

**St Annes RC
Church
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SK17 6DU**

St Mary
Marple Bridge
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and

The Annunciation
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PLEASE PRAY for the sick: Mary Bradbury, Marie Davies, Maria Dawson, Patricia Atkinson, Shelia Farnsworth and Mary Chadwick. To be added to this list, please contact the parish office or collect a form from the back of church.

NEWS FROM THE PARISH

FR GREG WRITES: The Second Sunday of Advent invites us into a deeper posture of *preparation* — not just for Christmas celebrations, but for the coming of Christ into our hearts and our world. In the readings, Isaiah paints a vision of a changed world : a shoot springing from the stump of Jesse, filled with the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, and peace. This is a promise that God's kingdom will be marked by justice for the poor and harmony among all creation.

St. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, urges us to live in harmony with one another, welcoming each other as Christ has welcomed us. Advent, then, becomes a season of reconciliation — mending relationships, healing divisions, and making space for God's love to flourish. In the Gospel, John the Baptist calls us to *repent*, to "prepare the way of the Lord." His message is urgent yet hopeful: change is possible, and God's mercy is near. Repentance is not about guilt alone, but about turning toward the light, clearing away what blocks us from God, and making our lives a place where Christ can dwell.

Reflection Thought: This week, we are called to be both *watchful* and *active* — to pray for God's kingdom and to live in ways that make it visible here and now. Advent preparation is not passive waiting; it's a choice to align our hearts with God's vision of peace, justice, and love.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS: GIVE A LIFE CHANGING GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS This year, share the joy of Christmas with a CAFOD World Gift - from safe water, to school supplies! A meaningful way to bless loved ones and help families overseas. Please take a catalogue from the back of church or see [https:// worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/](https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/)

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS- Many thanks to the kind parishioner for the generous donation towards the Christmas flowers at Marple Bridge. It is very much appreciated.

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

New Mills- Christmas Eve 6pm. Christmas Day 9.30am

Marple Bridge.-Christmas Eve 8pm. Christmas Day 11.30am

FAITH SHARING SESSION DATE CHANGE at Marple Bridge will now take place on 9th December at 2.30pm.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Our Advent Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction will take place on Saturday 13th December at 11.00am at New Mills; there will also be an opportunity for Confessions; all are welcome to join us.

VACANCY FOUNDATION GOVERNOR Saint Mary's Voluntary Catholic Academy Primary School New Mills currently has a vacancy for a Foundation Governor. If you are interested in being part of this important and rewarding role, please contact Headteacher Patricia Chapman on 01663 742412 or for more information about being a foundation governor information is available from: the Diocesan Education Service Governor Support Team, (01332 293833) or the Nottingham Diocese Education Service website.

ADVENT PRAYER JOURNAL Journey through Advent with the Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service as we await the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, with a printable Advent prayer journal produced by the Team. To download your free copy visit www.ndcys.com/advent2025/

BANK DETAILS: A number of parishioners have asked for our bank details so that they can set up standing orders. Thank you for your continued generosity. Sort Code: 30-96-18 Account : 03900906 Name of account: St Mary & Annun Marple Bridge & New Mills Bank: Lloyds plc.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a second collection this Sunday 7th December for Poor and Needy Parishes.