

**Introduction** Today's readings tell us that God's saving power reveals itself as naturally and as inevitably as the changing of the seasons. It unfolds through the faith of human beings who put their whole trust in God's will to redeem us.

**First Reading** Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11 - This radiant song of praise reminds us that our experience of human love is a foretaste of the joy promised to those who open their hearts to God.

**Second Reading** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

We are reminded that we can trust God to be alive and active in our world and in our lives, come what may.

**Gospel** John 1:6-8. 19-28

The story of John the Baptist reminds us that we also are called to give witness to Jesus and prepare a way for him wherever we are.

Please pray for Frank Rocks lately dead and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time:

### DECEMBER

- 18** Kathleen Jones **19** Sarah Strathdee, Mel Brown  
**20** Marian Beesley, Clifford Ward  
**23** Rt Rev Brian Charles Foley (3<sup>rd</sup> Bishop of Lancaster)

### CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](http://cafod.org.uk/ipc) or call 0303 303 3030

to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need.

Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

**Parish SVP** Thank you for all the donations of non-perishable food and toiletries. We will continue to support our local food bank with your kind donations.

**HELPING HANDS at ST MARY'S SCHOOL** Helps families that are in urgent need. At the back of St Mary's church is our Helping Hands Box for any kind donations of nonperishable food and toiletries.

**WEBSITE: [www.standrewscottam.org.uk](http://www.standrewscottam.org.uk)**

## Parishes of St Andrew & Blessed George Haydock, Cottam, and St Mary, Lea Town Third Sunday of Advent 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**Parish Priest: Canon Adrian J. Towers VF**

114 Hoyles Lane, Cottam, PR4 0NB

Tel: (01772) 726166 E-mail: [adrian.towers@lrcd.org.uk](mailto:adrian.towers@lrcd.org.uk)

**Deacon: Rev. John W Cliffe**

Tel: 01257 264445 [johncliffe@standrewscottam.org.uk](mailto:johncliffe@standrewscottam.org.uk)

Baptisms and Marriages by Arrangement.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday (4.30pm to 5pm) or on request. Please call in to the Presbytery or speak to Canon Adrian before or after Mass.

Parish Safeguarding Representatives:

Tony Murphy 07557 373534 (St Andrew's)

Mike Fitzpatrick 07739 880965 (St Mary's)

Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator [www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk](http://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk)

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He has sent me to  
heal the broken hearted.

Isaiah 61:1

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art by Julie Lonneman



**SATURDAY 16 December**

5.30pm (Vigil) David Hurst (7979)

**Mass will be live streamed from Parish website**

**SUNDAY 17 December (PMB p87)**

**Gaudete Sunday**

9.00am(Lea Town) People of the Parish

10.30am Deceased members of the Lakeland Family  
(7981)

**NO Afternoon Devotions**

6.00pm Peace in the Holy Land

**MONDAY 18 December**

9.15am Pauline Clayton (7978)

**TUESDAY 19 December - NO MASS**

**WEDNESDAY 20 December**

9.15am William (Bill) Beesley – Wedding Anniversary  
Remembrance (7795)

**THURSDAY 21 December**

**8.15am (Lea Town)** Deceased Members of SAS & Benefactors  
(7983)

**FRIDAY 22 December**

9.15am Deceased Members of the Graham Family (7962)

**SATURDAY 23 December**

9.15am John Durkin (7714)

5.30pm (Vigil) Christian Community in the Holy Land

Confessions next Saturday 4.30pm to 5.00pm at St. Andrew's

**Sunday & Christmas Mass Obligations** Next Sunday's Mass obligation for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (24<sup>th</sup> December) is satisfied by the Saturday Vigil Mass on 23<sup>rd</sup> December and the two morning Masses on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December.

**Note** The evening Mass on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December is for the Christmas Obligation.

**Christmas Masses**

**Christmas Eve (Sunday 24 December)**

5.30pm (Cottam) Children's First Mass of Christmas

8.30pm (Cottam) Mass during the Night ('Midnight Mass')

**Christmas Day (Monday 25 December)**

(Lea Town) Dawn Mass - 9.00am, (Cottam) Day Mass -10.30am.  
(PLEASE NOTE NO 6PM MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY(MONDAY))

**Advent Carol Service** Thank you to all who came along to this enjoyable parish social evening. Thanks also to the organisers and everyone who helped with the set up and tidy up.



**Welcome** to Frances Jacinta Lucia Shutt  
who was baptised on Saturday.

**Tea/Coffee & Light refreshments** in the Haydock Room after 10.30am Mass. All welcome.

**A Blessed Messiah is Born – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm**

You are invited to a performance of sacred music in preparation for Christmas at St Joseph's Church, Skeffington Road, Preston, PR1 5UQ. The concert is performed by Occento choir conducted by Nathan Smith, with the repertoire including pieces such as: *Away in a Manger*, *The Crown of Roses*, *In Dulci Jubilo* and *Gabriel's Message*. The concert is free of charge with donations welcome.

**Mass Intentions** All Mass offerings and intentions are most welcome. If you require a Mass on a particular day, please let Canon Adrian know or place the intention, offering and details in an envelope on the collection plate at the weekend Masses. Mass intention envelopes are at the back of church