



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

2nd Sunday of Advent – Year C – 6th December 2015.

Entrance Antiphon - "O People of Zion, 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 - "What marvels the Lord worked for us, indeed we were glad."

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

Communion Antiphon – "Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God."

FROM FR. MATTHEW.

This Tuesday is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the beginning of the Year of Mercy. Special prayer cards are available in church today, there is one for every parishioner, please take one home with you. Today there is also a letter from Archbishop, copies are available at the back of Church and it is also available on the parish web-site, my sermons and recordings of some of the Sundays masses can be found there as well. Next Sunday, 13th December we have our Parish Xmas party from 3.00pm, if you are coming please sign up at the back of Church. Our confirmation candidates join us for the 9.30am mass today and then have a session of preparation. Advance notice that we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the building of the new church over the weekend of 26th/27th November next year, Archbishop George and Abbot Paul will be with us. Have a lovely week.

GOSPEL REFLECTION – "THE ROAD HOME."

Today's Psalm paints a dream-like scene - a road filled with liberated captives heading home to Zion (Jerusalem), mouths filled with laughter, tongues rejoicing. It's a glorious picture from Israel's past, a "new exodus," the deliverance from exile in Babylon. It's being recalled in a moment of obvious uncertainty and anxiety. But the psalmist isn't waxing nostalgic. Remembering "the Lord has done great things" in the past, he is making an act of faith and hope - that God will come to Israel in its present need, that He'll do even greater things in the future. This is what the Advent readings are all about: We recall God's saving deeds - in the history of Israel and in the coming of Jesus. Our remembrance is meant to stir our faith, to fill us with confidence that, as today's Epistle puts it, "the One who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it" until He comes again in glory. Each of us, the Liturgy teaches, is like Israel in her exile - led into captivity by our sinfulness, in need of restoration, conversion by the Word of the Holy One (see [Baruch 5:5](#)). The lessons of salvation history should teach us that, as God again and again delivered Israel, in His mercy He will free us from our attachments to sin, if we turn to Him in repentance. That's the message of John, introduced in today's Gospel as the last of the great prophets (compare [Jeremiah 1:1-4,11](#)). But John is greater than the prophets (see [Luke 7:27](#)). He's preparing the way, not only for a new redemption of Israel, but for the salvation of "all flesh" (see also [Acts 28:28](#)). John quotes Isaiah (40:3) to tell us he's come to build a road home for us, a way out of the wilderness of sin and alienation from God. It's a road we'll follow Jesus down, a journey we'll make, as today's First Reading puts it, "rejoicing that [we're] remembered by God."

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 9 were 14 18 26 32 35 no winners
Prize money for week 10 is £350.00, and 5 numbers to be drawn

Second Collection – No 2nd collection this week!

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

CHRISTMAS FAIR – Thanks to everyone who helped at and supported our fair last Saturday, we raised a record amount - £1036.81. Xmas Draw tickets still available, winners to be drawn at the Xmas party next weekend.

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS NATIVITY – 6.30pm MASS CHRISTMAS EVE. The first mass of Xmas will be at 6.30pm on Christmas Eve, 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 on 13th and 20th December, those involved need to come to at least 2 of these rehearsals.

1st HOLY COMMUNION COURSE – *Continues next 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 – SUNDAY 13th DECEMBER – 3.30pm. All welcome. Preceded by evening prayer at 3.00pm, refreshments to follow.

Parishioners will be interested to hear that Fr. Andrew will be looking after the parish of Our Lady and St. Joseph in Alcester, Warwickshire from next week through till March. It is a parish in the care of the Douai monastic community.

CHURCH READERS TRAINING. All parish readers are invited to attend one of the following sessions being run by Fr. Matthew, Saturday 12th December at 2.00pm or Tuesday 15th December at 6.00pm. The sessions will last about one hour, will 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. This Friday, 11th December, at 6.00pm in Church, to discuss the possibility of re-starting the St. Vincent de Paul society in the parish. It is envisaged that if there is enough interest there will be monthly meetings of members on a Friday evening before the evening mass and will largely be concerned with the arrangements for visiting the sick and housebound members of the parish.

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 would 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.*

Christmas Party: Next Sunday 13th December, 3 – 5pm, please tick the sign up sheet at the back of church if you are coming to the party.

2nd Sunday of Advent – Year C Psalter I

Today: Sunday 6th Decemberr – 2nd Sunday of Advent.

9:30am Philip Wetz

11:30 am Alice Jones

3.30pm Exposition and Benediction.

6.30pm People of the Parish.

Monday 7th 9.30 am Mass

St. Ambrose

**Tuesday 8th 7.00pm Mass (Rosary 7.30) – Cath Armstrong
Immaculate Conception**

Wednesday 9th December 9.30 am Mass. – Special intention.

6.00 – 6.50pm Exposition and Confessions in Church.

7.00pm Scripture Study Group in presbytery.

Thursday, 10th 9.30 am Mass — Sick of the Parish

6.00pm - Our Lady's School Carol Service – in school hall

Friday 11th 7.00pm Mass

Saturday 12th – Memoria of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

10.00am Exposition, Confessions and Benediction.

11.00am Mass

Sunday 13th Decemberr – 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

Rota Schedule for 6th – 13th December 2015

Flower Arrangers. None needed.

Cleaners: Volunteers for new rota please!

Ushers: 9:30am.. J. Sullivan and M. Slane.

11:30am D. Schofield and D. Lissaman.

6:30pm. Mr and Mrs. Seamarks.

Readers: 9:30am. J. Sullivan

11:00am G. Markham.

6.30pm.V. Woods.

Eucharistic Ministers:

9.30am. Fran Keogh, Janet Winter & Phyl Buckley.

11.30am..Kathy Davis, Denise Lissaman & J. McGowan.

6.30pm. Chris Milsom.

Altar Linen: See Rota on Church notice board.

Counting. Marlene and Kathy

Polish Information:

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

Finance:

Sunday 29th November 1st Coll £260.21 2nd Coll £208.22

G.A. £125.90

Please pray for the Sick, especially Bernard Mulloy, 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 – 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 next Sunday, the 3rd Sunday of Advent – Zeph 3: 14-18, Phil 4:4-7, Luke 3: 10-18.

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

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; please let Fr. Matthew know if you can help.

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 Lindsay on 07832 694284 (But please, no more trees!)

DECORATING THE CHURCH – We will be decorating the Church for Xmas on Xmas Eve from 10.00am, we will need lots of help.

