



PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Reg. Charity 242380

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Rev. Dom Matthew Carney OSB.

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3rd Sunday of Advent – Year C – 13th December 2015.

Holy Year of Mercy – “Merciful, like the Father.”

Entrance Antiphon - “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! Indeed, the Lord is near.”

Responsorial psalm - “Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

Gospel Acclamation - “Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia.”

Communion Antiphon – “Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.”

FROM FR. MATTHEW.

Today, 3rd Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudate Sunday, meaning “Rejoice”. We rejoice today at the nearness of the great feast of Our Lord's birth, symbolised in the lighting of the pink candle on the advent wreath, and the wearing of pink vestments!! This afternoon we also have our parish Christmas party at 3.00pm in the parish hall.

We also rejoice with the beginning of the Year of Mercy last Tuesday and the opening of the Holy door in Rome; to help us with ideas for this year, attached to this bulletin is a pamphlet entitled “The works of Mercy.” Other booklets and pamphlets are available at the back of Church. Confessions, along with exposition, continue to be heard each Wednesday of advent from 6-7.00pm. Have a lovely advent week.

GOSPEL REFLECTION “WHAT DO WE DO?”

The people in today's Gospel are "filled with expectation." They believe John the Baptist might be the Messiah they've been waiting for. Three times we hear their question: "What then should we do?" The Messiah's coming requires every man and woman to choose - to "repent" or not. That's John's message and it will be Jesus' too (see [Luke 3:3](#); [5:32](#); [24:47](#)). "Repentance" translates a Greek word, metanoia (literally, "change of mind"). In the Scriptures, repentance is presented as a two-fold "turning" - away from sin (see [Ezekiel 3:19](#); [18:30](#)) and toward God (see [Sirach 17:20-21](#); [Hosea 6:1](#)). This "turning" is more than attitude adjustment. It means a radical life-change. It requires "good fruits as evidence of your repentance" (see [Luke 3:8](#)). That's why John tells the crowds, soldiers and tax collectors they must prove their faith through works of charity, honesty and social justice. In today's Liturgy, each of us is being called to stand in that crowd and hear the "good news" of John's call to repentance. We should examine our lives, ask from our hearts as they did: "What should we do?" Our repentance should spring, not from our fear of coming wrath (see [Luke 3:7-9](#)), but from a joyful sense of the nearness of our saving God. This theme resounds through today's readings: "Rejoice!...The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all," we hear in today's Epistle. In today's Responsorial, we hear again the call to be joyful, unafraid at the Lord's coming among us. In today's First Reading, we hear echoes of the angel's Annunciation to Mary. The prophet's words are very close to the angel's greeting (compare [Luke 1:28-31](#)). Mary is the Daughter Zion - the favoured one of God, told not to fear but to rejoice that the Lord is with her, "a mighty Saviour." She is the cause of our joy. For in her draws near the Messiah, as John had promised: "One mightier than I is coming." *Dr. Scott Hahn - St. Pauls Centre.*

Dates for Your Diary

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

TOTE Numbers for week 10 were 15 27 28 31 44 no winners.
Prize money for week 11 is £375.00, and 5 numbers to be drawn

Second Collection – Parish Decoration Fund.

Tuesday devotions: *Divine Mercy Chaplet and Novena before Mass and the glorious mysteries of the Rosary after mass.*

TONY McGREEVY RIP – The funeral service for Tony McGreevy who died last weekend is on Monday 21st December at 1.15pm.

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS NATIVITY – 6.30pm MASS CHRISTMAS EVE. The first mass of Xmas will be at 6.30pm on Christmas Eve, (other masses at 9.00pm on Xmas eve and 10.00am in the morning) and the children's liturgy group will be preparing for this mass through Advent. All children of any age are welcome to come and join us to play a part in the mass, they don't have to be regulars at the children's liturgy to get involved. Practices will be taking place after the 9.30mass today and 20th December.

1st HOLY COMMUNION COURSE – *Continues this Sunday, 13th December, with a session of preparation after the 9.30 mass.* Please keep the 31 children in your prayers

POOR CLARE CAROL SERVICE – TODAY SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER – 3.30pm. All welcome. Preceded by evening prayer at 3.00pm, refreshments to follow.

CHURCH READERS TRAINING. All parish readers are invited to attend one of the sessions being run by Fr. Matthew, the remaining session is this Tuesday 15th December at 6.00pm. The sessions will last about one hour, and be held in the chapel of Our lady in Church, and will involve some revision and directions on being readers in church.

"THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU." CONFESSIONS AND EXPOSITION – *Each Wednesday of Advent from 6.00pm in Church, continuing this Wednesday.*

SVP. Thanks to all those who attended the meeting last week, the date of the next meeting in January will be announced shortly.

