Our Parishes Newsletter

3rd Sunday of Advent 11th December 2016

This Week's Readings

First Reading	Isaiah 35:1-6.10
Psalm	Ps. 145:6-10
Second Reading	St James 5:7-10
Gospel	Matthew 11:2-11

Parish Priest: Father Ned Wall
The Presbytery, 164, Carrington Lane
Permanent Deacons: Anthony Caffrey and John Conway
The RC Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity No. 23402

Website: http://ourparishes.church

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NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

First Reading
Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalm
Ps. 23: 1-6.R.Cf.vv7.10

Second Reading
St Paul 1:1-7

Gospel
Matthew 1:18-24

REFLECTION

While today's Gospel speaks of the Messiah already being here, we are, at this very time, in a sense, still waiting in anticipation. Jesus is already present, and working through his Body, the Church - the Christian community. But he still has to come more fully into our lives. We need to "experience the joy of salvation". John the Baptist is presented as one of the greatest persons ever born. He was strong. He was a man of integrity - but not one of the rich and famous. Yet many went out to hear him, to be challenged by him, to have their lives radically changed by his words.

Our Christian vocation is similar to John the Baptist's. We, too, are called to prepare the way for Jesus to come into our own hearts, and to prepare other people's hearts, so that they, too, may "experience the joy of salvation" - that healing wholeness and holiness we all long for, and which alone gives real meaning to our lives.

Christmas is a time for gifts - both giving and receiving. Let us make sure that among the gifts we offer to others is some of the Christmas joy which we ourselves have received.

PSALM

Come, Lord, and save us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.
Alleluia

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

ALL PARISHES

Today we light our Third Advent Candle: The Candle of Joy

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Christmas Mass Times

Please make sure that you take a red sheet with you, it has all the Mass times over the Christmas weekend. You will receive one with your Newsletter and there will be spare copies available at the back of church. Could you please take some for any neighbours or friends you think might like to see one.

S.V.P. Sudan And South Sudan Baby Feeding Appeal

The situation in Sudan remains uncertain, with over 2.4m people fleeing their homes and the country in a state of chaos and no let-up in the civil war.

The baby feeding centres are a vital part of the humanitarian effort to support the refugees, and some had to close for a time this year due to lack of funds.

S.V.P. England and Wales are twinned with Sudan and we are agreed that we want to continue our support as we strive to keep the baby feeding centres open.

PLEASE WILL YOU HELP US AGAIN?

It has been confirmed that we are currently feeding 5,000 babies every day. Last year, nationally we raised over £200,000 with £27,000 coming from Shrewsbury Diocese.

YOUR SUPPORT EACH YEAR HAS BEEN FANTASTIC! Remember £1 will feed a baby for one week - but costs are increasing. If you can gift aid your donation please collect a form from Church or from S.V.P. members.

Monday Club

This week we have the great pleasure of being entertained by children from All Saints School.

This is always very enjoyable so we can look forward to another special occasion .

Christmas Carol Service

Christmas just wouldn't be the same without us all getting together as a community to sing at our annual Christmas Carol Service. Please bring along your friends and family and your singing voices with you to join in this lovely service. The service takes place on Sunday 18th December at 3pm at All Saints. Participation from the Choir, Folk Group and Little Church, see you all there.

World Gifts

There will be World Gifts magazines available at the back of church, for an alternative gift that helps and support some CAFOD projects.

CAFOD Volunteers Needed

CAFOD are looking to recruit volunteers for Schools and Parishes, all the information can be found on our website http://ourparishes.church/c-a-f-o-d-recruiting-parish-volunteers

Christmas Postage Stamps

Christmas Postage Stamps are now available in all Post Offices. Please remember to ask when you are purchasing your stamps for religious stamps, to keep Christ in Christmas.

Newsletter Items

Each week we try to provide useful information and articles for our Newsletter. If you should have any items you wish to put in the Newsletter please send a email to parishes3@yahoo.com by 3.00pm on a Wednesday, we will try our best to make sure your item is put in the newsletter for that weekend. There are occasions when it is not possible to fit everything in. In this case we will make sure it goes in the following week. Thank you

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All Saints

Mini Christmas Fair

Thank you so much to all who worked hard at the Christmas Fair last Sunday we raised an incredible £1,626.25. Thank you to all who donated items and to all who came along and supported the fair.

Roof Fund

We have had a recent letter from the Dioceses and it is hoped work will begin on the roof early spring. We do owe a lot of money for this project and obviously the Dioceses would like to see a priority in this. We hope to bring some ideas to the Parish in January and meanwhile all donations for the Roof

Fund gratefully accepted, and if you would like to fundraise too it would be most appreciated.

Catenians Carol Service

We would like to thank the members of the Catenians who hosted their Carol Service in our All Saints church last week, for the donation of £405 towards the Roof Fund. This is very much appreciated.

All Saints Bidding Prayers

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to contribute bidding prayers last Sunday. The response was fantastic and every Sunday is now booked up until the end of March 2017. Here is a reminder for those who signed up for December.

