

ST. LUKE'S PARISH

Diocese of Shrewsbury

FRODSHAM

PASTORAL AREA OF
RUNCORN&FRODSHAM

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT.

Gaudete Sunday. 15th December 2013



CONFESSIONS. Saturday before Mass 5.00-5.40pm

PRAY with the Church FOR THE SICK in particular for Christine Wells who has asked for your prayers. 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 thoughts in these days. All those who have been good to us in life and are still praying for us now.

COLLECTION last week £713 .Many thanks to you all.

RETIRING COLLECTION FOR CHURCH FLOWERS came to £451. Plus the Christmas Flower arrangements. Thank you for your support. Volunteers are needed to join the group- no need to be expert. We learn from each other. Please speak to Geraldine Pile, Kathy Wood or Sue Smith-or any member of the group known to you. You will be most welcome.

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.

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.

DIOCESAN YEAR BOOK on sale in the bookrack

CHRISTMAS MASSES at St.Luke's.
6pm&8pm Christmas Eve. 9am&11am Christmas Day

Parish Priest. Mgr. Peter O'Neill.
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VISIT THE PARISH WEBSITE stlukesparish.org.uk
Also SCHOOL WEBSITE stlukesfrodsham.org.uk
PATORAL AREA WEBSITE doslpa12.co.uk

Sat	14 December	6.00pm	Special Int.
Sun	15 December	9.00am	St Luke's Parish
		11.00am	Margaret Reynolds
Mon	16 December	9.30am	Fr Pat O'Brien
Tues	17 December	6.00pm	Thanksgiving Mass
Wed	18 December	9.30am	Maureen Keeling
Thu	19 December	9.30am	Margaret Melia
Fri	20 December	9.30am	Joan Peers
Sat	21 December	6.00pm	Maureen Keeling
Sun	22 December	9.00am	St.Luke's Parish
		11.00am	Farmer&Pickerill Families

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.**

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.

EVENTS CALENDAR 2014. A reminder about the calendar on the Steering Group Bulletin Board. Please add a notice of any forthcoming event which wish to see advertised especially in the Newsletter Addendum. This is also important so that we can include items in the local press. It would help if you include contact details.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Monday 23rd December 10.00a.m-12noon. If you can spend half an hour in quiet prayer and reflection, please complete the form in the Church porch...or just come in for a few minutes to spend some quiet time with the Lord.



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 symbolwith the power of your energy and light.With each of these candles that is lighted,may we rekindle within ourselves the desireto prepare a way for the birth of Christ.We pray that the richness of God's blessingrest 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

3rd Sunday of Advent (A)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Phil 4:4-5

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-6.10

God himself is coming to save you.

PSALM: Ps 145:6-10. R.cf.Is 35:4

R) Come, Lord, and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R)**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R)**

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **(R)**

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10

Do not lose heart for the Lord's coming will be soon.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Cf. Is 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.



GOSPEL REFLECTION



"John (the Baptist) in his prison had heard what Christ was doing...." This is Christ 'the Anointed One', the Messiah, the One whom all Israel awaited; the One for whom John is the 'forerunner'. John's heart must have leapt, recognising in what he heard the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecies: *"the deaf that day will hear the words of a book the eyes of the blind will see."* So he sends his disciples to Jesus. Perhaps he realised that his work was near its end; that these disciples, like Andrew and John before them, should move on, recognising that their teacher's work was done. Jesus, responding to the disciples' question and to John's unspoken request, refers them to those Messianic prophecies of Isaiah: see! they are being fulfilled! I am indeed the

Christ, he is saying, the Messiah, the One promised; the One indeed for whom John was preparing you! When they have gone – back to John, not yet perhaps willing to desert him in his suffering, - Jesus speaks his marvellous praise of John; for John is the culmination and crown of all the prophets who through all the centuries of his peoples' history have prepared the way for Christ.

Celebrating the Christian Mystery

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

The Eucharist commits us to the poor. To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognize Christ in the poorest, his brethren: You have tasted the Blood of the Lord, yet you do not recognize your brother,...You dishonour this table when you do not judge worthy of sharing your food someone judged worthy to take part in this meal....God freed you from all your sins and invited you here, but you have not become more merciful.

CCC 1397

Monsignor Bruce Harbert – Thoughts on today's Mass

The prayers of the last two Sundays have spoken of Advent as a time of hurrying to meet Christ. This week we see the Advent season more as a time of waiting. The two are not incompatible – we must make sure that we are ready to meet our coming Lord, but it is for him to choose the moment of his coming, both to us as individuals and to the human race as a whole, and so we must wait. We await the Lord like children, constantly asking 'is he coming yet?'. Saint James compares us like farmers who do everything necessary to grow their crops, but cannot hurry the harvest. Our work is not yet finished, so in the Prayer after Communion, which occurs frequently in the Liturgy of Advent, we pray that the Sacrament may cleanse us of our faults and prepare us for the coming feasts.