

ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

Sunday 3rd December 2023 – 1st Sunday in Advent

December Monthly Devotion: The Immaculate Conception



THEME: Stay Awake

It is difficult to keep alert and watchful when no definite date or time of coming is known. There is always the temptation to slacken off or turn away. In Advent we are reminded of the need to be constant and vigilant. The Holy Spirit strengthens us in our task, and we know that, however difficult it may be, we are loved and sustained by the God who made us.

Date	Celebration	Service Time & Location	Intention
Sunday 3 rd Dec	1 st Sunday in Advent	Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:30am St Mary's Mass 11:00am St Mary's	Parishioner's Intention Migrants and Refugees Parishioner's Intention
Mon 4 th Dec	Ferial	6:15pm St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 7:00pm	Father Oliver's intention
Tues 5 th Dec	Ferial	8:30am St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass 9:00am	Expectant Mothers
Weds 6 th Dec	Ferial	8:30am St Mary's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass 9:00am	Parishioners' Intention
Thurs 7 th Dec	Ferial	9:00am St Paul's Eucharistic Adoration; Mass at 9:30am	Parishioners' Intention
Friday 8 th Dec	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9:00am St Mary's School First Holy Communion Enrolment Mass	Pupils and Teachers
Saty 9 th Dec	Ferial	9:45am Holy Rosary 10:00am Mass St Mary's	Sick and Housebound
Sunday 10 th Dec	2 nd Sunday in Advent	Vigil Mass Sat 6:00pm St Paul's Mass 9:30am St Mary's Mass 11:00am St Mary's	Parishioners' Intention Parishioners' Intention Parishioners' Intention

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 9am to 9:50am St Mary's; 5pm to 5:50pm St Paul's; Sunday 8:30am to 9:20am and by appointment.

Sacraments and other liturgies: Please speak to the Priest following the weekend masses.

Date	Event	Location
Wed 6th Dec 7pm	RCIA Teaching	St Mary's Meeting Room
Date	Christmas Services	Location
Thurs 14 th Dec 7pm	Advent Day of Reconciliation Service	St Paul's Church
Sun 17 th Dec 3pm	Christmas Carol Service	St Mary's Church
Sat 23 rd / Sun 24 th Dec	4 th Sunday Advent – Normal Mass times	St Paul's & St Mary's
Sun 24 th Dec 5pm	Nativity of the Lord - Vigil Mass	St Mary's Church
Sun 24 th Dec 6:30pm	Nativity of the Lord - Vigil Mass	St Paul's Church
Mon 25 th Dec 9:30am	Nativity of the Lord – Dawn Mass	St Mary's Church
Mon 25 th Dec 11:00am	Nativity of the Lord – Mass during the day	St Mary's Church

RECENT BAPTISMS: Roman Patrick Everitt was welcomed into the family of God last weekend. Please pray for him and his family.

MARK 13:33-37 We need help in keeping ourselves prepared as good stewards, since there is no way of knowing when our master will return. Even Jesus did not know exact dates – only that at the right time God would bring everything to completion. And he warns us all to stay awake, as if the end is imminent. That way we shall not be caught unawares at the most important moment. Sometimes a deepening of fervour is followed by the temptation to relax and be spiritually lazy; Jesus is concerned that we do not get lulled into a sense of false security, for we are often weak and cannot afford to allow our relationship with Christ to lapse. Since he loves us though, he will help us unceasingly.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that, institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

YEAR OF MARK: Advent is the start of the liturgical year, and on Sundays in Year B we hear from the gospel according to Mark. The Gospel of Mark is the second of the four canonical gospels and one of the three synoptic gospels.

SEASON OF ADVENT: Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered; and likewise, when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period for devout and expectant delight.

BIBLE SUNDAY: Next Sunday will be Bible Sunday. We are encouraged to bring our Bible for blessing next Sunday. "When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel". (GIRM The General Instruction of the Roman Missal)

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: The doctrine of the immaculate conception teaches that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was conceived without original sin. This means that she was free from the stain of sin that affects all human beings as a result of the disobedience of Adam and Eve. Her conception was therefore immaculate. Her immaculate conception is the reason why, as Catholics, we refer to Mary as 'full of grace'.

CARITAS AT CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2023 "Without the support, I simply wouldn't still be here." There will be a collection here on the 1st Sunday in Advent, 2nd/3rd December 2023. 100% of your donations will go to those in the most vulnerable situations within the diocese ensuring they receive crisis food vouchers and practical support as quickly as possible when it is most needed. You can also donate online at: www.caritasshrewsbury.org.uk.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS: Please note the Christmas Service times on the front the newsletter. We will have coffee and mince pies after the Carol Service – volunteers to prepare and serve are very welcome.

CHRISTMAS PIETY STALL SALE: The half price Christmas sale continues at the St Mary's Piety Stall. There is also new Christmas stock at full price. If you can help with the Piety Stall, please let Mary McDonough know. We need help to choose the stock and prepare it for sale when it arrives.

NEW WEBSITE: Our new Website is now up and running! You can use this link, Parish of St Mary and St Paul or type the URL <https://stmaryandstpaul.org> into your browser. Let us know what you think. And thanks very much to Gareth who has been very patient in getting this set up.

LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY: £485.17 including donations through the portal. Building Fund will be reported next Sunday. Thank you for your generosity.

SECOND COLLECTION: Caritas at Christmas, Christmas Appeal



Scan the QR code to access the Online giving page for St Mary and St Paul, Dukinfield and Hyde

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Please consider remembering the parish in your will.
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