11th Sue Perkins

18th Anita Hewitt

25th The Moley family

You can find a complete list from December until next March on the noticeboard at the back of church or on the Three Parishes website at http://ourparishes.church/bidding-prayers-all-saints

Please submit your contribution by the Friday before the Sunday either directly to the parish office or via email at parishes3@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Children's Liturgy

I am about to put together next year's rota for our Children's Liturgy team. I thought I had better ask if there were any more Parents that would like to be part of this special group of catechists. It's so very easy and extremely rewarding.

At the moment, the Rota runs on an average of 18 weeks. You will need a team of two. You then prepare your lesson based on the Gospel of the week/ St.Day/Celebration.

We have seriously grown with the children coming into Church at our 9:30 Sunday morning Mass, averaging 35+ children each week and they all love it. I'm delighted to also see families with teens, who volunteer to help. If you would like to join our team then please do contact I will require your name, contact number and email address. (I am hoping to put the new rota together at the end of next week)

In the meantime, I would like to thank all those who have supported our "Little Church" over 2016 with wonderful lessons.

Traidcraft

We have delicious Zaytoun dates back in stock at a reduced price of £3. Problems with the harvest mean we cannot be sure they will be in top condition until June 2017 but they are perfect for Christmas. See more of the range of gifts, decorations, cards and groceries after 9.30 Mass on Sunday 11th December in the parish centre. Don't forget your charity Christmas cards which provide vital funds for Cafod, Christian Aid and Traidcraft.

Eucharistic Rota - 9.30am

The new rota has been sent out via email and there are copies available to pick up in the sacristy. The rota is also available on the OurParishes website at http://ourparishes.church/eucharistic-ministers-all-saints/

Flowers at Christmas

Normally, at this time of the year, I try to invoke some of the Spirit of Christmas by composing a plea in rhyme appealing for contributions for the Christmas Flowers. However, this year my creativity seems to be rather weak so I am just going to say if anyone would like to contribute towards the cost, the donations would be most welcome. As usual your gift could be in memory of someone special or for yourself. I appreciate that we have a roof to pay for and you may want to give to that instead but if anyone CAN see their way to a gift, no matter how small, then thank you and God bless you.

Remember, We're dreaming of a bright Christmas
With flowers on the altar placed.
With ivy and holly,
To make things jolly
And ensure the joyfulness won't waste.
May your days be merry and bright
And may your blooms give everyone delight!

(Apologies to purists and to Irving Berlin!) Anita

Heating System: All Saints

Could we please ask if you turn the heating off in church, could you please ensure you switch it back on when you leave as the heating is on a timer and will not function if switched off. Thank you

The Offertory Collection was £825.80 - **Thanks all once again for your giving and generosity.**

St Margaret Ward

Parish Farewell to Mr Ratchford

Last week we celebrated a Mass for Mr Ratchford for all he has done over the past 30 years for our Parish School, thank you to all who came to the Mass. Please remember him in our prayers for a healthy and happy retirement.

May we also remember Angela Emerton who is leaving St Margaret Ward School to be a Head teacher at a school in Warrington, we wish her every success in her new role.

The Offertory Collection was £350.27 - **Thanks all once again for your giving and generosity.**

Our Lady of Lourdes

Mini Christmas Fair

We will be holding a mini Christmas Fair today, 11th December after 11.00am Mass at the back of the church. We ask for your support, so come along after Mass there are bottles, a chocolate tombola and toiletries. We also have a Christmas Hamper Raffle, today is your last chance to get tickets. All proceeds will go towards a Defibrillator for the church.

The Offertory Collection was £327.07 - **Thanks all once again for your giving and generosity.**

Other News

Fatima Pilgrimage

Special Air Departure
13th - 17th March 2017
1917 - 2017
100yr Anniversary of the Apparitions
Only £429 per person
Half Board
By air from Liverpool - Lisbon
Transfer from Lisbon to Fatima
Leisure Time Travel
Catholic Pilgrimages
0151 287 8000

		St. Margaret Ward		All Saints		Our Lady of Lourdes
3rd Sunday of Advent						
Sat 10th	5.30pm	P D Cunningham				
Sun 11th			9.30am	Damien Cleare	11.00 am	James Frances Faloona
Sun 11th			5.00pm	Thomas Murphy		
Mon 12th	9.15am	Eucharistic Service	9.15am	Eucharistic Service		No service
Tues 13th	9.15am	Eucharistic Service		No Service	7.30pm	Ibor Freeman
Wed 14th	9.15.am	Eucharistic Service	7.30pm	Mass of Thanksgiving	12.15pm	Eucharistic Service
Thurs 15th	7.30pm	Maureen Roberts		No Service		No Service
Fri 16th	9.15am	Eucharistic Service	9.15am	Tom Kennedy (Sick)	12 .15pm	Eileen O'Brien
4th Sunday of Advent						
Sat 17th	5.30pm	Jim Law				
Sun 18th			9.30am	Arthur Vincent Upton	11.00 am	Stanley & Angela Robe Anthony Robe
Sun 18th			5.00pm	Brenda Williams		