

Times of Services this Week

	ST. BERNADETTE'S	ST. MICHAEL'S
Mon	9.00am Service of Word & Communion	
Tues	7.30pm Mass	
Wed		8.30am Mass
Thurs	1.30pm School Mass	10.00am Service of Word & Communion
Fri	12.05pm Service of Word & Communion	9.15am School Mass
Sat	12.05pm Mass	
	6.00pm SUNDAY VIGIL MASS	
Sun	11.00 am Mass	9.30 am Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Sat 11.30 - 12Noon **Sun** 9.00am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 11.00am - 12.00noon in the Lourdes Room at St Bernadette's
Wednesday's in Advent 3.15pm-4.15pm & 5.00pm-6.00pm St Michael's

The Prayer Group meets each Tuesday at 8.00pm in the Lourdes Room after Mass.

THIS WEEK: Friday- St Peter Canisius

NEXT SUNDAY – Fourth Sunday of Advent

We prepare to read Micah 5:1-4. Hebrews 10:5-10. Luke 1:39-44.

Mass Intentions received:

Recently Deceased: Margaret Rawlinson, Mrs Howe, Martin Murphy, Philip Norton.

Anniversary: John Cregg, Ken & Pauline Denny, Paul Barnes, Mary & Harold Barlow, Kathleen Devlin, Mavis Coleman, Brian Bowler, Malcolm Baker, Louisa Cavanagh, Joseph Cavanagh.

Birthdays Rememberance: Agnes Dutton, Pauline Rothwell. **Other:** Christine Hoolighan, Ronnie McKeown, The Mangan Family, Randal McDonnell, Michael & Christine McAssey, Peggy McAssey, Pat & Kathleen Burns, Cath Munro, Teresa Fitzgerald, Rita Clarke, Fr. John Rowan, Maureen Shonick, Brian Shonick.

Response to the
Psalm:



**Sing and
shout for
joy for great in
your midst is the
Holy One of Israel.**

Together

at St. Michael's and St. Bernadette's Whitefield



Third Sunday of Advent Year C

15th/16th December 2018

Although John was preaching in the wilderness, news of his teaching spread far and wide and many people sought him out. Their first question was: what does repentance mean in practice? John's advice is simple and practical - live charitably and honestly. Luke, however, adds two details which would have alerted his readers to the fact that this message was not just for the righteous but for those on the margins.

The first are tax collectors, figures of hatred at the time John was preaching. In the first place, they collected tax on behalf of the occupying Roman forces and, also, were notorious for creaming off a little extra for themselves. John does not tell them to give up their work but to do it honestly and fairly. The next group mentioned by name are soldiers. He does not specify whether Jewish or Roman but the latter is the more likely. Again, John does not condemn their work or insist that they give it up in order to be baptised. Rather, he says that they must conduct themselves honourably and not abuse the position of power in which they find themselves. John was the messenger sent to prepare the world, not to save it. Those who repent and live according to what John lays down have the capacity to bear fruit. A tax-collector who does not cheat or a soldier who does not extort will soon be marked out as different. They may suffer ridicule but holding firm to their principles, will set an example of living which will influence others: what is that these people have that causes them to behave like this?

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Stay with us Lord on our Journey

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION £ 1395.88 Thank you.

DONATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS a box is at the back of each church for those who would like to make a donation for flowers for Christmas. Many thanks.

PIETY STALL Christmas religious cards, Mass bouquets, Advent, church art calendars, cribs etc are now in stock.

PARISH DIARIES AND CALENDARS 2019 will be available free of charge at the back of church from next Sunday.

BETHLEHEM MADE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS on sale at the back of church. Beautiful decorations made in Bethlehem £2 a pack. Small Crib scene £4.00. All proceeds will be returned to the Christian Carving Cooperative in Bethlehem.

