



St Katharine, Blackrod - Sunday 21st December 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Parish Eucharist

Welcome to St Katharine's Church today



READINGS AND PRAYERS

LIGHTING THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Lord Jesus, light of the world, blessed is Gabriel, who brought good news; blessed is Mary, your mother and ours. Bless your Church preparing for Christmas; and bless us your children, who long for your coming. Amen.

Four candles are lit today.

CANDLE SONG (TO THE TUNE OF "Away in a Manger")

**A candle is burning, a candle of love,
A candle to point us to heaven above,
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
For Jesus is bringing God's love to our Earth.**

THE COLLECT for the 4th Sunday of Advent.

God our redeemer, who prepared the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son: grant that, as she looked for his coming as our saviour, so we may be ready to greet him when he comes again as our judge; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 7. Verses 10-16

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.'

PSALM 80. Verses 1-8

Response: Turn us again, O God, show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, you that led Joseph like a flock; Shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim, before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your mighty strength and come to our salvation. Turn us again, O God; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Response: Turn us again, O God, show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry at your people's prayer? You feed them with the bread of tears; you give them abundance of tears to drink. You have

made us the derision of our neighbours, and our enemies laugh us to scorn. Turn us again, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Response: Turn us again, O God, show us the light of your countenance and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING Romans 1. Verses 1-7

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.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 1. Verses 18-end

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 fulfil 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 her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Heavenly Father, who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of the promised saviour: fill us your servants with your grace, that in all things we may embrace your holy will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONTACTS

Vicar: The Revd Angela Wynne, St Katharine's
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St Katharine's Church
Registered Charity No: 1144084

SERVICES AT ST KATHARINE'S THIS WEEK

Sunday 21st December: ADVENT 4

3.00pm Carol Service. Come and hear the Christmas story in readings and song. Followed by refreshments. All welcome.

Tuesday 9.30am Holy Communion

Wednesday 24th December – CHRISTMAS EVE

4.00pm Family Crib Service
11.00pm Midnight Eucharist of Christmas

Thursday 25th December - CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00am Festival Eucharist of Christmas

Sunday 28th December - Christmas 1

11.00am The Parish Eucharist

What's on this week.....

PRAYERS

For those who are sick:

**Sheila Edwards, Rachel Lowe, Josie Woods
Pat Morris, Brian Inglis, Steven Hyatt,
Annie Shaw, Lauren Reid, John Green
Damian McCabe, Margaret Martinez**

Pray for all those with Covid to make a full recovery.

For those who have died:

John Michael Dainty

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Maggie Banks

Let us know? If anyone is aware of someone sick or in hospital, wishing to be included on the Prayer List, please notify the Vicar, or the Churchwardens.

Please ensure you have the permission of the person, or their family, before asking for their name to be added. Thank you.

Please Pray for Ukraine

Today's Hymns - Sunday 21st December

- 394 Tel out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!**
- 85 The Angela Gabriel from heaven came**
- 41 Lo, he comes with clouds ascending**
- 452 Let all mortal flesh keep silence**
- 30 Come, thou long-expected Jesus**
- 38 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding**

CHRISTMAS DINNER ON JESUS 2025

Thank you to everyone who donated a box of after dinner mints – the response was very generous and the team churches collected 320 boxes altogether.



If you wish to make a donation to support St Katharine's, you can use this QR code. Thank you.

SAFEGUARDING

As part of the Manchester Diocese, St Katharine's Church follows the safeguarding guidelines, the national legal and procedural framework for the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, and the Church of England policy and practice.

Safeguarding Officer: Janet Hollick 07514041611

Home Communion

If you are unable to get to a service at St Katharine's and would like to receive communion at home, please get in touch with Revd Angela, or the churchwardens. And please get in touch if you would like a visit from either the clergy or one of our team of licensed Lay Eucharistic ministers.



THE NATIVITY will be performed during the Crib Service on Wednesday 24th December (Christmas Eve) starting at 4pm. If you wish, come dressed in suitable costumes - e.g. Angels, Shepherds, Kings. All welcome.

Thank you for the flowers

Many thanks to the Flower Team who keep St Katharine's looking wonderful all year round, and especially at Christmas. If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of the flowers please use the box on the table at back of church, or see Chris Skinner or Joyce Robinson with your gift. Thank you.



**XMAS DAY
OPEN HOUSE**

**HOT DRINKS
HOT FOOD
GAMES
ENTERTAINMENT
GOOD COMPANY**

**BLACKROD SPORTS & COMMUNITY CENTRE
XMAS DAY 11AM - 2PM
OPEN TO EVERYONE**

Fire Action



Raise the alarm



**Leave the building by
the nearest exit**



Report to assembly point

CAR PARK