



# PARISH OF ST GEORGE

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## SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent, Year C

### **GOSPEL** Luke 3:1–6

John the Baptist, in today's Gospel, challenges the Jews to prepare their lives for receiving their long-awaited Messiah. They are to prepare a highway in their hearts for their Messiah by levelling the mountains of pride and the valleys of impurity, injustice and neglect and straightening their crooked ways. They are to get ready by repenting of their sins, renewing their lives, and expressing their repentance by receiving the baptism of repentance in River Jordan and changing their lives.

Life message: We need to prepare our hearts and lives for Jesus our Saviour to be reborn in us during this Christmas time. We have to fill in the "valleys" of our souls, formed from our shallow prayer life. We have to straighten whatever crooked paths we've been walking, like involvement in some secret or habitual sins or in a sinful relationship. If we have been involved in some dishonest practices at work or at home, we are called to straighten them out and make restitution. If we have been harbouring grudges or hatred, or failing to be reconciled with others, now is the time to clear away all the debris. As individuals, we might have to overcome deep-seated resentment, persistent fault-finding, unwillingness to forgive, dishonesty in our dealings with others, or a bullying attitude. And we all have to level the "mountains" of our pride and egocentrism by practicing the true humility of rendering humble service to others

Finally, John's message calls us to confess our sins. We need to turn away from them in sincere repentance and receive God's forgiveness. A very important question for all of us to answer is: When was my last sacramental confession and when am I preparing to go to confession this advent?

### **Readers**

Sat 6:30	Sun 09:30	Sun 11:00
Roland Young	Guy Churton	Liz Greaves

If you wish to join the Reader's Rota, please complete the form in the porch.

**Confessions** on request either in the Church or the presbytery at any time you prefer.

**Mass Intentions** If you would like to have a Mass said for any intention whatsoever then please do pass them into the sacristy through the collection plate or post them into the presbytery.

**A Request for help** Help will be welcomed in preparing the church for Christmas, for example, cleaning, Flora decorations, and realigning the pews and general tidying up. A date has not yet been finalised. If you are able to help, please contact Rose Rich —07713184533 or Yvonne Shrimplin —07729937003.

**Pope Francis' prayer intention for December**. We pray with Pope Francis that catechists, who are called to proclaim God's Word, may be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be its courageous and creative witnesses. <https://youtu.be/aJpxgGQywX8>

**Christmas services and Carol is on 12th December at St Alkmund's Church 6:30pm.**

Sat 04 Dec	06:30 PM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	Tony Jones
Sun 05 Dec	09:30 AM		Bishop Neary
		11:00 AM	Bishop Dempsey
Mon 06 Dec	10:00 AM	Monday in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent	Bishop Fleming
Tue 07 Dec	10:00 AM	<a href="#">Saint Nicholas, bishop</a>	Bishop Doran
		<a href="#">Saint Ambrose, bishop and doctor of the Church</a>	
Wed 08 Dec	10:00AM	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	In Honour of BVM
Thu 09 Dec	10:00 AM	Thursday in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent	Sanctification of Priests
		<a href="#">Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin</a>	
Fri 10 Dec	10:00 AM	Friday in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent	Fr O'Hora
		<a href="#">Our Lady of Loreto</a>	
	06:00 PM	Holy Hour	
Sat 11 Dec	06:30 PM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent	Jack Kennedy RIP
Sun 12 Dec	09:30 AM		Parishioners
		11:00 AM	Parishioners

**Weekly Collection** We wish to thank you all for your ongoing generosity in the upkeep of the parish.

Sunday	28 November	-	£227.15
Weekly Standing Orders		-	£103.50

It would help greatly with paying in and processing at the bank if any cheques to the church are made payable to: "**St George Whitchurch**" which is the correct name for the parish account.

**Announcement:** CARITAS at Christmas Appeal 2021, there will be a collection today.

**Churches Together Christmas Cards** Churches Together in Whitchurch have again produced a card for local residents which includes the times of services over the Christmas period. Parishioners from each of the churches are allocated certain streets in the town for delivering the cards. The streets for St George's are: Badger Close, Station Road, Richmond Terrace, Elm Close, Brook Road (including Brookside Cottages and Bridgewater Bungalows), Anchor Close, Claypit Street and Terrace, Chestnut Close and Alport Road. If you are able to help please sign the list at the back of church and take the appropriate bundle of cards from the box. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

**Foodbank** The Foodbank is currently preparing to support a number of local families at Christmas. Any contributions of Christmas food items such as selection boxes, Christmas puddings, chocolate logs, mince pies etc would be greatly appreciated. Please leave them in the basket in the porch.

**North Shropshire By-Election** Pre-election hustings organised by Churches Together in Whitchurch will take place on Tuesday 7th December at 7pm in St John's Methodist Church, St John's Street, Whitchurch, SY13 1EP. This is an open public meeting which last no more than 90 minutes. The candidates who attend will have 5 minutes to outline their priorities and then the meeting will be open to questions.

**Covid 19 Test Kits** the Local Health Authority has asked us to continue distributing Lateral Flow Covid test kits through our parish community. You can find these at the back of church. Please help yourselves.

**Our parish safeguarding representative is Helen Clarke.**