



PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Reg. Charity 242380

Priest in Charge: 01432 265177 or 01432 374718

Parish Website: www.olqmhereford.org.uk – **Parish email:** olqm@talktalk.net

Our Lady's Primary School: 01432 274814

Feast of the Holy Family, Year B – 28 December 2014

Entrance: *The shepherds went in haste and found Mary and Joseph and the infant lying in a manger*

Responsorial psalm: *O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!*

Gospel: *Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home in you. Alleluia!*

Communion: *Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us*

Jesus, the Son of God, the Saviour of the world, is born for us, born in Bethlehem of a Virgin, fulfilling the ancient prophecies. The Virgin's name is Mary, the wife of Joseph. Humble people, full of hope in the goodness of God, are those who welcome Jesus and recognize him. And so the Holy Spirit enlightened the shepherds of Bethlehem, who hastened to the grotto and adored the Child. Then the Spirit led the elderly and humble couple Simeon and Anna into the temple of Jerusalem, and they recognized in Jesus the Messiah. "My eyes have seen your salvation", Simeon exclaimed, "the salvation prepared by God in the sight of all peoples". Yes, Jesus is the salvation for every person and for every people! Today I ask him, the Saviour of the world, to look upon our brothers and sisters in Iraq and Syria, who for too long now have suffered the effects of ongoing conflict, and who, together with those belonging to other ethnic and religious groups, are suffering a brutal persecution. May Christmas bring them hope, as indeed also to the many displaced persons, exiles and refugees, children, adults and elderly, from this region and from the whole world. May indifference be changed into closeness and rejection into hospitality, so that all who now are suffering may receive the necessary humanitarian help to overcome the rigours of winter, return to their countries and live with dignity. May the Lord open hearts to trust, and may he bestow his peace upon the whole Middle East, beginning with the land blessed by his birth, thereby sustaining the efforts of those committed effectively to dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians. May Jesus, Saviour of the world, protect all who suffer in Ukraine, and grant that their beloved land may overcome tensions, conquer hatred and violence, and set out on a new journey of fraternity and reconciliation. May Christ the Saviour give peace to Nigeria, where [even in these hours] more blood is being shed and too many people are unjustly deprived of their possessions, held as hostages or killed. I invoke peace also on the other parts of the African continent, thinking especially of Libya, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, and various regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. I beseech all who have political responsibility to commit themselves through dialogue to overcoming differences and to building a lasting, fraternal coexistence. May Jesus save the vast numbers of children who are victims of violence, made objects of trade and trafficking, or forced to become soldiers; children, so many abused children. May he give comfort to the families of the children killed in Pakistan last week. May he be close to all who suffer from illness, especially the victims of the Ebola epidemic, above all in Liberia, in Sierra Leone and in Guinea. My thoughts turn to all those children today who are killed and ill-treated, be they infants killed in the womb, deprived of that generous love of their parents and then buried in the egoism of a culture that does not love life; be they children displaced due to war and persecution, abused and taken advantage of before our very eyes and our complicit silence. I think also of those infants massacred in bomb attacks, also those where the Son of God was born. Even today, their impotent silence cries out under the sword of so many Herods. On their blood stands the shadow of contemporary Herods. Dear brothers and sisters, may the Holy Spirit today enlighten our hearts, that we may recognize in the Infant Jesus, born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary, the salvation given by God to each one of us, to each man and woman and to all the peoples of the earth. May the power of Christ, which brings freedom and service, be felt in so many hearts afflicted by war, persecution and slavery. May this divine power, by its meekness, take away the hardness of heart of so many men and women immersed in worldliness and indifference, the globalization of indifference. May his redeeming strength transform arms into ploughshares, destruction into creativity, hatred into love and tenderness. Then we will be able to cry out with joy: "Our eyes have seen your salvation". With these thoughts I wish you all a Happy Christmas! (Pope Francis' *Urbi et Orbi* message, 2014)

Dates for Your Diary

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

The numbers drawn week 14 were 29, 39, 7, 19, 13 - no winner
Prize money for week 18 is £550.00, and six numbers to be drawn
Tote tickets will be back on sale on Sunday 11th January 2015 at all Masses

Second collection: will not be taken this week

Crib Competition: come and see the cribs created by parishioners and vote between 10:30 and 11:30 today

Tuesday devotions: Divine Mercy chaplet before Mass and the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary afterwards

New Year's Day: please note that Mass will be at 10:00 am on Thursday

Belmont Abbey Shop: will close after Masses on 21st December and reopen on Sunday 4th January

Mass intentions 2015 a book is now open should you wish to book a Mass intention for a specific date next year. This will be passed to the Abbot on Fr. Cenydd's departure

New Year Scoop: St. Mary's High School is offering a great opportunity to come and listen to two talks by renowned speaker Dr. Anthony Towey, Head of Theology at St. Mary's University College, London. He is a skilled and lively communicator. His presentations at the school in Lugwardine will be 09:30 - 10:40 'Why God? Why Jesus?', 11:05 - 12:30 'Why Church? Why Catholic Schools?' Come to either/both: Monday 5th January 2015 in the Main Hall. Not to be missed! Free admission

