

Introduction: On the third Sunday of Advent we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath. On this “Gaudete” Sunday we focus on expectancy and celebration, Gaudete being a Latin word commanding us to rejoice. We celebrate together in the hope we have because, despite the evils in the world, Christ is with us.

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-6. 10

Desolate, dry places will be transformed into paradise. Creation’s praise joins human praise, recognising God’s marvellous works. We daily need to renew our faltering faith.

Second Reading James 5:7-10

James emphasises patience, explaining that we must wait patiently just as a farmer waits for seeds to grow.

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11 - Jesus wants to assure both John and his disciples that he is the Messiah. He also reminds them that his power is displayed in humble acts of service rather than spectacular displays of political power.

Please pray for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

DECEMBER

13 Winifred Forrest **15** John Keefe, Francis Edward Rocks **16** James Leo Lowery, Pauline Daly **18** Kathleen Jones, Patricia Oakes, Eric John Pollard **19** Sarah Strathdee, Mel Brown, Gerard Salisbury
20 Marian Beesley, Clifford Ward

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
Third Sunday of Advent
14th December 2025**

Parish Priest: Canon Adrian J Towers VF

114 Hoyles Lane, Cottam, PR4 0NB

Tel: 01772 726166 Email: adrian.towers@lrcd.org.uk

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:

Christine Murphy 07928 532310 (St Andrew’s)

Mike Fitzpatrick 07739 880965 (St Mary’s)

Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk

Lancaster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered-Charity Number 234331



See how the farmer
awaits the precious
yield of the soil.

James 5:7

© Liturgy Training Publications,
art by Julie Lonneman

SATURDAY 13th December

5.30pm Vigil Mass David and Mary Hurst (8578)

This Mass will be live streamed from the Parish Website

SUNDAY 14th December

Third Sunday of Advent – Gaudete Sunday

(New Missals page 13)

9.00 am (Lea Town) People of the Parish

10.30am Cottam Bill Beesley – In Memory (8501)

Afternoon Devotions & Benediction today 3pm at St Andrew's

6.00pm Cottam Deceased Clergy of the Diocese (8601)

MONDAY 15th December

9.15 am Cottam Pauline Daly (8605)

TUESDAY 16th December

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY 17th December

9.15am Cottam John Cookson (8597)

THURSDAY 18th December

8.15am (Lea Town) Repose of the soul of Thomas Wright (8595)

FRIDAY 19th December

9.15am Cottam Gerard Salisbury (8537)

SATURDAY 20th December

9.15am Cottam Holy Souls

5.30pm Cottam Vigil Mass Norman and Mary Blocksidge (8591)

Confessions next Saturday 20th December 4.30pm-4.55pm at St Andrew's.

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.



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

Cottam 5.30pm Vigil Children's Mass

Cottam 8.30pm Mass During the Night

Christmas Day

Lea Town 9.00am Mass at Dawn

Cottam 10.30am Mass During the Day

RCIA Course

Meeting again this Wednesday 17th December 7.00pm – 8.00pm at St Andrew's.

Sacramental Preparation Classes We are looking forward to starting our Sacramental Preparation Classes. Please contact Canon Adrian or School if you wish your child to take part. Classes will be led by Jackie Fitzpatrick and Angela Pye, both retired teachers, at 3.20pm after school in the Church Annexe and then collected after class at 4.20pm.

First Reconciliation Dates:

Tuesday 27th January 2026

Tuesday 3rd February 2026

Tuesday 10th February 2026 (First Confession)

First Holy Communion Dates:

Tuesday 3rd March 2026

Tuesday 10th March 2026

Tuesday 17th March 2026

Sunday 22nd March 2026 (First Holy Communion)

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.