

OUR PARISHES NEWSLETTER

22nd December 2019 - 4th Sunday of Advent (A)



THIS WEEK'S READINGS

First Reading	Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm	23(24)1-6.R.Cf.vv7.10
Second Reading	Matthew Romans 1:1-7
Gospel	Matthew 1:18-24

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

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NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

First Reading
Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6.12-14

Psalm
127:1-5.R.Cf.v1

Second Reading
Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel
Matthew 2:13-15.19-23

REFLECTION

Today we hear about Joseph - was it good news for Joseph when told that Mary would give birth to a baby boy called Emmanuel? Imagine how he felt hearing this. He obviously loved Mary and was in a terrible position.

He was told by the angel "Have no fear about taking Mary as your wife. It is by the Holy spirit that she has conceived this child." One wonders how he really felt! And whether he believed the dream. But Joseph was a man of God and somehow believed the angel. When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel directed and welcomed Mary into his home. WE can only admire the depth of his faith and trust in God. Instead of security and comfort, they found themselves facing a treacherous journey during the last stage of Mary's pregnancy. So much for well planned journeys that any father, foster or not, would want to make. They would have no suitable place to stay, no family or friends around. The earliest days would be full of fear and flight. The first ceremony in the temple would be marred by ominous predictions, that their son would be rejected and his wife would have her very soul pierced.

After the early years of migration and displacement, when the family settled down, there was more trouble. The boy would be left behind in Jerusalem and only found after 3 days. Seeing Mary must have caused him pain as they searched for Jesus. Whatever he may have felt, as an earthly father he must have died a thousand deaths as he cared for Mary and the child, both of whom he accepted in faith as belonging to God not himself.

Here is the just man blessed by God and living out his vocation, not without struggle and pain. It is believed that he died in the company of Jesus and Mary - a truly happy death.

TODAY'S MASS

PSALM

Let the Lord enter!
He is the king of Glory.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia
The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means
'God -is-with-us.
Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

ALL PARISHES



Fr Ned, Fr Bernard, Deacons Anthony and John wish you and all your families a very Blessed and Peaceful Christmas

ALL SAINTS MINI CHRISTMAS FAIR

We are having a Mini Christmas Fair today after 9.30am Mass for the Roof Fund. Please do go along and support the fair for the Roof Fund.

Thank you to Debbie Lysaght and parents of All Saints for coming forward and running the fair for us.

CHRISTMAS MASS OFFERINGS

Just to remind you that the collection at Christmas goes towards Fr Ned's monthly salary. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Please take a sheet detailing all the Masses taking place over the Christmas period, it will save you the price of a phone call and hearing an answer machine.

CAROL CONCERT

Could we say a huge thank you to Kath Farmer and the choir for a beautiful concert. Could we also thank all who supported it and to let you know we raised £1050.00. Thank you.

CATENIAN CAROL CONCERT

This was held here in church the week before last and £220 was raised for the Roof Fund. Thank you to the Catenians for your continued support.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

As you think about New Year why not think about volunteering to become a reader or an Eucharistic Minister. We can never have enough. Have a word with Fr Ned.

NEW FLOWER ARRANGERS' ROTA

A new rota for the "Flower Teams will be available in the Sacristy as from Monday 23rd December, 2019 and will last until June, 2020.

Unfortunately, we have lost a couple of members due to ill health and re-location therefore we would love to welcome anyone who feels they could help. It is not necessary to have previous experience. If you can put flowers into a vase you qualify so why not join us? You don't have to come every week and the more teams/helpers there are the less pressure. If you think you could help out, please leave your name and a contact number in the sacristy or with Fr. Ned. Thank you.

Mass and Service Times this week

All Saints

Our Lady of Lourdes

4th Sunday of Advent

Sat. 21st	5.00pm	Mark McNicholas		
Sun. 22nd	9.30am	Marie & Jim Bones	11.00 am	John Diggle
Sun. 22nd	5.00pm	Brendan Cunningham		
Mon. 23rd	10.00am	Requiem Mass Rosemary Doran		No Service
Christmas Eve	4.30pm 6.30pm Midnight	The Ward Family Noreen Murphy James Walsh	8.30pm	Josie Comerford
Christmas Day	9.30am	Eileen & George McGuinness	11.00am	Paddy Higgins
St Stephens Day	12 Noon	Alan Ridgeway		No Service
Frid. 27th	12 Noon	Martin Tarpey		No Service
Holy Family				
Sat. 28th	5.00pm	Catherine ,Peter & John Roberts		
Sun. 29th	9.30am	Bill & Maura Bowdren (Int)	11.00 am	Sr Jo (Int)
Sun. 29th	5.00pm	Kathleen Bligh		