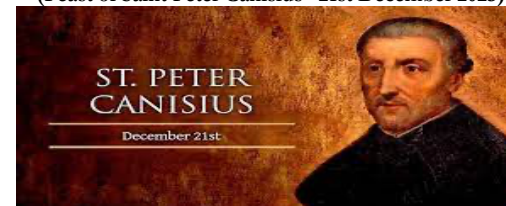
## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) Year B.

PSALM RESPONSE: My soul rejoices in my God.

Luke 1:46-50, 53-54



(Feast of Saint Peter Canisius – 21st December 2023)



### First Reading Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11 . RSV-CE

1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;  
10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11 RSV-CE

### Second Reading 1Thessalonians 5:16-24 . RSV-CE

16 Rejoice always,  
17 pray constantly,  
18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.  
19 Do not quench the Spirit,  
20 do not despise prophesying,  
21 but test everything; hold fast what is good,  
22 abstain from every form of evil.

(Saint John of Kety – 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2023)



23 May the God of peace himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
24 He who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 RSV-CE

### Gospel John 1:6-8,19-28 RSV-CE

16 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him.

8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

20 He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."

21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" And he answered, "No."

22 They said to him then, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

23 He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

25 They asked him, "Then why are you baptising, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"

26 John answered them, "I baptise with water; but among you stands one whom you do not know,  
27 even he who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."

28 This took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptising.

John 1:6-8,19-28 RSV-CE

(3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023)



# Parish and Community News



**POPE'S INTENTION FOR DECEMBER** We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

**WELCOME TO OUR PARISH:** New to the area, or are visiting us just for the weekend, you are very welcome! -Please introduce yourself to Fr John - Paul or Deacon Stephen.

**MASS INTENTIONS:** If you would like Holy Mass to be offered for an intention for a loved one or special intention., please place the offering in one of the envelopes for the back of church.

**OTHER NEWS** Piety stall is at the back of church for, Mass cards and other items **such as Sunday Missal's (the Readings for each Sunday)**

**Saturday Mass Time** – 6.30pm / Sunday Mass time - 10am Coffee/tea social after Mass.

**TODAY is Gaudete Sunday meaning - Rejoice Sunday!**

**Prayer for the Advent Wreath**

Lord, our God, we praise You for Your Son, Jesus Christ, for He is Emmanuel, the Hope of all people.

He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us.

He is the Saviour of us all.

O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light two (purple) candles and the third (pink) candle of this wreath.

May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise of salvation.

May He come quickly and not delay.

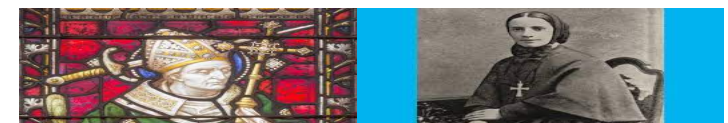
We ask this in His holy name. Amen.

**SAINTS' DAYS THIS WEEK:** Thursday-Commemoration of Saint Peter Canisius, Priest; Saturday -Commemoration of Saint John of Kety, Priest

**SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION: Saturdays, 10:30 – 11am, 5.45pm to 6.15pm**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Daisy Roberts, David Evans – Rush, Bernadette Speakman, Fr. Harry Holden, Trevor Green, Anne Knowles, Norma Houghton and Peter O'Connor.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Please pray for those whose 1<sup>st</sup> anniversaries occur between 16th December and 24th December and all those names on the anniversaries list for December which is displayed in the Book of Remembrance on the Lancaster Martyrs altar. **WEEKLY COLLECTION: £**



## The Church in Time

**December 21, 1118: Thomas Becket**, the Archbishop of Canterbury who clashed with England's King Henry II, is born in London.

**December 22, 1917: Francesca Xavier Cabrini**, founder of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart, dies in Chicago's Columbus Hospital. In 1946 she was canonized by the Roman Catholic Church, becoming the first American citizen declared a saint.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) (Sunday Year B) (Weekday Year 2)

Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> December Vigil of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)	6.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> December The 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)	10am Florence West RIP
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	No Public Mass
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	6pm Margaret Coulston
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	10am Mgr J.P. Branson RIP
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	10am John Parish RIP
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	10am Rev. Thomas Murphy
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	No Public Mass
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December Vigil of 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	6.30pm Jo and Thomas Anderson
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> December The 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	10am Agnes Callen

## VATICANO-Pope: In a noisy world there is need for silence to contemplate God.



The Holy Father conveyed his happiness in greeting the Conceptionist Mothers, especially acknowledging the presence of those who travelled from Argentina, his homeland. Reflecting on the extraordinary life of Mother Ágreda, Pope Francis highlighted three lessons that the woman offers to the Church and humanity at large. **Silence** "The first lesson is silence," the Pontiff began, emphasising the significance of listening and embracing the voice of the Beloved, the eternal Word of the Father. He underlined the unique capacity of women to listen and their special vocation in doing so. "Women know how to listen and have a special vocation to listen," he added, noting that some religious sisters, even without specific training, acquired a profound knowledge of Scripture and drew from it "as from a living fountain".

**Mysticism** Continuing his discourse, the Holy Father turned to the second lesson: mysticism, an intimate relationship with God arising from the attentive study of Sacred Scripture. He explained that the essence of this was transcending self-centeredness and making space for God.

**Mission** The third and final lesson centred on mission, exemplified by Mother Ágreda and the Conceptionist nuns. The Holy Father highlighted the missionary spirit inherent in contemplative life, echoing the sentiments later emphasised by St. Therèse of the Child Jesus. Finally, drawing parallels from the wedding at Cana, the Holy Father emphasised Mary's pivotal role in revealing Christ. "Mary never does this, Mary points to her son, she reveals him at Cana," he concluded.



## From Norway!

Seen One day when our son Einar was about four or five years old I took him to church in Trondheim. He was sitting on my knee when suddenly the Priest appeared in the sanctuary behind the communion rails. Einar whispered in my ear: "The Priest has a play pen too".