



Mother of Good Counsel Church, Clare Priory

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Fr Bernard Rolls OSA, Fr George Donaghy OSA, Fr David Middleton OSA, Fr John Reid OSA
Mass times: Weekdays 10.00am. Saturday 10.00am and Vigil 5.30pm. Sunday 8.00am and 10.00am
Reconciliation (Confession): Saturday 4.30 to 5.15pm, or available any time by appointment

4th Sunday of Advent - 21st December 2025

✦ **Prayers requested:** William Marston, Teresa Vitoria-Sowerby, Felicie Parsley, Paul MacGowan, Sheila Graham, Dorothy Mudge, Jim Coe, Trefor Williams, Billy Burnie, Larry and Sarah Cullen, Deacon Tony Ranzetta, Antony Hackett-Jones, Mary Nash, Jason Parker, Laurent Dohagon, Sarah Ince, Jenny Ince, Kevin Dalton, John Mehan, Lynn Hockley, Patrick Parker, Juliet Streeter, Joss de Groot, Pat Bampton, Erik Borthwick, Arlette Sell.

✦ Margaret Foreman died on Sunday 14th December. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

✦ **Christmas goodies:** After our Masses between now and Christmas we are selling a variety of Christmas goodies, such as Catholic calendars (with Feast Days etc) Christmas cards and Nativities. If someone isn't there to sell them there will be a basket available with a trust policy.

✦ **Last Sunday's Collection:** £800.00

Thank you for your generosity

✦ **Shoe Box Appeal:** The 800 shoe boxes are now on their way to Rumania.

See picture on notice board

✦ **Lectio Divina Thursdays at 7.45pm. Parishioners are invited.** The aim is to join our RCIA candidate for Lectio Divina. It's an ancient practice of prayer where we will meditate on the coming Sunday's Gospel. All will be explained when you come if you haven't been before. *The start date for 2026 will be advised shortly.*

✦ **First Communion will take place in the Spring of next year for people aged 7 to 8 years old.** If you think you know of someone who is eligible please talk to their families and get them to talk to Fr George.

✦ **Readers for the Christmas Services:** Please sign on the sheet provided if you would like to read at these Masses

✦ **The POSADA** is making a late start this year. The journey time is much shorter and gives an opportunity for only six two-night stopovers. This does not allow the customary open invitation to everyone to give shelter to the Holy Family on the move. Our

apologies for such disappointment. We had to hand the addresses of last year's hosts: our thanks to those who responded at such short notice. May the Good Lord find a home with each of us this Christmas.

✦ **A Festival of Carols Held at Clare Priory.** Our choir and musicians are coming together **on Monday 22nd December at 7.30pm** when we will sing traditional carols and have readings with a traditional theme. You are all cordially invited to attend. If you would like to do a Reading, which we can select for you, please let Fr George or Kathy know. There will be song sheets, of course, for everyone to join in with the carol singing.

✦ **Times for Christmas Masses.**

Children's Mass 6.00pm Christmas Eve.

Midnight Mass 8.00pm Christmas Eve.

Christmas Day 8.00am and 10.00am.

There will be Carols before each service.

We will also provide cards with these times on them.

✦ **Christmas Gift Envelopes.** If you wish to enhance your gift to the priests by adding Gift Aid please also pick up one of the small white envelopes and after completing the information required enclose this with the usual brown envelopes. Thank you.

✦ **Young Women's Retreat 6th -8th March 2026**

The Diocesan Youth Service is organising a retreat in York during Lent, for young women (age 18 - 35). For more information and to book a place, please see www.rcdea.org.uk/youth . Places are limited and accepted on a first come first served basis.

✦ **Jazz pianist at the Apex - Friday 16th January:**

Oscar Lyons, a 20 year old parishioner in Bury St Edmunds, and his ensemble, will sharing the music that is an expression of his faith. For further information: www.theapex.co.uk

This is the final Newsletter for this year. The next one will be on Friday 9th January.

Thank you for all your help and support during the year. On behalf of the Community may we wish you all the blessings of the Christmas festivity and best wishes for the New Year.