

**Introduction** Today the weeks and months of preparing for Christmas are almost over. Christmas Day is just around the corner. Another 24 hours and our Christmas celebrations will be under way. But it's still not too late to capture the true spirit of this feast. Who better to guide us in our quest than Mary, who is at the very heart of the Christmas story?

**First Reading** 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14-16- Although Samuel is a "big man" in his day, he's also sensitive enough to see that it isn't right for him to be dwelling in a spacious house while God dwells "in a tent", and he is determined to do something about it.

**Second Reading** Romans 16: 25-27

Paul rejoices in Jesus, whose strength enables us to live out the Good News so that, reaching to the ends of the earth, it draws all people to become Jesus' disciples. Glory is to be given to the Father through Jesus Christ for ever.

**Gospel** Luke 1:26-38 - Luke retells the glorious story of the incarnation. Through Mary's unconditional acceptance of the angel's message, Jesus has come into our world as one of us and is like us in all things, apart from sin.

Please pray for Frank Rocks, Ged Salisbury and Eric Pollard lately dead and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time:

### DECEMBER

**24** Edna Dawson, William Higham

**25** Mark Bateson, Pat Hope, Jim M<sup>c</sup> Intyre **26** Margaret Cliffe

**27** May Gimbaldston **28** Winifred Wright, Dorothy Parker, Fr Bernard Mc Kenna (Former PP), Kathryn Noblet

**29** Frederick Barton, V Bary, Peter Molloy

**30** Thomas Butler, Robert Beesley, Agnes Walmsley, Pauline Clayton

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

## Parishes of St Andrew & Blessed George Haydock, Cottam, and St Mary, Lea Town Fourth Sunday of Advent 24<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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Be it done to me  
according to your  
word.

Luke 1:38

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### **SATURDAY 23 December**

5.30pm (Vigil) Christian Community in the Holy Land

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

### **SUNDAY 24 December (PMB p90)**

#### **Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers**

9.00am(Lea Town) EOSHJ Lieutenancy of England & Wales

10.30am People of the Parish

**NO Afternoon Devotions**

### **SUNDAY 24 December - CHRISTMAS EVE**

5.30pm **Children's First Mass of Christmas (PMB p97)**

Deceased Members of the Sewell Family (7963)

8.30pm **Christmas Mass During the Night (PMB p97)**

Ann & Keith Bain (7988)

### **MONDAY 25 December - CHRISTMAS DAY**

**9.00am (Lea Town) Dawn Mass (PMB p100)**

People of the Parish

**10.30am Day Mass (PMB p102) - Edmund Winders (7982)**

**\*\*\*\* Note No Evening Mass on Christmas Day \*\*\*\***

**TUESDAY 26 December – St. Stephen (Feast) - NO MASS**

**WEDNESDAY 27 December – St. John (Feast)**

9.15am Frank Rocks (7992)

**THURSDAY 28 December – The Holy Innocents (Feast)**

**8.15am (Lea Town)**

**FRIDAY 29 December - St. Thomas Becket (Feast)**

9.15am Fr William Bootle – Lately Dead

### **SATURDAY 30 December**

9.15am Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem

5.30pm (Vigil) Deceased Members of the Watt Family (7967)

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

**Sunday & Christmas Mass Obligations** This 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.

### **Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage 23 July to 30 July 2024.**

Please join Bishop Paul Swarbrick on the Diocesan Pilgrimage.

Youth Section (Coach Travel - 22 July to 1 August) will travel by coach with an evening and a day sightseeing in Paris.

Email [youth@lancasterlourdes.co.uk](mailto:youth@lancasterlourdes.co.uk) for details.

For all other Pilgrims and for further information please check the Diocesan Pilgrimage Website [www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk](http://www.lancasterlourdes.co.uk) or email [operationsdirector@lancasterlourdes.co.uk](mailto:operationsdirector@lancasterlourdes.co.uk)

### **Requiem Masses at St Andrew's in January 2024**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 10.00am Frank Rocks

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 11.00am Ged Salisbury

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 11.15am Eric Pollard

**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

### **CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal**

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal  
at [cafod.org.uk/ipc\\_or](http://cafod.org.uk/ipc_or) 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.