Important telephone numbers: with Fr. Cenydd's departure this coming Wednesday please note that there will be a few changes in telephone numbers. The parish number remains **01432 265177**, but the Abbot's number of **01432 374718** may be used if you have not had a response to a non-pressing matter within twenty four hours. The emergency number has yet to be decided, so try the Abbot's land line first, then either Fr. Nicholas or Fr. Michael, the priests of our neighbouring parishes. Fr. Andrew Berry's number is **01432 374724**. Abbot Paul will no doubt furnish further information in future newsletters

Contact details for Fr. Cenydd: at the request of several parishioners, here are the contact details of the parish at Whitehaven – St Begh's Priory, Coach Road, WHITEHAVEN, Cumbria, CA28 9TE. Telephone 01946 692342



Dear All, as I prepare to head into the winter wonderland of Cumbria on Wednesday, I thought a few words of farewell wouldn't go amiss. First of all, I would like to thank everyone for the education that you have provided me with over nearly nine years serving you as parish priest. I have learnt a lot pastorally from working with the adults and children who make up the parish of Our Lady's; there is no such thing as a 'standard' parishioner to whom you can give a 'standard' spiritual response. Also, that old proverb, *never judge a book by its cover* has become my mantra through working with you. Secondly, I wish to thank you for encouraging me to learn from my mistakes, and for seeing positives in situations where I would have been naturally inclined to see only negatives; that has been a great help.

I commend to you the gifts that you already have as a parish to help you through the transitional period until the arrival of Fr. Matthew in September; namely your deep sense of community. Look after each other. That's what St Paul says in his letters, and look how that turned out – small, isolated groups have grown into the Catholic Church as we know her today. Pray, share, laugh – together. Then do the same when Fr. Matthew turns up; parish priest or no parish priest, community *is* the life of the parish under God. So, look after yourselves and pray for me as I will pray for you. Our Lady and St Bega, pray for our parishes!

Octave of Christmas/Christmastide

Psalter week IV

Today:

9:30 am Helena Grabowska
11:30 am Stojewski Family int
6:30 pm

Monday 29 December 9:30 am Mass – John Young
St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

Tuesday 30 December 7:00 pm Mass – Sheila Harrison Int.
Christmas Octave

Wednesday, 31 December 9:30 am Mass – Thanksgiving
Christmas Octave

Thursday, 1 January 10:00am Mass – Lillian Orchard
Mary, Mother of God

Friday, 2 January 7:00 pm Mass – Anna Colman Int.
Ss Basil & Gregory, Bishops & Doctors of the Church

Saturday, 3 January 9:30 am Confessions
Most Holy Name of Jesus 10.30am Mass – J Doverman Int.

Sunday, 4 January (Epiphanytide)

9:30 am Leach family intention
11:30 am Mulloy family intention
6:30 pm *Fr Michael Evans*

Rota Schedule for 1 to 7 January 2015

Flower Arrangers: Christmas helpers

Cleaners: Volunteers

Ushers: 9:30am J Sullivan & M Went
11:30am J McGowan & J Kelly
6:30pm R & R Seamarks

Readers:
9:30am F Keogh
11:30am J Meenaghan
6:30pm G McAleer

Eucharistic Ministers:
9:30am H Fishlock, R Jones, D Lissaman
11:30pm F Davies, J McGowan, J Wagner
6:30pm C Milsom

Altar Linen: J Callingham

Polish Information:

Następna Msza Św w języku polskim odbędzie się w niedzielę, 28 grudnia godz 16:00

Finance:

The collection on Sunday, 21st December raised **£589.39** you

Please pray for:

The sick, especially Ann Morris, Brian Morris, Alice Jones, Sue Watkins, Shelaigh Fawcett, Dymphna and John O'Neil, Andrew Walker, Sylvia Jones, Sylvia Aiello, Chris Turville, Eva Zakrzewska, Pat Franklyn, Glyn Matthews, Anna Foggo, Catherine Rollings, Katie Richardson, Agnes McGowan, Anne Jenkins, Michael Morris, Phil Thompson, Chris Burns, Mark Kinsman and all in our prayer book

The recently dead, especially Helena Grabowska, Brian Marsh and David Jones

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, James Jamfrey and Henry Grafen

On New Year's Eve, Daniel was in no shape to drive, so he sensibly left his van in the car park and walked home. As he was wobbling along, he was stopped by a policeman. 'What are you doing out here at four o'clock in the morning?' asked the police officer. 'I'm on my way to a lecture,' answered Roger. 'And who on earth, in their right mind, is going to give a lecture at this time on New Year's Eve?' enquired the constable sarcastically. 'My wife,' slurred Daniel grimly.



When I thought about the evils of drinking, I resolved to give up thinking