

# PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Reg. Charity 242380

**Parish Priest: Fr Cenydd Marrison OSB: 01432 265177 or [olqm@talktalk.net](mailto:olqm@talktalk.net)**

**Emergency Number: 07785583013**

**Parish Website: [www.olqmhereford.org.uk](http://www.olqmhereford.org.uk)**

**Our Lady's Primary School: 01432 274814**

## First Sunday of Advent, Year A – 1 December 2013

**Entrance:** *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*

**Responsorial psalm:** *I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house'*

**Gospel:** *Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!*

**Communion:** *The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase*



“Today’s solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, the crowning of the liturgical year, also marks the conclusion of the Year of Faith opened by Pope Benedict XVI, to whom our thoughts now turn with affection and gratitude for this gift which he has given us. The Scripture readings proclaimed to us have as their common theme the centrality of Christ. Christ is at the centre, Christ is the centre. Christ is the centre of creation, Christ is the centre of his people and Christ is the centre of history. The apostle Paul, in the second reading, taken from the letter to the Colossians, offers us a profound vision of the centrality of Jesus. He presents Christ to us as the first-born of all creation: in him, through him and for him all things were created. He is the centre of all things, he is the beginning: Jesus Christ, the Lord. God has given him the fullness, the totality, so that in him all things might be reconciled. He is the Lord of creation; he is the Lord of reconciliation. This image enables us to see that Jesus is the centre of creation; and so the attitude demanded of us as true believers is that of recognizing and accepting in our lives the centrality of Jesus Christ, in our thoughts, in our words and in our works. And so our thoughts will be Christian thoughts, thoughts of Christ. Our works will be Christian works, works of Christ; and our words will be Christian words, words of Christ. But when this centre is lost, when it is replaced by something else, only harm can result for everything around us and for ourselves. Besides being the centre of creation and the centre of reconciliation, Christ is the centre of the people of God. Today, he is here in our midst. He is here right now in his word, and he will be here on the altar, alive and present amid us, his people. We see this in the first reading which describes the time when the tribes of Israel came to look for David and anointed him king of Israel before the Lord. In searching for an ideal king, the people were seeking God himself: a God who would be close to them, who would accompany them on their journey, who would be a brother to them. Christ, the descendant of King David, is really the “brother” around whom God’s people come together. It is he who cares for his people, for all of us, even at the price of his life. In him we are all one, one people, united with him and sharing a single journey, a single destiny. Only in him, in him as the centre, do we receive our identity as a people. Finally, Christ is the centre of the history of humanity and also the centre of the history of every individual. To him we can bring the joys and the hopes, the sorrows and troubles which are part of our lives. When Jesus is the centre, light shines even amid the darkest times of our lives; he gives us hope, as he does to the good thief in today’s Gospel. Whereas all the others treat Jesus with disdain – “If you are the Christ, the Messiah King, save yourself by coming down from the cross!” – the thief who went astray in his life but now repents, clings to the crucified Jesus and begs him: “Remember me, when you come into your kingdom”. Jesus promises him: “Today you will be with me in paradise”, in his kingdom. Jesus speaks only a word of forgiveness, not of condemnation; whenever anyone finds the courage to ask for this forgiveness, the Lord does not let such a petition go unheard.” (Taken from Pope Francis’ sermon)

## Dates for Your Diary

Please come along and enjoy tea and coffee in the parish room after the Sunday morning Masses

**The numbers drawn for week 31 were 31 25, 37, 32, 6, 30, 21, 48 & 27**

**One winner – Mr Joe Aiello**

**Prize money for week 32 is £40.00 and four numbers to be drawn**

Happy New Year: the Church begins a new liturgical year today. For those of you with missals we now begin the cycle of Year A for Sundays and Year 2 for weekdays

Walk with Me: A Journey of Prayer for Advent and Christmas 2013: copies of this pocket-size booklet of prayers and reflections are available now

Today's second collection: is for the parish

Rehearsals: after today's 9.30am Mass for the parish Nativity Play

Prayer Group meeting: at 7:00pm on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December in the Lady Chapel – everyone is welcome

Tuesday Devotions: Divine Mercy Chaplet before Mass, and the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary after Mass

All the gossip: the next meeting of the Herefordshire Catholic History Society will take place on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December in the Kemble Room at Belmont Abbey at 7.30 p.m., when we will hear Fr. Luke's paper on "English Benedictine Parishes"

Bible Study: on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7:00pm in the parish house

National Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life: on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. You can pray a rosary (or an extra one) and fast on bread and water, or offer whatever you can. For more information see [www.goodcounselnet.co.uk/Prayer-and-Fasting-Days.html](http://www.goodcounselnet.co.uk/Prayer-and-Fasting-Days.html)

Bible Sunday: the second Sunday of Advent – to quote from the diocesan year book, "*A plenary indulgence is granted on the usual conditions to those who, with due veneration, make a spiritual reading of Sacred Scripture for at least half an hour.*" So, if you've got one at home, dust off your Bible and get reading

Man's Winter, God's Spring: 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> December, a three day retreat at Belmont Abbey, led by Dom Brendan

