



PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Reg. Charity 242380

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Second Sunday of Advent, Year B – 7 December 2014

Entrance: *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*

Responsorial psalm: *In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails*

Gospel: *Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!*

Communion: *Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God*

As a Bishop of the Church which presides in universal charity, I wish to express my gratitude to all those who in the course of these 50 years have been lavish in various ways at the service of the reconciliation and the communion among all believers in Christ, particularly to those who have worked in the Secretariat for Christian Unity and in the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. While we give thanks, we must recognize that among Christians, we are still divided, and that disagreement on new anthropological and ethical subjects make our journey toward unity more complicated. However, we must not surrender to discouragement and resignation, but continue to trust in God who plants in the hearts of Christians the seeds of love and of unity, in order to confront with renewed momentum today's ecumenical challenges: to cultivate spiritual ecumenism, to turn to advantage the ecumenism of blood, to walk together on the path of the Gospel. Spiritual ecumenism, which reaches a high point in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, lives and develops through countless channels, which truly only the Lord sees, but which we, too, often have the joy of knowing: it is a worldwide network of prayerful moments which, at parish and international levels, spread the oxygen of the authentic ecumenical spirit through the body of the Church; a network of acts, which see us united and working together in so many works of charity; and it is also a sharing of prayer, of meditation and other texts which circulate on the web and can contribute to raising awareness, respect and mutual esteem. With regard to the ecumenism of blood, *Unitatis Redintegratio* itself invited that we esteem it by acknowledging the God-given capacity of our brothers and sisters of other Churches and Christian communities to bear witness to Christ even to the supreme sacrifice. There has been no shortage of such witnesses in these 50 years and they continue even in our day. It is up to us to welcome them with faith and allow their strength to impel us to convert to an ever fuller brotherhood. Those who persecute Christ in his faithful make no differentiation between confessions: they persecute them simply because they are Christians. In these months, meeting so many non-Catholic Christians, or reading their letters, I have been able to see how, despite the open questions that still separate us, there is a strong and widespread desire to walk together, to pray, to know and love the Lord, to cooperate in service and in solidarity with the weak and the suffering. I am convinced of this: on a common path, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and learning from one another we can grow in the communion which already unites us. Dear brothers and sisters, 50 years after the promulgation of *Unitatis Redintegratio*, the pursuit of full Christian unity remains a priority for the Catholic Church, and thus it is daily one of my chief concerns. Unity first and foremost is a gift of God and the work of the Holy Spirit, but we are all called to cooperate, always and in every circumstance. I therefore thank you for all of your work and, in entrusting you to the maternal intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I ask you to please pray for me and for my ministry, and I bless you from my heart. *(Taken from a letter of Pope Francis, 20 November 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 12 were 9, 24, 32, 16 & 21
No winner
Prize money for week 13 is £500.00, and five numbers drawn

Christmas Party: if you haven't signed the list at the back of church, please do so today. The party is next Sunday from 3pm until 5pm. Everyone is very welcome, but we need to know numbers so that we get the correct number of mince pies and Father Christmas definitely needs to know how many children will be there!

Second collection: none this week

Nativity Play on Christmas Eve: we are practicing after the 9.30am Mass today

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

Your/Our CHRISTMAS FAIR: next Saturday 13th December, 1.30pm, in the Parish Hall. Please come along and support our Parish at this fund raising event, get some great value Christmas gifts, maybe win a prize, enjoy some delicious cakes, and meet friends. We would be very grateful for donations of Cakes, Gifts for Christmas, good quality Bric-a-brac, Books (especially Children's books), Toys & Games in good condition, Bottles, Tombola gifts, Christmas crafts/decorations, Raffle Prizes, new or good-as-new accessories, but no jumble please. These can be brought to the Church this week, or on Saturday morning. Thank you very much to all those who have volunteered so far to help

Advent Prayer and Carol Service: at the Poor Clare Monastery next Sunday from 3:00 pm. Refreshments to be served afterwards – everyone most welcome. See poster for full details

Our Lady's School: would like to invite all parishioners to our Carols around the Christmas tree on Friday 19th December 9.00am in the school hall

Churches Together in Hereford: invite you to join them carol singing in High Town, (under cover if raining), on Saturday December 20th from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Carols and readings and the St John's Methodist Church Brass Band

"Many hands make church beautiful" - we will be doing our usual decorating and cleaning of the church on Christmas Eve, (Wednesday 24th!!) from 10am - it is a sociable & fun way to start Christmas, and you get refreshments too! Thank you in anticipation

Crib Competition: If you are a creative person, then this is the competition for you. Make a crib from any material and bring it to the parish hall on Sunday 28th December by 10:15am. Everyone is welcome to view the entries and vote between 10:30 and 11:30. See the posters and flyers for more details. Prizes for all age categories - you are not too old to enter!

Diocesan Year Books: are now available for 2015. They can be found at the back of church, by the piety shop. While there, browse our Christmas cards and gifts of a holier nature than you can find in most shops

Belmont announces a change this Christmas: the Midnight Mass of past years will become the Vigil Mass this year, and will be celebrated at 10:30 pm. Please note the change

Kraków is preparing ... are you? Plans are underway as Kraków prepares to welcome over a million young people from around the World to celebrate World Youth Day 2016 with Pope Francis. The last World Youth Day (WYD) celebrations were held in 2013 in Rio and this was the moment when Pope Francis asked the world to meet in Poland. Dioceses throughout the world are already making arrangements to converge on Kraków and the Archdiocese of Cardiff intends to be there! Will you join us in Kraków? We sure hope so ... why not register your interest? Kraków is preparing ... Cardiff is preparing ... are you? Full information can be found on the diocese's WYD website - www.Cardiff2Krakow.org

Second Week of Advent

Psalter week II

Today:

9:30 am Rosaline Fitzgerald
11:30 am Intentions of Alice Jones
6:30 pm

Monday 8 December 9:30 am Mass – Thanksgiving (CB)
Immaculate Conception of the BVM

Tuesday 9 December 7:00 pm Mass – Monica Thompson
Advent weekday

Wednesday, 10 December 9:30 am Mass – Ouseph George
Advent weekday

Thursday, 11 December 9:30 am Mass –
Advent weekday

Friday, 12 December 7:00 pm Mass – Special Int. (A&EP)
Advent weekday

Saturday, 13 December 9:30 am Confessions
St Lucy, Virgin Martyr 10:30 am Mass –

Sunday, 14 December (Third Sunday of Advent, Year B)

9:30 am
11:30 am Helena Grabowska
6:30 pm *Fr Nicholas Wetz*

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 and all in our prayer book

The recently dead, especially Fr. Donal Gillespie, Fr. Laurence Beer OSB, Monica Thompson and Helena Grabowska

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

It was the day of the big pre-Christmas sale. Rumours of the sale of cheap booze, with some advertising in the local paper, were the main reason for the long line that formed by 8:30am, the store's opening time, in the store car park. A small man pushed his way to the front of the line, only to be pushed back, amid loud, colourful and bawdy curses. On the man's second attempt, he was punched square in the jaw, knocked around a bit, and then thrown to the end of the line again. As he got up the second time, he was heard to say, 'That does it! If they hit me one more time, I won't open the store!'

Peter aged 7. 'Angels don't eat much, but they drink a lot of milk from Holy Cows.'
Bert aged 25. 'My wife's an angel'. Don aged 57. 'You're lucky, mine's still alive'.

Rota Schedule for 12 to 18 December 2014

Flower Arrangers: No flowers in Advent

Cleaners: Volunteers

Ushers: 9:30am J Sullivan & E Pawlowicz

11:30am J McGowan & J Kelly

6:30pm Mr & Mrs Seamarks

Readers:

9:30am C Sharland

11:30am G Markham

6:30pm J Winter

Eucharistic Ministers:

9:30am F Keogh, C Sharland, T Bray

11:30pm K Davis, H Meenaghan, A Staton

6:30pm G McAleer

Altar Linen: M Lynch

Polish Information:

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

Finance:

The collection on Sunday, 30th November raised £582.92
thank you

