

# PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Reg. Charity 242380

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

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

## Second Sunday of Advent, Year A – 8 December 2013

**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 to 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*

Mary, on the day she received the announcement of the Angel, was in deep recollection and at the same time open to listening to God. In her there was no obstacle, no screen, nothing that separated her from God. This is the meaning of her being without original sin: her relation with God was free from even the slightest flaw; there is no separation, there is not a shadow of selfishness, but perfect harmony; her small human heart is perfectly “centred” in the great heart of God. There is something else, something even more important which Mary Immaculate tells us, and it is that the world’s salvation is not the work of human beings — of science, of technology, of an ideology — but it comes from Grace. What does this word mean? Grace means Love in its purity and beauty; it is God himself as he revealed himself in salvation history, recounted in the Bible and in its fulfilment in Jesus Christ. Mary is called “full of grace” and with her specific identity she reminds us of God’s primacy in our life and in the history of the world, she reminds us that the power of God’s love is stronger than evil, that it can fill the void that selfishness creates in the history of individuals, families, nations and the world. These forms of emptiness can become hells where human life is drawn downwards and towards nothingness, losing its meaning and its light. The world suggests filling this emptiness with false remedies — drugs are emblematic — that in reality only broaden the abyss. Only love can prevent this fall, but not just any kind of love: a love that contains the purity of Grace — of God who transforms and renews — and can thus fill the intoxicated lungs with fresh oxygen, clean air, new energy for life. Mary tells us that however low man may fall it is never too low for God, who descended even into hell; however far astray our heart may have gone, God is always “greater than our hearts”. The gentle breath of Grace can dispel the darkest cloud and can make life beautiful and rich in meaning even in the most inhuman situations. And from this derives the third thing that Mary Immaculate tells us. She speaks of joy; that authentic joy which spreads in hearts freed from sin. Sin brings with it a negative sadness that leads to withdrawal into self. Grace brings true joy that does not depend on possessions but is rooted in the innermost self, in the depths of the person, and nothing and no one can remove it. Christianity is essentially an “*evangelo*”, “*Good News*”, whereas some think of it as an obstacle to joy because they see it as a collection of prohibitions and rules. Christianity is actually the proclamation of the victory of Grace over sin, of life over death. And if it entails self-denial and discipline of the mind, of the heart and of behaviour, it is precisely because in the human being there is a poisonous root of selfishness which does evil to oneself and to others. It is thus necessary to learn to say “no” to the voice of selfishness and “yes” to that of genuine love. Mary’s joy is complete, for in her heart there is not a shadow of sin. In this Season of Advent Mary Immaculate teaches us to listen to the voice of God who speaks in silence. (From Pope Benedict XVI’s sermon, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2012)



## 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 32 were 27, 20, 8 & 35**  
**No winner**  
**Prize money for week 33 is £70.00 and four numbers to be drawn**

Bible Sunday: which is today – 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

Today’s second collection: is for the decorating work in the parish

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

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

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

Light Up a Life Service: to be held at Belmont Abbey on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7:00 pm. The Light up a Life Advent Service is an opportunity to remember and celebrate the life of a loved one, whilst supporting the work of Saint Michael’s Hospice. It represents a time to be comforted and to share hope with others. The events are open to all, not just those who have experienced hospice care or who have lost a loved one in the past year. Donations from the Light Up A Life 2013 appeal will help Saint Michael’s ensure local people get the end of life care they need, allowing more people to live their last days with choice, respect and dignity

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

As an act of witness: HOPE FOR HEREFORDSHIRE and Churches Together in Hereford will be singing carols in Hightown on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 6:30 pm, with a Christmas Lantern Parade

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

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

From a parishioner: I have been enjoying the short series on Purgatory you have been putting in the newsletter recently. Can I commend to everyone Cardinal Newman’s wonderful poem *“The Dream of Gerontius”*, which I have found to be an invaluable aid to my own understanding of this state of being. Copies are available from Amazon and from [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)

# Second Week of Advent

## Psalter: Week II

Today:

9:30 am Alice Jones intention  
11:30 am Special intention (CB)  
6:30 pm

Monday 9 December 9:30 am Mass – John Farren  
*Immaculate Conception of the BVM*

Tuesday 10 December 7:00 pm Mass – David Thomas  
*Advent weekday*

Wednesday 11 December 9:30 am Mass – Rosaline Fitzgerald  
*Advent weekday*

Thursday, 12 December 9:30 am Mass – David Thomas  
*Advent weekday*

Friday, 13 December 7:00 pm Mass – Holy Souls  
*St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr*

Saturday, 14 December 9:30 am Confessions  
*St John of the Cross, Priest* 10:30 am Mass – P & M Leach

Sunday, 15 December (Third Sunday of Advent)

9:30 am Andrew & Mary Sutton  
11:30 am Harry Forder  
6:30 pm Celebrated by Fr Cenydd Marrison

### 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, Hilda Wood and Doris Corrigan

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

While a man was out Christmas shopping, his wife was listening to the local radio station at home. She heard the announcer say, "be very careful and watch out if you're driving on the M5 today, as we have reports that there is a motorist driving the wrong way." The woman phoned her husband on his mobile to warn him, only to hear in reply, "One, you say? There are hundreds of them!"

Why did the police arrest the turkey? They suspected it of fowl play!

### Rota Schedule for 13 to 19 December 2013

**Flower Arrangers:** No flowers during Advent

**Cleaners:** Volunteers

**Ushers:** 9:30am P Roberts & C Sharland  
11:30am R Cotterell & volunteer  
6:30pm Volunteers

**Readers:**  
9:30am Volunteer  
11:30am H Meenaghan  
6:30pm V Woods

### Eucharistic Ministers:

9:30am P King, F Keogh, (R Jones)  
11:30pm J McGowan, M Davies, E Cotterell  
6:30pm J Winter, C Milsom

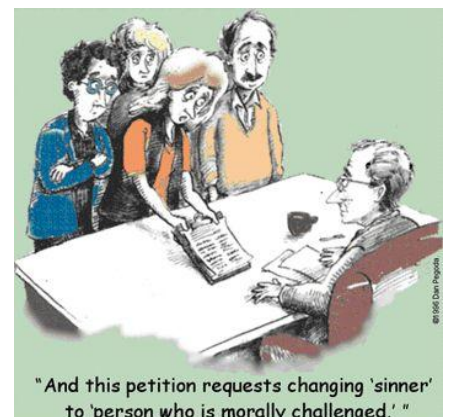
**Altar Linen:** J Callingham

### Polish Information:

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

### Finance:

The collection on Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December came to **£567.73**  
The amount raised by the Christmas Fayre was **£1,023.34**



"And this petition requests changing 'sinner' to 'person who is morally challenged.' "