

# ST. LUKE'S PARISH

Diocese of Shrewsbury

FRODSHAM

PASTORAL AREA OF  
RUNCORN & FRODSHAM

Second Sunday of Advent  
8th December 2013

YEAR A

Parish Priest, Mgr. Peter O'Neill,  
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VISIT THE PARISH WEBSITE [stlukesparish.org.uk](http://stlukesparish.org.uk)  
Also SCHOOL WEBSITE [stlukesfrodsham.org.uk](http://stlukesfrodsham.org.uk)  
PASTORAL AREA WEBSITE [dosipa12.co.uk](http://dosipa12.co.uk)

Sat	07 December	6.00pm	Christine Mary Oakes
Sun	08 December	9.00am	Margaret Smithers
		11.00am	St. Luke's Parish
Mon	09 December	9.30am	Pauline Bailey
Tues	10 December	6.15pm	Fr Pat O'Brien
Wed	11 December	9.30am	Alf & Betty Kinsey
Thu	12 December	9.30am	Marie Lyons
Fri	13 December	9.30am	P.I.
Sat	14 December	6.00pm	Special Int.
Sun	15 December	9.00am	St Luke's Parish
		11.00am	Margaret Reynolds

**CONFESSIONS.** Saturday before Mass 5.00-5.40pm

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

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** Let us pray for deceased family friends and all who are in our Mass intentions this week. In particular for Fr Pat O'Brien, who died suddenly this week, aged 63, as Parish Priest of Holy Family, Pensby. Since ordination in 1976, he had served in Hazel Grove, New Brighton, Hyde Chester, and Stalybridge. May he rest in peace.

**COLLECTION** last week £605. Many thanks to you all.

**THIS WEEKEND 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.

**UCM MEETING** Monday 16th Dec. Parish Centre 7.30pm. Members are reminded that subscriptions are due

**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.

**RED BOX HOLDERS** your Missio Calendars 2014 are on the table in the porch.

**ST. LUKE'S SENIOR'S CHRISTMAS PARTY** Sat. 7th December. THANKS TO ALL who organized the event or helped with catering and transport. It was greatly appreciated.

**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.

**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.

**DIOCESAN YEAR BOOK on sale in the bookrack**

**MASS OF THANKSGIVING with Mrs. Maureen Coleman after nearly 20 years as St. Luke's Headteacher, on her retirement at Christmas this year. Tues 17th Dec 2013 6pm.**

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

**CAROL SERVICE** in St Luke's Wed 18th Dec. 6.30pm. Mince Pies and mulled wine to follow in the Parish centre. Please sign the list in the porch if you wish to donate any refreshments. Proceeds in aid of the Philippine Appeal. **REHEARSAL** for singers and musicians immediately after 11am Mass Sunday 15th Dec. Please sign up on the list in the porch.

**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

### 2nd Sunday of Advent (A)

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Cf. Is 30:19,30

**O people of Sion, behold,  
the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his  
voice heard  
in the joy of your heart.**

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 11:1-10  
*He judges the wretched with integrity.*

**PSALM:** Ps 71:1-2,7-8,12-13,17. R.c.f.v.7  
**R) In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.**

O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement. **(R)**

In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R)**

For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.  
He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor. **(R)**

May his name be blessed for ever  
and endure like the sun.  
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,  
all nations bless his name. **(R)**

**SECOND READING:** Romans 15:4-9  
*Christ is the saviour of all men*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**  
**Alleluia, alleluia!** Lk 3:4,6  
**Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight,  
and all mankind shall see the salvation  
of God.  
Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 3:1-12  
*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at  
hand.*

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON:** Bar 5:5,4:36  
**Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,  
and behold the joy which comes to you  
from God.**



## GOSPEL REFLECTION



We may be surprised by the vigour with which St John the Baptist speaks against the Pharisees and Sadducees. After all, they were coming to him for baptism, along with the rest of the Jews. But St John, greater than the other prophets, is enlightened by God so that he can understand their real motives. They are moved perhaps by curiosity alone; or perhaps by a fear that their influence over the other Jews may begin to wane, if they allow themselves to be upstaged by a new popular preacher. But they are not penitent. Unlike the others who come to St John, they do not confess their sins to him. They want to be part of the excitement outwardly but, despite the near approach of God's Son, they don't want to change their lives.

Are we in any danger of imitating the Pharisees and Sadducees? We could be, if we prepare for Christmas only outwardly. If we only think of presents and parties and decorations, then we would be joining in the excitement but missing the meaning. Advent is a time for conversion. 'The axe is laid to the root of the tree,' says St John. Is there any frequent sin in our life, any grudge against a neighbour, any refusal of God's commands? If there is, it's time to get out the axe and wield it by a good confession. Then we can welcome God's Son in joy.

### Celebrating the Christian Mystery

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

If you are the body and members of Christ, then it is your sacrament that is placed on the table of the Lord; it is your sacrament that you receive. To that which you are, you respond "Amen" ("yes, it is true!") and by responding to it, you assent to it. For you hear the words, "the Body of Christ" and respond "Amen." Be then a member of the Body of Christ that your Amen may be true. CCC 1396

### Monsignor Bruce Harbert – Thoughts on today's Mass

Today's liturgy continues last week's theme of Christian life as a race towards heaven which speeds up in Advent. Do not think of heaven as 'up in the clouds' - think of heaven as your meeting with God. God's priorities are not ours. Saint John the Baptist's challenging words in today's Gospel underline this truth: Prepare the way of the Lord. At this time of year, many of us are preoccupied with preparing for Christmas, but the Collect teaches us to pray that no earthly undertaking may distract us from learning heavenly wisdom, which will gain us admittance to Christ's company. This does not mean that we should shun our daily tasks, but that we should judge wisely the things of earth so as to hold firm to the things of heaven.