



**Parishes of St Bede, Clayton Green  
and St Chad, South Hill**  
**Parish News**  
**Christmas Day 2025**

Dear friends,

As the Christmas Carol says, today God brings us, **“Tidings of comfort and joy!”** In this dark and cold time of the year a light of love and hope shines for us. Our world needs the comfort and the joy of knowing that God is with us and the peace He invites us to welcome. In our messy and conflicted world there is hope and love and mercy. The baby we celebrate lying in a humble manger is a gift of God for our real lives. We can invite Him today to make His home in our humble and needy hearts. He brings us a gift of peace if we choose to accept it. If God is with us, then there is no need to be gloomy or afraid. Our lives and our world are in His hands. Welcome the gift of His peace. Let’s ask God to help us to remember His presence with us each day and in all that we have to face on our journey through life.

Christmas is a moment in the year for gratitude. So many people help and support us. Today we are invited to be grateful for what we have been given and for the loved ones who we share our lives with.

Thank you to all the members of our parishes who quietly make it possible for us to continue to minister to our communities. There is a long list of jobs that get done every week and at special moments of the year. Our parishioners live out their faith through the service they offer. We thank them all today.

We all know that things cost more than they used to. We owe a debt of gratitude to the generosity of all who are able to contribute to the growing cost of maintaining our old buildings and our grounds. We rely on donations made to the parish to pay our bills. Thanks also goes to the volunteers who raise money for the parish through the different events that are put on through the year. Their hard work is much appreciated for



the money raised and also for the ways they help us deepen our sense of community and belonging in our parish family. Thank you for your Christmas offerings too. They are a big support to our parish.

We are not only here to take care of our own needs. Today we can celebrate the service that is offered through the parish to many people in need of support. Our parishioners show great generosity to the food bank, Chorley help the Homeless, the Metanoia Project, Chorley Buddies, CAFOD, Missionary work in different parts of the world and our SVP group. We have a growing number of parishioners who are visited in their homes each week when they aren't able to attend church anymore. These visits bring 'comfort and joy' and are a sign of the love of God alive and at work in our community.

The mission of our parishes is also lived out throughout the year in our Catholic Schools. We are grateful for the great dedication and witness to the faith provided by our school staff and the support they offer to the families of our parish.



We end with the words of another well-loved Christmas Carol which is a good prayer to make today.

*"What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.  
Yet what I can I give Him – give my heart."*

May God bless you and your family with peace and joy this Christmas and through the coming year. *Fr Mark*

Young people in Year 8 and older are now invited to register to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2026. Go to [liverpoolcalled.co.uk](http://liverpoolcalled.co.uk) and complete the registration form. Enrolment closes on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Once we know the names of those requesting confirmation after 13<sup>th</sup> February we will contact you to let you know about preparation for the sacrament.

#### **Becoming a member of the Catholic Church.**

If you or someone you know would like to find out more about becoming a Catholic, please get in touch. If you have any questions about what this involves, please let us know and we can arrange for you to meet Fr Mark or one of our parish volunteers. You don't need to make a commitment! We are happy to meet and listen to your questions. Please pass on this information to people you know who might be interested in joining the Catholic Church. Thank you.

**St Chad's Reading Group** will take a break for Christmas and will start again on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**St Chad's Craft Group** has finished for Christmas and will start again on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**St. Bede's Prayer Group** has now finished for Christmas and will start again on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

**Clayton Thursday Group and Chair based Yoga** will finish for their Christmas break and will start again on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

### **Poinsettias at Christmas**

Thank you to everyone who made a donation to help us decorate our Churches for Christmas with Poinsettias. A card of dedication has been placed by each plant donated. Our flower team will let us know when it's OK to take your plant home.

**Tea and coffee** will be served in St. Bede's Parish Hall **after the 11am Mass on Sunday the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026**. Everyone is warmly invited to come along.

Confessions are normally heard at St Bede's Church on Saturday 5.30pm to 5.50pm  
or at any time on request.

No confessions this Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December.

**Please pray for our sick and housebound parishioners:** Kath Yates,  
Jim Holmes, Paola De Sanctis, Eileen Ainscough, Agnes Moss and the residents of Highcliffe,  
Greenways, Brookside, Willow Bank, Meadow Bank Nursing Homes and Brookhaven.

Parish Priest: Fr Mark Beattie Tel. 01257 460154 Deacon: Rev Simon Gilbertson  
**St Bede's Church.** 598, Preston Road, Clayton-le-Woods. PR6 7EB **01772 335209**  
**St Chad's Church.** 237, Town Lane, Whittle-le-Woods. PR6 8AJ.  
**St Chad's Parish Hall** 07719718523 **St Bede's Parish Hall** 01257 271818  
**Parish Websites** [www.stbedesclaytongreen.co.uk](http://www.stbedesclaytongreen.co.uk) and [www.stchads-southhill.org](http://www.stchads-southhill.org)  
**Facebook page** Look for "Parishes of St Chad and St Bede"  
**E-mail our parish office:** [stbedesclaytongreen@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:stbedesclaytongreen@rcaol.org.uk)  
or [stchad.chorley@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:stchad.chorley@rcaol.org.uk)  
or to Fr Mark privately [m.beattie@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:m.beattie@rcaol.org.uk)  
The parish office is open on Tuesday & Wednesday. **01772 335209**

## **Masses and Services this Week**

### **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve**

**5pm** St. Bede's Dominic McCrudden  
**7pm** St. Chad's Frank & Cissie Billington

### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day**

**9.15am** St. Chad's Parishioners  
**11am** St. Bede's Parishioners

### **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December Feast of St Stephen**

**11am** St. Bede's Rev. Deacon Alan Mee

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December** 6pm St. Bede's Cameron Beeby

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December Feast of the Holy Family (PW1)**

**9.15am** St. Chad's Mary Hilton (Birthday Memories)  
**11am** St. Bede's Parishioners



Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December 9.15am St. Chad's Special Intentions

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December 9.15am St. Bede's Parishioners

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December No Mass



**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.**

**Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

**10.30am** St. Chad's Vi Howard (RIP)

**12 noon** St. Bede's Parishioners

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 9.15am St. Bede's Stella Gore (RIP)

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 6pm St. Bede's Frank, Angela & Declan Collins

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January **Second Sunday of Christmas (PW2)**

9.15am St. Chad's John Dixon (RIP)

11am St. Bede's George & Elizabeth Hills

Please keep in your prayers members of our parishes who have died recently and their families.  
George Tierney and Lawrence Eccles.  
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord.