

ST. LUKE'S PARISH

Diocese of Shrewsbury

FRODSHAM

PASTORAL AREA OF
RUNCORN&FRODSHAM

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

1st December 2013



CONFESSIONS. Saturday before Mass 5.00-5.40pm
PRAY with the Church FOR THE SICK and for those in pain or in sorrow, or those in trouble in news of the week.

IN MEMORIAM members of family and St Luke's Parish, and the forgotten souls in prayer.

COLLECTION last week £630 Many thanks to you all. The Retiring Collection for the Philippines Appeal has now reached £1500, which we have sent to Cafod. Thank you all for your response.

NEXT WEEK RETIRING COLLECTION FOR CHURCH FLOWERS. For sale also Christmas Flower arrangements for the table or as a memorial. All proceeds go towards church flowers.

WOOD CARVINGS from Bethlehem sale in the Hall downstairs after Masses 7th/8th December. Bethlehem gets very isolated and in special need of support.

200 CLUB forms for the New Year are available for completion. New members especially welcome.

DIOCESAN CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES are now due to be emptied. If you could bring them in to the sacristy it would be a great help.

ST. LUKE'S SENIOR'S CHRISTMAS PARTY will take place 2pm Sat. 7th December in the Social Centre. As usual help with catering and transport will be greatly appreciated. See the lists in the porch.

BLUE BOOKS FOR ADVENT-new every year-ready in the bookrack. Turn our attention to Advent before Christmas.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY COURSE using the well-established 'York Course'. Continuing on Fridays 10.30am. 6th, 13th, 20th Dec. Members of all churches are welcome at the home of Fr Colin and Aelison in 1 Elm Rise, Frodsham. Tel 731235.

FRODSHAM&DISTRICT CHORAL with Vale Royal Schools Band 'Christmas Fanfare' Sat 21st Dec. 7.30pm at Frodsham Community centre. Tickets £10, (£5 for under 16s) contact 733247, or Frodsham Frames.

YEAR A

VISIT THE PARISH WEBSITE stlukesparish.org.uk
Also SCHOOL WEBSITE stlukesfrodsham.org.uk
PATORAL AREA WEBSITE doslpa12.co.uk

Parish Priest. Mgr. Peter O'Neill.
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Sat	30 November	6.00pm	Reg Shaw
Sun	01 December	9.00am	Eileen Kelly
		11.00am	Int. Philip Mulholland
Mon	02 December	9.30am	Mary & John O'Neill
Tues	03 December	6.15pm	Gina & Walter Tomenson.
Wed	04 December	9.30am	Henry O'Connor
Thu	05 December	9.30am	Mike Ayland
Fri	06 December	9.30am	Dec Clergy
Sat	07 December	6.00pm	Christine Mary Oakes
Sun	08 December	9.00am	Margaret Smithers
		11.00am	St. Luke's Parish

ADVENT POUSADA JOURNEY- there are still a few gaps on the Advent road for the statue of Our Lady going from house to house. You might find a day on the list when your house could welcome the mother of Our Lord.

ADVENT RECOLLECTION DAY at St Luke's Sat. 14th Dec. 10 am until 3pm

Advent Reconciliation Service for our LPA Thursday 12th December 7p.m. This year at St Luke's.

Friday 13th December Film night at St. Edwards-at 7p.m The film being shown is Sensora.

Carol Service To be held at St Luke's on Wednesday 18th December at 6.30p.m. Followed by Drinks and Mince Pies.

Posters for Advent-these will be distributed shortly please try and place them in your windows at home.

Advent Windows-why not decorate your windows with an Advent message. To help with this Paul Waller will be doing a presentation on Advent windows at 7p.m on Wednesday 27th November at St Edwards Runcorn.

Prayers for Advent -can you write a prayer for Advent which can be used by others. We are being asked to especially think about Grace before meals. Please place any prayers you write in the box on the table in the Church porch. They will be copied, and distributed.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE. LORD GOD, you sent your Son into the world, as a light that shines in the darkness. Invest this wreath, our Advent symbol with the power of your energy and light. With each of these candles that is lighted, may we rekindle within ourselves the desire to prepare a way for the birth of Christ. We pray that the richness of God's blessing rest upon this Advent wreath, upon our homes, and upon each of us, as we light this candle in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

OUR FAITH ON SUNDAY

Liturgy

1st Sunday of Advent (A)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Ps 24:1-3

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of God's kingdom.

PSALM: Ps 121:1-2.4-5.6-9. R.cf.v1

R) I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'

I rejoiced when I heard them say:
'Let us go to God's house.'
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. **(R)**

It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel's law it is,
there to praise the Lord's name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. **(R)**

For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
'Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!' **(R)**

For love of my brethren and friends
I say: 'Peace upon you!'
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good. **(R)**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

Our salvation is near

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Ps 84:8
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:37-44

Stay awake so that you may be ready.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Ps 84:13

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our
earth shall yield its increase.

GOSPEL REFLECTION



In today's passage of the Gospels Jesus is warning us that when we experience wars, earthquakes and other disasters we may think that the end of the world is near, but, as he says elsewhere, *"the end will not be yet"*. Jesus warns us to *"stay awake, because we do not know the day"*. But is it the day of our death he means or the end of time? There seems to be a double meaning here, because there is indeed for each one of us, both these 'comings'. Some of us – most of us? – will experience death before we experience the final coming of Our Lord and we don't in fact, most of us, know when the *"burglar"* is coming! Our Lord's warning is to the point when he says *"stand ready"*; for, far more than the householder, we possess a *"house"*: our soul which as baptized and graced is the home of the

Most Holy Trinity and so a treasure house! It is a treasure won for us by Our Lord himself and not obtainable any other way; treasure to be guarded and protected by all the means provided by the Giver: the Mass, the sacraments, prayer. Since the *"burglar"* is God, he asks, not to break in, but to have the door willingly opened to him!

Celebrating the Christian Mystery

A new series drawing on themes from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (ccc).

The Eucharist makes the Church. Those who receive the Eucharist are united more closely to Christ. Through it Christ unites them to all the faithful in one body - the Church. Communion renews, strengthens, and deepens this incorporation into the Church, already achieved by Baptism. In Baptism we have been called to form but one body. The Eucharist fulfills this call: "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."

CCC 1396

Monsignor Bruce Harbert – Thoughts on today's Mass

At the beginning of Advent, the Church's heartbeat quickens. She breaks into a run, to meet Christ as soon as she can. Saint Paul spoke of Christian life as a race in which we should all run as though we have a chance of winning first prize. The liturgy picks up this theme today, praying that we may have the resolve to run forth to meet . . . Christ . . . with righteous deeds. Our reward will be to be gathered at his right hand and to possess the heavenly kingdom (Collect). In the Prayer over the Offerings we pray that our celebration of Advent may gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. The Prayer after Communion moves at a slower pace as we walk amid passing things, but still keeps our eyes fixed on the things of heaven.

