

PARISHES OF  
**ST PIUS X, ALDERLEY EDGE, ST BENEDICT'S, HANDFORTH**

**AND**

**SACRED HEART & ST TERESA'S WILMSLOW**

**WEEKLY REFLECTION**

**Sunday 21st December 2025: Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Are you ready for Christmas?**

On Thursday we celebrate the great feast day of the birth of Jesus through his mother Mary.

Bible Alive tells us that "The Nativity story is incredibly exciting and shows how God works and reveals himself in ways that we could not imagine. For what is impossible for man, a virgin birth, is possible for God. Humbly bow down before this mystery of faith. Born of a woman, a virgin, Christ is God made flesh. God among us.

Christmas is a time to celebrate and rejoice in the miraculous. A time to grasp that God is a God of surprises who, if we but have faith, can perform miracles in our lives and in our world."

Yet the spiritual side and especial sanctity of Christmas are often lost as we think of decorations, gifts and shopping. What to give, how to parcel up and at the same time keep our daily life going. All of this can cause tension, differing opinions, arguments at times. Sometimes we hear of the 'Christmas devil' who can cause dissent and sadness where there should be joy.

St Leo the Great, concerned that any would be sad or mourn on this Holy day of Christmas, said, "Our Saviour, beloved people, is born today. Let us rejoice. It is unlawful to be sad today for this is the birthday of life. This life brings happiness of a promised eternity to us since the fear of death has been destroyed. Let the holy exalt because they are coming near to their prize. Let the sinners rejoice because they are invited to grace."

How best to prepare for a happy, joyous Christmas and Happy Days in the New Year? We are players in the game of Christian Life. Play we must everyday but most importantly at this sacred time of the year.

We must be Christ to the world;  
Brighten up every day as Christ would,  
Brighten up people's lives as Christ would,  
Smile as Christ would,  
Say hello and talk as Christ would.

Compliment people as Christ would,  
Ask people their name and try to say something interesting about the name that is  
pleasing,  
Give quiet smiling assistance to everyone,  
Be generous to everyone,  
Be forgiving to everyone,  
Be kind to everyone,  
Be gentle to everyone.

Get into the game, be a player in the everyday game of being a Christian.

St Paul says, "we should pray at all times".

Your smile is a prayer,  
Your understanding is a prayer,  
Your forgiveness is a prayer,  
Your very breath is a prayer.

Happy Christmas.

Kevin H.