Hereford Deanery Confirmation Course 2014: this is open to baptised Catholics in Yr 9 and above. If you wish to attend the course and to receive Confirmation next summer please speak to Fr Cenydd. There will be an introductory meeting for candidates and their parents on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm in the Parish Room. The first preparation session, which is for candidates from all the Hereford parishes, will on the weekend of Friday 10<sup>th</sup> (evening), Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January at Our Lady's Parish Hall. Further details of this first session and the dates and details of visits & other preparation sessions will be available on 11<sup>th</sup> December. The cost of the course for this year will be £30, which is to cover a few of the costs of the course. If any parent would have difficulty meeting this payment, please speak to Fr Cenydd

The Guild of St Stephen: the annual Guild Mass for the archdiocese will be celebrated at the parish of St Philip Evans, Llanedeyrn Drive, Cardiff, CF23 9UL, on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at midday. Light refreshments will be available afterwards. All altar servers are encouraged and welcome to take part

Advent Carol Service: at the Poor Clare Monastery on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December – Vespers at 3:00pm, Carol Service at 3:30pm. Refreshments will be served, and everyone is welcome

Our Lady's RC Primary School: wanted – relief caretaker from three weeks 19.12.13 to 03.01.14; an enhanced CRB will be necessary to meet safeguarding regulations. Please contact the school office on 01432 274814

Our Lady's RC Primary School: are you looking for a progressive Catholic School? We have some places available for junior children aged 8-10 years old. Contact the school office on 01432 274814 and come and have a look around. You will be most welcome. Mrs M Woolaway, Head Teacher

Typhoon Appeal: last Sunday a further £600.00 was received, bringing the total to a whopping £1,264.81

# First Week of Advent

## Psalter: Week I

Today:

9:30 am Josef & Jan Jakubowicz  
11:30 am David Thomas  
6:30 pm

Monday 2 December 9:30 am Mass – Deceased refugees  
*Advent weekday*

Tuesday 3 December 7:00 pm Mass – Human traffickers  
*St Francis Xavier, Priest*

Wednesday 4 December 9:30 am Mass – Filofof deceased  
*St John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church*

Thursday, 5 December 9:30 am Mass – David Thomas  
*Advent weekday*

Friday, 6 December 7:00 pm Mass – Glyn Matthews  
*St Nicholas, Bishop*

Saturday, 7 December 9:30 am Confessions  
*St Ambrose, Bishop* 10:30 am Mass – Letty Taylor

Sunday, 8 December (Second Sunday of Advent)

9:30 am Alice Jones intention  
11:30 am Special intention (CB)  
6:30 pm Celebrated by Fr Michael Evans

### Please pray for:

The sick, especially Ann Morris, Brian Morris, Alice Jones, Karen Royer, Sue Watkins, Julie Martin, Katie Balnaves, Shelaigh Fawcett, Dymphna and John O'Neil, Andrew Walker, Natalie Chadwick, Leo Hornby, Sylvia Jones, Sylvia Aiello, Chris Turville, Jason Houten, Eva Zakrzewska, Pat Franklyn, John O'Donahue, Sr Catherine Jackson OP, Joe Carroll, Dorothy Dzioba, Stan Morris, Glyn Matthews, Joan Sheeran, Janet McNamara, Sam Thomson, Ian O'Donahue, Dr Mike O'Kane, Simon Williams, Madeleine Went, Anna Foggo and all in our prayer book

The recently dead, especially Letty Taylor and Hilda Wood

Those whose anniversary falls in the month of December, including: Winifred Hawes, Mary Bagnall, Ellen Jennings, Margaret Coughlan, Matthew Joynt, Jamie McGoran, David Halley, Matthew Robson, Stuart Powell, Anthony Jones, Herbert Eastwood, Erica Eastwood, Mary Clinton, Florence Marsh, Ann Wilding, James Fleming, Kathleen Hatcher, Richard Price, Thomas Morgan, Ann-Marie Sully, Mary Edwards, Robert Stanness, Betty Westmoreland, Kathleen Chesterman, Louis Avenin, the Rignall Twins and James Jamfrey

At Sunday school, the younger children were drawing pictures illustrating Biblical stories. The teacher walked by and noticed one little boy was drawing an airplane! "Oh, what Bible story are you drawing?" she asked. "This is the Flight into Egypt," the little boy answered. "See, here is Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. And this," he said, pointing to the front of the plane, "is Pontius. He's the Pilot."

A little boy named Nicholas told the store's Santa Claus: "You and I have the same name." Santa says: "Well, hello Harold."

### Rota Schedule for 6 to 12 December 2013

**Flower Arrangers:** No flowers during Advent

**Cleaners:** Volunteers

**Ushers:** 9:30am A Rollings & Volunteer  
11:30am D Lissaman & D Schofield  
6:30pm C Milsom & M Netting

**Readers:**  
9:30am C Sharland  
11:30am J Meenaghan  
6:30pm Volunteer

### Eucharistic Ministers:

9:30am A Hepworth, T Bray, (C Sharland)  
11:30pm J McGowan, D Lissaman, J Meenaghan  
6:30pm J Winter, A Staton, C Milsom

**Altar Linen:** J Callingham

### Polish Information:

Następna Msza Św w języku polskim odbędzie się w niedzielę, 22 grudnia godz 16:00

### Finance:

The collection on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> November came **£451.69** - thank you



"Perhaps more people would give heed unto the word of the Lord if the Lord had a funny blog."