

Sister Jenefer writes:

Rite of Welcome

People often say we are a welcoming parish, so today; we are delighted to give a special welcome to Tracey, Nikolai and Carolyn who take their first official step into the Catholic Church.

We offer them our warmest congratulations.

This is a great occasion for them; 'the Holy Spirit opens their hearts and they enter the way of faith and conversion', as the Rite of Welcome explains.

It is a privilege for us that God has led them to our parish, to learn about the faith. At the 11.30am Mass today they are accepted as 'catechumens' or learners.

Becoming a member of the Church is a gradual process which takes place within the parish community, with its support – your support.

On these early steps in their following of Christ in the Catholic Church, they need our encouragement.

The image of a journey is very apt for adults who ask for baptism. We pray that they may be aware of our support and willingness to accompany them and be given the strength they need.

There are many ways in which we can journey with them, e.g. if you belong to a parish group or exercise a ministry in the Church, why not offer to come to the Wednesday meetings and tell them about your work and perhaps, invite them to join you?

Hospitality and welcome is a ministry that belongs to everyone; you don't even need to bake a cake or invite them to your house, just give them a welcome when you see them at Mass, at the Tuesday Night Shelter or other parish activities.

In today's Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent we see Mary accepting, in faith, God's plan and welcoming God's Son, 'Let what you have said be done to me.' And she conceives our Saviour. The Gospel is an invitation to us to let the Holy Spirit open our hearts so that we too follow God's plan in our lives.

May we welcome Tracey, Nikolai and Carolyn into our parish this Christmas.

As a parish, let us pray for them and know that they will be praying for us.

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

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Parish Centre website with details re hire: trinityfocus.org

Parish Team: Fr Richard Andrew (Parish Priest); Fr Gerard O'Brien;

Sister Jenefer Glencross OSU (Catechetics Co-ordinator)

Sr Jenefer's email: srjenefer@rcdow.org.uk

Fr Nizar Semaan (in residence) Parish Administrator: Mrs Anja Huynh

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B)

18th December 11

Today's Readings pp 83-86 St. Paul's Missal



SERVICE TIMES

**Saturday Vigil Mass 6 pm; Sunday at 8.30 am, 10 am, 11.30 and 6 pm
1 pm (Syriac Rite, in Arabic and Aramaic Sundays)
Mass daily 9.30 am & 6 pm Benediction: Sat. 5-5.40 pm
Confession: Saturday 10-10.30 am and 5.15-5.45 pm**

OFFICE HOURS Monday-Friday 10am-1pm and 2pm-4pm