

PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Reg. Charity 242380

Parish Priest: Fr Cenydd Marrison: 01432 265177 or olqm@talktalk.net

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Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A – 22 December 2013

Entrance: *Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour*

Responsorial psalm: *Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory*

Gospel: *Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia!*

Communion: *Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel*



The Nativity Sermon of St. John Chrysostom

I behold a new and wondrous mystery! My ears resound to the shepherd's song, piping no soft melody, but loudly chanting a heavenly hymn! The angels sing! The archangels blend their voices in harmony! The cherubim resound their joyful praise! The Seraphim exalt His glory! All join to praise this holy feast, beholding the Godhead herein on earth and man in heaven. He who is above now, for our salvation, dwells here below; and we, who were lowly, are exalted by divine mercy! Today Bethlehem resembles heaven, hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices and, in place of the sun, witnessing the rising of the Sun of Justice! Ask not how this is accomplished, for where God wills, the order of nature is overturned. For He willed He had the powers He descended. He saved. All things move in obedience to God. Today He Who Is, is born! And He Who Is becomes what He was not! For when He was God, He became man-while not relinquishing the Godhead that is His. And so the kings have come, and they have seen the heavenly King that has come upon the earth, not bringing with Him angels, nor archangels, nor thrones, nor dominions, nor powers, nor principalities, but, treading a new and solitary path, He has come forth from a spotless womb. Yet He has not forsaken His angels, nor left them deprived of His care, nor because of His incarnation has He ceased being God. And behold kings have come, that they might serve the Leader of the Hosts of Heaven; Women, that they might adore Him Who was born of a woman so that He might change the pains of childbirth into joy; Virgins, to the Son of the Virgin. Infants, that they may adore Him who became a little child, so that out of the mouths of infants He might perfect praise; Children, to the Child who raised up martyrs through the rage of Herod; Men, to Him who became man that He might heal the miseries of His servants; Shepherds, to the Good Shepherd who was laid down His life for His sheep; Priests, to Him who has become a High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek; Servants, to Him who took upon Himself the form of a servant, that He might bless our stewardship with the reward of freedom; Fishermen, to the Fisher of humanity; Publicans, to Him who from among them named a chosen evangelist; Sinful women, to Him who exposed His feet to the tears of the repentant woman; And that I may embrace them all together, all sinners have come, that they may look upon the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! Since, therefore, all rejoice, I too desire to rejoice! I too wish to share the choral dance, to celebrate the festival! But I take my part, not plucking the harp nor with the music of the pipes nor holding a torch, but holding in my arms the cradle of Christ! For this is all my hope! This is my life! This is my salvation! This is my pipe, my harp! And bearing it I come, and having from its power received the gift of speech, I too, with the angels and shepherds, sing: "Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace to men of good will!"

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 34 were 35, 4, 7 & 49
No winner
Prize money for week 35 is £140.00 and five numbers to be drawn

Today's second collection: there isn't one

Extra chance for confession: Monday evening at 7:00pm, here at Our Lady's

Preparing the church for Christmas: all willing helpers are very welcome to come along on the morning of Christmas Eve from 10am to help clean and decorate the parish church for the Christmas festivities; the more, the merrier! Refreshments will be provided

Tuesday Devotions: suspended this week, as Tuesday is Christmas Eve and we will be up to other devotional things, such as nativity plays

Timely reminder: if you were thinking of giving Father Roman a financial present this Christmas please put it in your Christmas card to him, or in an envelope marked with his name. This is because *everything on the collection plate on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day goes directly to Belmont Abbey*. Thank you

Poor Clare Monastery: will celebrate 'Midnight Mass' at 10:00pm on Christmas Eve – Mother Abbess would like you to note the change in time from previous years

St Stephen's Day: the parish Mass will be celebrated at 10:00am. Please remember our wonderful altar servers in prayer on this day, as it is their patronal feast day. They deserve both our support and admiration

Tote holiday break: tickets for week 35 will be on sale Sunday, 19th January 2014

Bingo: is taking a break and will resume on 21st January 2014

Thank you: to all involved in the raffle last Tuesday night, which raised **£205.00**

From Mrs Rosemary Pye: who is currently down in Tenby, sincere Christmas greetings to all parishioners and old friends – and apologies for forgetting to take her address book with her!

Christmas Mass times in Hereford

Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs:

Christmas Eve – 6:30pm, with nativity play; 9:00pm 'Midnight' Mass

Christmas Day – 10:00am

St Francis Xavier's:

Midnight Mass (preceded by Christmas Carols at 11.30pm)

Christmas Day – 10:00am

Belmont Abbey:

Midnight Mass at 12:00 am

Christmas Day: Parish sung Family Mass at 9:00 am; Pontifical High Mass at 11:00 am

NB: there is no evening Mass on Christmas Day anywhere in the Herefordshire deanery



Fourth Week of Advent

Psalter: Week IV

Today:

9:30 am Mavilazhikathu Family Intention
11:30 am Special Intention (JB CC)
6:30 pm

Monday 23 December 9:30 am Mass – Aida Tipping
Advent weekday

Tuesday 24 December 9:30 am Mass – Edward Dzierza
Christmas Eve 6:30 pm Mass – L & M Diggins
9:00 pm Mass – Pro Populo

Christmas Day 10:00 am Mass – Pawel Stojewski Int

Thursday, 26 December 10:00 am Mass – N & A Harris
St Stephen, Protomartyr

Friday, 27 December 7:00 pm Mass – Tom Burgoyne
St John, Apostle & Evangelist

Saturday, 28 December 9:30 am Confessions
Holy Innocents 10:30 am Mass – Maureen Green Int

Sunday, 29 December (Holy Family)

9:30 am John Farren
11:30 am Stojewski & Jones families
6:30 pm Celebrated by Fr Cenydd Marrison

Rota Schedule for 27 December 2013 to 2 January 2014

Flower Arrangers: As many as possible

Cleaners: Volunteers

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

Readers:
9:30am P Roberts
11:30am M Brown
6:30pm J Winter

Eucharistic Ministers:

9:30am H Fishlock, C Sharland, (P King)
11:30pm J Meenaghan, J McGowan, C Mulloy
6:30pm C Milsom, J Winter

Altar Linen: A Hepworth

Polish Information:

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

Finance:

The collection on Sunday, 15th December came to £519.50 – thank you

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, Catherine Rollings, Joe Davies and all in our prayer book

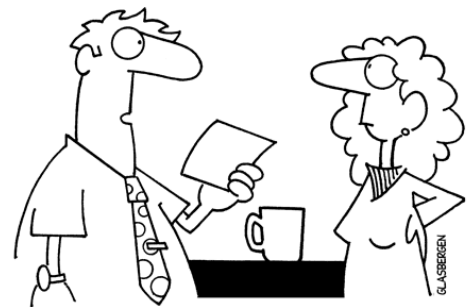
The recently dead, especially Letty Taylor, Hilda Wood, Doris Corrigan and Harry Grafen

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

"Mummy, mummy, can I have a rabbit for Christmas?"
"No dear, you'll have turkey like the rest of us."

What happens if you eat the Christmas decorations? You get tinsel-itus!

What beats his chest and swings from Christmas cake to Christmas cake?
Tarzipan!



**"Happy Holidays to all of our customers
except the ones who still owe us money.
Does that sound festive enough?"**