PARISH WEBSITE – *The parish website now includes Fr. Matthews Sunday sermons and also, recordings of one of the Sunday masses which can be listened to.*

SCRIPTURE STUDY GROUP. This week the group meets on Wednesday at 7.00pm. We are making use of a resources called "The Wednesday Word." This provides reflections on the Sunday readings, it can be accessed at www.wednesdayword.org

PARISH PILGRIMAGE. *The dates for the pilgrimage will be from Friday 12th- Friday 19th August, flying from Manchester. Booking forms are available at the back of Church, could all those interested please take one; there is plenty of room for anyone else who is interested. Return forms to Fr. Matthew ASAP. The cost will be approx £660 staying in a 3 star hotel, full board and programme etc, single supplements extra. Led by Fr. Matthew. Organised by Tangey Tours. Looks like there will be approx 17/18 pilgrims.*

CHRISTMAS PARTY: TODAY - Sunday 13th December, 3 – 5pm,

CAROL SINGING IN HIGH TOWN – Organised by Churches Together in Hereford, with St. John's Church Brass Band, Saturday 19th December 11-12.noon.

DIOCESAN YEAR BOOKS – Available at the back of Church £3 each.

FR. MATTHEW AWAY – Fr. Matthew will be away after Xmas taking a break in North Wales and Anglesey, from 28th December till 7th January, Fr. Jonathan will be supplying in the parish.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Edith Young, 85 years young on Saturday 12th.

3rd Sunday of Advent – Year C Psalter III

Today: Sunday 13th December – 3rd Sunday of Advent.

9:30am Cathy Chesterman and Joseph Wood

11:30 am People of the Parish

3.00pm Parish Christmas Party.

6.30pm Edith Young and Family.

Monday 14th 9.30 am Mass – Sheila Harrison.

St. John of the Cross.

Tuesday 15th 7.00pm Mass (Rosary 7.30) – Catherine Armstrong

Wednesday 16th December 9.30 am Mass. – Tony McGreevy.

6.00 – 6.50pm Exposition and Confessions in Church.

7.00pm Scripture Study Group in presbytery.

Thursday, 17th 9.30 am Full School Mass — School int

Friday 18th 7.00pm Mass – Anna Schmidt

Saturday 19th – Memoria of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

10.00am Exposition, Confessions and Benediction.

11.00am Mass – Mark Smith

Sunday 20th Decemberr – 4th Sunday of Advent.

9:30am Mrs. O'Leary's intention.

11:30 am Andrew and Mary Sutton and Family.

6.30pm Mrs. O'Leary's intention

Rota Schedule for 13th – 20th December 2015

Flower Arrangers. None needed.

Cleaners: Volunteers for new rota please!

Ushers: 9:30am. A Rollings and P. King..

11:30am Mr and Mrs. Cotterell .

6:30pm. M. Netting and C. Milsom.

Readers: 9:30am. P. Roberts 11:00am. V. Thomas

6.30pm. R. Seamarks.

Eucharistic Ministers:

9.30am. Tim Bray, Celia Sharland & Helen Fishlock.

11.30am. Felicity Davies, Jim Meenaghan & Janucz
Wagner. 6.30pm. John McGowan.

Altar Linen: See Rota on Church notice board.

Counting. Denise, John and Celia

Polish Information:

Następna Msza Św w języku polskim odbędzie się w niedzielę, 27 grudnia o godz 16:00

Finance:

Sunday 6th December 1st Coll £283.87 1---G.A. £155.40

Please pray for the Sick, especially Lil Green, Bernard Mulloy, Albert Piotr, Ann Morris, Brian Morris, Alice Jones, Sue Watkins, Shelaigh Fawcett, Dymphna & John O'Neil, Andrew Walker, Sylvia Jones, Eva Zakrzewska, Pat Franklyn, Anna Foggo, Katie Richardson, Agnes McGowan, Michael Morris Rita O'Leary, Joshua Isada, Joan Berry, Petal O'Hea, Neil Hillyer, and all in our prayer book.

The recently dead – Tony McGreevy, Mark Evans, Pat Spence & Joseph Mayers, who died recently in a road traffic accident

Those whose anniversary falls in December - 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, Henry Grafen, Monica Thompson and Helena Grabowska

SCRIPTURE READINGS for 4th Sunday of Advent – Micah 5: 1-4, Hebrews 10: 5-10, Luke 1: 39-45.

CHURCH SHOP – Lots of Xmas cards and gifts are available in the Church shop.

ALPHA COURSE - Got questions about Life - Try Alpha at St. Francis Xavier's every Wednesday at 7pm.

All Welcome. Free. alpha@sfxhereford.org.uk

HELP NEEDED – More help is needed on many of the rotas for various ministries and parish works, in particular for writing the Sunday bidding prayers, church cleaning and counting the Sunday collection;

Christmas Decorations: Are you replacing any decorations this year? Do you have any spare baubles, tinsel etc that we can use to decorate the hall? Please leave in the narthex or call Lindsaye on 07832 694284 (But please, no more trees!)

Decorating & Cleaning the Church on Christmas Eve - Many hands make light work - everyone is welcome to come along after the morning Mass on Christmas Eve (from about 10am) to help prepare the Church for Christmas - we will find a job for all volunteers whatever their age! Refreshments will be provided. Thank you in anticipation.