



PARISH OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Reg. Charity 242380

Parish House : 01432 265177

Rev. Dom Matthew Carney OSB.

Parish Website: www.olqmhereford.org.uk

Parish email: olqm@talktalk.net

Our Lady's Primary School: 01432 274814

4th Sunday of Advent – Year C – 20th December 2015.

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

Entrance Antiphon - “Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and spring forth a Saviour.”

Responsorial psalm - “God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.”

Gospel Acclamation - “Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia.”

Communion Antiphon – “Behold a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.”

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES.

CHRISTMAS EVE

6.30 pm and 9.00pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00am.

FROM FR. MATTHEW.

The last opportunity to make an advent confession is this Wednesday from 6-7.00pm. We will be preparing the Church for Christmas this Thursday, Christmas Eve, from 10.00am. Christmas Mass times as above, please remember no evening mass on Christmas day. On Boxing Day the mass is at the earlier time of 10.00am, with no confessions or exposition. Have a wonderful holy Christmas.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

On this last Sunday before Christmas, the Church's Liturgy reveals the true identity of our Redeemer: He is, as today's First Reading says, the "ruler...whose origin is from...ancient times." He will come from Bethlehem, where David was born of Jesse the Ephrathite and anointed king. God promised that an heir of David would reign on his throne forever. Jesus is that heir, the One the prophets promised would restore the scattered tribes of Israel into a new kingdom. He is "the shepherd of Israel," sung of in today's Psalm. From His throne in heaven, He has "come to save us." Today's Epistle tells us that He is both the Son of David and the only "begotten" Son of God, come "in the flesh". He is also our "high priest," from the mold of the mysterious Melchisedek, "priest of God Most High," who blessed Abraham at the dawn of salvation history. All this is recognized by John when he leaps for joy in his mother's womb. Elizabeth, too, is filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. She recognizes that in Mary "the mother of my Lord" has come to her. We hear in her words another echo of the Psalm quoted in today's Epistle. Elizabeth blesses Mary for her faith that God's Word would be fulfilled in her. Mary marks the fulfillment not only of the angel's promise to her, but of all God's promises down through history. Mary is the one they await in today's First Reading - "she who is to give birth." She will give birth this week, at Christmas. And the fruit of her womb should bring us joy - she is the mother of our Lord.

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 11 were 40, 23, 37, 31, 11 & 33 no winners.
Prize money for week 12 is £400.00, and 6 numbers to be drawn

Second Collection – Parish Decoration Fund.

1ST Collection on Christmas day – Clergy offering, 2nd collection for the Parish Decoration Fund.

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

TONY MCGREEVY RIP – The funeral service for Tony McGreevy who died last weekend is this Monday 21st December at 1.15pm. Anna Gryzgbowska RIP Funeral service, Tuesday 10.30am.

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). The final rehearsal for the children taking part in the nativity at the 6.30pm mass is after the 9.30am mass today.

1st HOLY COMMUNION COURSE – Please keep the 31 children in your prayers, the next preparation session is Sunday 31st January after the 9.30am mass.

“THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU.” CONFESSIONS AND EXPOSITION – *Each Wednesday of Advent from 6.00pm in Church, continuing this Wednesday. Last opportunity for confession before Xmas.*

SVP. Thanks to all those who attended the meeting last week, the date of the first meeting of the reformed Parish SVP group will be on Friday 15th January at 7.00pm in Our Lady’s Chapel in Church.

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 are from Friday 12th- Friday 19th August, flying from Manchester. Booking forms are available at the back of Church, 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.*

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

CHRISTMAS GRAND DRAW. The winning tickets for the Christmas grand draw were drawn last Sunday, the list of prize winners has been posted on the church notice board.

READERS TRAINING – Thanks to all those readers who attended the recent training sessions, could those readers unable to attend could they collect from Fr. Matthew copies of the talk he gave.

CAFOD “Laudate Si” - Care for our Common Home. – A presentation exploring Pope Francis’ new encyclical. This will be a chance to look at some of the issues raised and how we can respond to climate change. Wednesday 20th January 2.00pm Our Lady’s Parish room.

READERS ROTA – A new readers rota will be arranged for the new year, please let Hilary know of any changes etc, new readers always welcome, a preparation course will be held in the new year.

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.

CELEBRATE THE EPIPHANY “Walking with Kings.” Sunday 3rd January Belmont Abbey, 3.00pm.

4th Sunday of Advent – Year C Psalter IV

Today: Sunday 20th December – 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

Monday 21st 9.30 am Mass – Catherine Armstrong

1.15pm Funeral Service for Tony McGreevy.

Tuesday 22nd 1.15pm Funeral Service Anna Gryzgbowska

7.00pm Mass (Rosary-7.30)

Peter, Mary, Alice Leach & Family.

Wednesday 23rd December 9.30 am Mass. –

Jan and Joseph Jakubowicz.

6.00 – 6.50pm Exposition and Confessions in Church.

7.00pm Scripture Study Group in presbytery.

Thursday 24th 9.30 am Mass Maureen Bellamy & Family.

6.30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas Day-

McGoldrick Fam

9.00pm "Midnight" Mass. – Pawel Stojewski

Friday 25th 10.00am Christmas morning Mass –

Bernard and Monica Carney

(no evening mass on Christmas Day.)

Saturday 26th – St. Stephen, Martyr.

10.00am Mass – Leach and Bellamy Fam Int's

(Please note the earlier mass time and no confessions or exposition today.)

Sunday 27th December – Feast of the Holy Family.

9:30am People of the Parish.

11:30 am Nancy and Alan Harris

6.30pm Rita O'Leary.

Rota Schedule for 20th – 27th December 2015

Flower Arrangers. Everyone on Xmas Eve in Church..

Cleaners: Christmas Eve volunteers.

Ushers: 9:30am. A. Rollings and P. King 11:30am Mr and Mrs. Cotterall 6:30pm. M. Netting and C. Milsom.

Readers: 9:30am. P. Roberts 11:00am. V. Thomas 6.30pm. R. Seamarks..

Eucharistic Ministers:

9.30am.T. Bray, C. Sharland H. Fishlock. 11.30am. F. Davies, J. Meenaghan & J. Wagner 6.30pm. J. McGowan

Altar Linen: See Rota on Church notice board.

Counting. Denise, John and Celia

Christmas Day Ministries.

6.30pm Welcomers - Readers - Children. Ministers-Fran Keogh, John McGowan & Simon Thompson

9.00pm Welcomers - Phil King, Jo Aiello Reader Michael Netting and Fran Keogh. Ministers – Jan Winter, Eileen Cotterall, Kathy Davis.

10.00am Welcomers – Mark Slane Readers – Hilary and Jim Meenaghan. Ministers – Celia Sharland, Martin Davies, Tim Bray.

Polish Information:

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

Finance:

Sunday 13th December 1st Coll £228.22 2nd Coll £ 169.10----
G.A. £122.90

Please pray for the Sick, especially Lil Green, Bernard Mulloy, Albert Piotr, Ann Morris, Brian Morris, Alice Jones, Sue Watkins, Sheila 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 – Anna Gryzgbowska, Tony McGreevy, Mark Evans, Pat Spence & Joseph Mayers, 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

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.

CRIB OFFERINGS – The crib offerings this year will be donated to the local "Life" group.