FAMILY ADVENT NATIVITY PACKS are available at all masses during the first 3 weeks of Advent for children to take home, for one week, to share with their families, before returning the pack to church the following Sunday. Each pack contains a figure of one of the people or animals from the Nativity and some suggestions for prayer and reflection. If your child would like to take home a Nativity pack, please collect one after any mass, *making sure you add your name and contact details on the list provided*. We will not give out the packs on the final weekend of Advent as this is so close to Christmas.

TIME OUT WITH JESUS DURING ADVENT As the year draws to its close, the Parish will once again offer us the opportunity to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament for a time of peace and calm in the run up to Christmas. At St. Michael's there will be special Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday's: 5th, 12th and 19th December. The times of Exposition will be 3.15pm – 4.15pm and 5.00pm – 6.00pm. Also throughout the year there is weekly Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament each Saturday in the Lourdes Room at St. Bernadette's from 11.00am until just before the midday Mass.

RED DOOR SPECIAL ADVENT/CHRISTMAS APPEAL For four weeks during December at the weekend masses from 8th-9th December, 15th -16th December, 22nd-23rd December and 29th -30th December we will be collecting non- perishable goods at St Michael's in the coffee room and at St. Bernadette's in the small room next to the Lourdes room. Bags will be clearly marked where you can put your donations. Red door also desperately need sleeping bags. We will donate half the Christmas Day offertory collection to Red Door. There are leaflets at the back of both churches giving details about the wonderful work of Red Door, Bury, a CARITAS/diocese of Salford project based in St Joseph's, Peter St, Bury. Non-perishable goods needed: tinned meat/fish, rice, pasta, cereal, custard, rice pudding, biscuits, sugar, UHT milk, longlife fruit juice, coffee/tea, toiletries. put your name down and provide contact details prior to the meeting to book a place. Places will be limited so please get in touch ASAP so you do not miss out on this opportunity.

CHURCH CLEANING VOLUNTEERS - If anyone can spare 2 – 3 hours on a six week rota basis for St Bernadette's, your help would be appreciated. Please contact Ruth Rudd

on Tel 0161 280 2545 A big thank-you to all volunteers who clean St Michael's and St Bernadette's.

CRAFTY CHRISTINGLE: Today Sunday, 16th December 2018, 4-6pm at St Bernadette's Social Centre and church. Children and adults are invited to come along to have fun working together on a number of creative arts and crafts activities with an Advent focus (including making your own Christingle). Craft-making activities will start in St Bernadette's Parish Centre at 4pm, followed by a service in church, where children will be able to bring along their Christingles and have their cribs blessed. We will round off our special celebration with refreshments in the Parish Centre. Please note that children need to be accompanied and supervised by an adult. If you and your family would like to take part, please sign up with the volunteers who will be taking names after all masses.

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL EVENING hosted by the Friends Choir (musical director Cath Fleming) on Thursday December 20th at 7pm in St Bernadette's Social Centre. Everyone is welcome to join us for traditional carols, Christmas songs and festive cheer. Tickets cost £5 including hotpot supper, mulled wine and a sing-along. Proceeds to Bury Red Door (Caritas) and CAFOD. Please put the date in your diary. Information about tickets will follow shortly.

TEA AND COFFEE is served free after 9.30am Mass in the meeting room a St. Michael's and after 11.00am Mass at St. Bernadette's Social Centre. All are welcome. Donations receive are used toward the cost of providing the Children's Mass Packs.

ST MICHAEL'S AND ST BERNADETTE'S CREDIT UNION - MR THRIFTY
If you or a member of your family have a Mr Thrifty account and you have reached the age of 18 and not yet transferred to an adult account please see Martin in St Bernadette's Social Centre after the 11am Mass.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve Monday 24th December:

6.00pm St Michael's and 8.00pm St Bernadette's

Carols before both of the Masses.

After the 8.00pm Mass, St Bernadette's Social Centre will be open for sherry and mince pies – all welcome.

Christmas Day Mass: 9.30am St Michael's and 11.00am St Bernadette's.