

**THE RIBBLE VALLEY PARISHES OF
ST WILFRID, LONGRIDGE: ST MARY, CHIPPING:
ST PETER AND ST PAUL, RIBCHESTER.**

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2nd Sunday of Advent

7th December 2025 Year A

<u>Day</u>	<u>St Wilfrid</u>	<u>St Mary</u>	<u>Ss. Peter & Paul</u>
Monday 8th December	Mass 10.00am Immaculate Conception		
Tuesday 9th December	No Mass		
Wednesday 10th December	Priest Day off	Priest Day off	Priest Day off
Thursday 11th December	Lection 7-8pm Parish Room	Mass 9.30am	
Friday 12th December	Morning Prayer 7.45am		
Saturday 13th December	Mass 5.30pm. Confessions 4.15pm – 4.45pm		
Sunday 14th December		Mass 9.30am	Mass 11.00am



*“Repent, for the
kingdom of heaven is
at hand.”*

Weekday Mass

Kindly note that there won't be the usual weekday Mass on Tuesday 9th December due to the fact that Fr Tony has a medical appointment on that day. However, he will celebrate Mass on Monday 8th December, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception in the parish room at 10.00am.

Christmas Carol Concert – Mrs Robinson, St Wilfrid's School Choir Leader, will be leading a special Christmas Carol Service at church on **Thursday 18th December, from 2:15pm**, when we will be showcasing the singing talents of each class and the school choir. **Both parents and parishioners are warmly invited. No tickets, just turn up, but note we ask that the audience sit behind the children to the rear of church or in the side aisles. There will be no charge for this festive event, but donations at the end of the event will be gratefully accepted.** All monies raised will go to Caritas Salford to help them to put the true meaning back into Christmas, helping families most in need throughout our Diocese this Christmas time.

Christmas Flowers

To help offset the cost of Christmas flowers to the parish there will be a special collection taken at the end of Mass for the next few weeks

Cleaners Wanted

We are still looking for volunteers who can spare an hour a month to help with cleaning the church. Cleaning is done on a Wednesday at 9am once a month and takes about an hour.

Please contact either Catherine Pennington or Fr Tony if you can assist.

Many thanks.

The Faithful Departed

We pray for our faithful departed brothers and sisters, and for all those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again. We remember especially:

Margaret Seed, Joseph Ian Burnett, Mary Holden, and Joan Taylor.

May the Lord welcome them to the table of God's children in heaven.

Churches Together Longridge and District

Dates for your diary:

Sunday 11th January 2026 at 6.30pm – Epiphany Service at St Paul's.

Morning Prayer will take place at St Paul's Berry Lane from 9th January 2026 at 7.45am.

There will be no Morning Prayer on Boxing Day or 2nd January 2026.

Baptism Preparation

If you are thinking of having your child baptised next year in any of our three parishes, you are now required to attend a preparation meeting for the Sacrament of Baptism, taking the form of a half day retreat. These meetings will run from 10am – 2pm on Saturdays - lunch will be provided. Each of the meetings will take place in St Wilfrid's Parish Room. The date of the next session is **Saturday 17th January 2026 10 – 2pm**. If you haven't already done so, please contact Fr Tony or email St Wilfrid's if you wish to attend.

Parish of St Mary Chipping **Christmas Flowers**

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The cost of flower decorations at Christmas is always a problem. Any donations would be much appreciated. There will be a basket at the back of church for the next 3 weeks.

Christmas Carol Service

It is the turn of St Mary's to host the Ecumenical Christmas Carol Service this year. This will take place on Sunday Dec 21st at 7pm. Followed by tea/coffee/ mince pies in the community centre. All Welcome.

The Faithful Departed

We pray for those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again and for those whose anniversaries presently occur. We remember especially:

Bill Seed, Sheila Cherry, Margaret Paley, and Edwin Hoyle.

May the Lord grant them a share in his resurrection.

Recent Offertory Donations:

Sunday 30th November:

£219.90

Thank you.

Parish of Saint Peter & Saint Paul Ribchester

Parish Notices

The Faithful Departed

We pray for those who have fallen asleep in the hope of rising again and for those whose anniversaries presently occur. We remember especially:

Fr Michael Walsh, Dennis Braithwaite, Mary Chadwick, Amy Mooney, and Jack Bennett. May the Lord welcome them to the table of God's children in heaven.

Weekday Mass

Kindly note that there won't be a weekday Mass on Wednesday 10th December, Fr Tony has had to change his day off due to a medical appointment and the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception occurring on his normal "day off."

Recent Offertory Donations

Sunday 30th November:

£220.00

Thank you.

The Second Sunday of Advent

Essentially, Advent is a joyous time, even though it is penitential in flavour. The prospect of Christmas ahead, with all its associations — Midnight Mass, the crib, presents, carols, family gatherings — gives a great lift to the heart.

But there is another theme to Advent which is far less congenial: the theme of judgement. Still, this is a reality that cannot be avoided. So, we should look at it boldly, and then perhaps it might not seem quite so frightening after all.

Not surprisingly, the thought of judgement makes many feel uneasy. Don't we feel the same before symbols of secular justice: police, law courts, judges, magistrates, and so on? No doubt, whenever we see a police car when we are driving, we may instinctively glance at the speedometer? I know I do! So, we can expect to feel even more uneasy before the judgement seat of God. Judgement shows up our own darker side, and few of us are likely to welcome that.

This theme of judgement appears in today's Gospel. 'Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand'. Repentance and judgement go together, because repentance means that we are judging ourselves, seeing ourselves from God's angle, revealing our sins and repenting of them. John the Baptist's preaching was making many people do precisely that. But then the Pharisees and Sadducees came along who John clearly thought were not sincere. So, he berates them: 'You brood of vipers.' And he warns them: 'If you are repentant then live appropriately, because the real Judge is coming. He will separate the wheat from the chaff'. You will not be able to deceive him.

We may prefer nowadays to emphasise God's mercy and forgiveness rather than his justice. And that is right; it is what God himself wants. There is plenty in the Old Testament along those lines. That does not however allow us to evade the reality of God's judgement; but it does make all the difference to how we envisage it.

Judgement is an integral part of Scripture and of the faith of the Church. But judgement seen as revelation is not reserved simply for the end of life. It can and should be a daily occurrence, through prayer, the sacraments, reading of Scripture, experiencing the love and self-sacrifice of others. So, we will find ourselves continually judged and renewed through repentance.

New Diocesan Yearbooks (*Almanacs*) now available at a cost of £5.00 each.
Advent Walk with Me Booklets also available at a cost of £1 each (this is discretionary) as it helps to offset the cost to the parish.