

Introduction: The key to all our success stories is to be found in the preparations we make for them. Today we are invited to prepare a way for the Lord.

First Reading Baruch 5:1-9

The prophet Baruch echoes the message of Isaiah that God will enable us to walk safely on level ground.

Second Reading Philippians 1:4-6. 8-11

Paul wants us to prepare for the Day of Christ. His prayer for us is that we will always recognise what is best.

Gospel Luke 3:1-6 - John the Baptist is the one who fulfils the prophecy about preparing a way for the Lord and shows us what needs to be done.

Please pray for all whose anniversaries occur about this time:

DECEMBER

7 David Jackson **8** Eileen Woodcock, Agnes Bilsborough, Edmund Allen, Stella Marie Snailham **9** Lorraine Butler, John Wyzinski
10 Edward Singleton, Jane Southworth, Francis Myerscough
11 Elizabeth Kelly **12** Emma Constance Roche, George Gardner, Kenneth Sanders **13** Winifred Forrest

Mass Intentions Canon Adrian has just a very few Mass intentions left, required for specific dates. 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 back of church.

Gift Aid This makes such a difference to our Parishes' income at no extra cost to you. If you are a UK tax payer we can claim 25p for every £1 you give. Please consider taking out a Standing Order, or if at St Andrew's you can register a payment card to use on the card reader, either online or the reader itself.

WEBSITE: www.standrewscottam.org.uk

**Parishes of
St Andrew & Blessed George Haydock, Cottam,
and St Mary, Lea Town
Second Sunday of Advent
8th December 2024**

Parish Priest: Canon Adrian J Towers VF

114 Hoyles Lane, Cottam, PR4 0NB

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Deacon: Rev. John W Cliffe

Tel: 01257 264445 Email: john.cliffe@lrcd.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

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**'Prepare the way
of the Lord.'**

(Luke 3:4)

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SATURDAY 7th December

5.30pm Vigil Mass Bill Fowler – Anniversary (8288)
This Mass will be live streamed from Parish website

SUNDAY 8th December (New Missals page 768)

Second Sunday of Advent

9.00am (Lea Town) For Rachel Hayward Family (8295)

10.30am Cottam People of the Parish

Afternoon Devotions and Benediction today at 3.00pm at St Andrew's

6.00pm Cottam Leonard Hallmarsh (8004)

MONDAY 9th December

**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed
Virgin Mary – Solemnity Transferred**

9.15am Cottam Margaret & Harry Best RIP (8283)

TUESDAY 10th December - NO MASS

Our Lady of Loreto Opt. Memorial

WEDNESDAY 11th December

St. Damasus I – Opt. Memorial

9.15am Cottam Deceased Members of the Foxlow Family (8289)

THURSDAY 12th December

Our Lady of Guadalupe Opt. Memorial

8.15 am (Lea Town) Mercy for the soul of Jim (James) Healy (8292)

FRIDAY 13th December

St. Lucy – Memorial

9.15am Cottam For a speedy recovery (8290)

SATURDAY 14th December

St. John of the Cross - Memorial

9.15 am Cottam Christians of the Holy Land

5.30pm Vigil Mass Repose of the soul of Jacob Varkey (8294)

Confessions Saturday 14th December 4.30pm – 4.55pm at St Andrew's.

Advent Retreat (Age 15 to Young Adults) At Castlerigg Manor

Bookings will close for the Advent Retreat at Castlerigg on December 11th at Midday. The open retreats at Castlerigg give teens and young adults a great way to make friends, deepen their faith, and have some fun and they usually prove very popular. The weekend costs £65 but anyone who might struggle with this is invited to get in touch. Further details – director@castleriggmanor.co.uk. Sign up at castleriggmanor.com >> what's coming up.

Carol Service at St Mary's

On Friday 13th December there will be a Carol Service at 7pm at St Mary's Church, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Annexe. There will be a list at the back of both Churches to add your name for catering purposes if you wish to join us for this lovely event.

Proclamation of the Holy Year

Every 25 years the Church celebrates a 'Holy Year,' a Jubilee Year celebrating our faith, re-establishing our relationship with Christ and His Church. A special time for hope and reconciliation. It is an ancient custom for a Bishop to announce the Holy Year at various stations throughout his diocese. In Preston, Bishop Swarbrick will preside at Mass on Sunday 22nd December at 11.15am at St Joseph's Church, Skeffington Rd, to announce the Holy Year. Catholics throughout Preston and district are encouraged to gather with their Bishop for this occasion.

Christmas Raffle - St Mary's

The Raffle will be held after 9am Mass on Sunday 15th December in the Annexe together with Coffee morning. Many thanks for your support with prize donations or by purchasing tickets. There are St Mary's Raffle Tickets at the back of both churches. Please fill in stubs and put both stubs and money in an envelope marked ST MARY'S RAFFLE and place on the collection plate.

All Raffle Tickets and Prizes must be in by 8th December.

Afternoon Club The club meets each **Tuesday** at 1.15pm, in the Haydock Room, Cottam. Prize bingo and refreshments. There will be a charge of 50p per book with no charge for refreshments.