

The Advent Candle – Mary

Jesus said, 'Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants my brother or sister or mother.'

**I am the servant of the Lord.**

**Be it be to me according to his word.**

*As the candle is lit, this response is used*

Jesus is the light of the world.

**A light no darkness can ever put out.**

*We sing: (t. 'Angel Voices')*

Advent candles tell their story

as we watch and pray,

longing for the Day of Glory,

'Come, Lord, soon,' we say.

Pain and sorrow, tears and sadness

changed for gladness

on that Day.

Mary's gift, beyond all telling,

was to give Christ room.

She gave god a human dwelling

in a mother's womb.

Who could guess the final story?

- cross and glory;

empty tomb!

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During the week –

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> St Anne's Crafty Souls  
meet in the Hall, 1pm-3pm – *Crafts for all*

**Christmas Eve –** *(No 10.30am Mass)*

4.30pm Crib & Christingle Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

**Christmas Day –** 9.30am Parish Mass

**Holy Family Sunday –** 28<sup>th</sup> Dec.

9.30am Parish Mass *To help you prepare for our worship why not look up the readings we will use:*

Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21;

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> - 10.30am Mass

*Many thanks indeed to all who helped to deliver the Parish Christmas Cards*

*~ it's much appreciated...*

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**[www.stannesouthowram.org](http://www.stannesouthowram.org)**

*St Anne in the Grove, Southowram*

**Sunday 21 December 2025**

## Welcome to the Parish Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent

A special welcome if you are visiting.  
If you require Gluten free altar bread - please have  
a word with one of the Welcomers at the door.

**Hymns: 45; 85; 80 (vv.1-3); 30; 41**

*There's a contactless payment facility at the back of  
Church if you are without cash for your offering.  
If you pay tax please make use of the Gift Aid envelopes  
– it helps us a great deal - Thank you!*

*During the week please pray for:*

For the people of Yeadon Drive, Adgil Crescent  
and the people of King Cross

Monday – Food Banks & all who use them

Tuesday – for all who may join us at our Christmas  
Services this year, that they will want to return

Wednesday – for our keeping of Advent

Thursday – Give thanks for the Incarnation

Friday – for all who suffer for their faith today

Saturday – our Sidespeople & Welcomers

*Those who are sick or in need:*

Frances Norcliffe, Deborah Golding, Tom Hogan,  
John Greenwood, Paula Mead, Graham Firth,  
Bernadette Lister-Pollard, Stanley Sunderland,  
Mary Haward, Diane Metcalfe, Patricia Brunt,  
Julie Lloyd, Tony Hill.

*The recently departed:*

*Anniversaries:* Joyce Atkinson

A massive thank you to everyone who worked  
so hard to make our Community Christmas  
Tree Festival run so smoothly. From preparing  
the Church for the Trees, to decorating the  
Church Trees, being in Church when it was  
open, to making cups of tea and mince pies.

A great Team effort and what a joy to  
welcome around 130 visitors to the Festival,  
with more attending the Carol Service!

*Thank you very much indeed.*

## ADVENT 4 (Year A)

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Saviour.

### OPENING PRAYER

Lord, fill our hearts with your love,  
and as you revealed to us by an angel  
the coming of your Son as man,  
so lead us through his suffering and death  
to the glory of his resurrection,  
for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

### FIRST READING (Isaiah 7:10-16)

*A reading from the prophet Isaiah.*

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 'Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.' But Ahaz said, 'I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.'

*This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 24)

**R: Let the Lord enter. He is the king of glory,**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm. **R:**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
Those with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desire not worthless things. **R:**

They shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves them.  
Such are the ones who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R:**

### SECOND READING (Romans 1:1-7)

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans*

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

*This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us.'

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

### GOSPEL (Matthew 1:18-25)

*A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.*  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife to his home.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.*



**COMMUNION ANTIPHON & THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** The Virgin is with child and shall bear a son, and she will call him Emmanuel.

