

ST MARY'S & ST PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

The R.C. Diocese of Shrewsbury is a registered charity

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First Sunday in Advent

29th November 2020

THEME: Stay awake.

It is difficult to keep alert and watchful when no definite date or time of coming is known. There is always the temptation to slacken off or turn away. In advent we are reminded of the need to be constant and vigilant. The Holy Spirit strengthens us in our task, and we know that, however difficult it may be, we are loved and sustained by the God who made us.

St Mary's: Sunday 9-30am -11-00am. for private prayer. Fr Oliver will be present

St Paul's: Saturday 6-00 - 6-30pm for private prayer. Fr Oliver will be present.

St Mary's: Mass: Wednesday Thursday and Friday 9-00am. Saturday 10-00am

St Paul's Saturday December 5th 6-00pm Vigil mass

St Mary's Sunday December 6th 9-30am and 11-00am

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: Mark 13:33-37. We need this help in keeping ourselves prepared as good stewards, since there is no way of knowing when our master will return. Even Jesus did not know exact dates – only that at the right time God would bring everything to completion. And he warns us to stay awake, as if the end is imminent. That way we shall not be caught unawares at the most important moment.

Some times a deepening of fervour is followed by the temptation to relax and be spiritually lazy; Jesus is concerned that we do not get lulled into a sense of false security, for we are often weak and cannot afford to allow our relationship with Christ to lapse. Since he loves us though, he will help us unceasingly.

ARRANGEMENTS for MASS

- If you are intending to come to mass please provide advance notification, preferably by email john.storey6@btopenworld.com or tel: 0161 330 2424.
- A face mask must be worn whilst you are in Church. The only exception is for children 3 and under. Please do not come to mass if you are feeling ill or if you are unable to wear a face covering.
- On arrival you will be asked to sanitise your hands and check your name against the booked list. If you have not pre-booked, please give the steward your details.
- You will be guided to a pew. To avoid passing those already seated, pews are filled from the front.
- Mass will take approximately 30 minutes, there are no mass sheets and there will be no singing
- **Holy Communion will be distributed after the final blessing.** Please remain seated whilst Father prepares for communion. Stewards will then guide the congregation for communion starting with the front pews of the centre aisle. After receiving communion **do not return to your seat** and leave church by the exit doors on the left (front of church at St Mary's, back of church at St Paul's).
- **Parishioners with disability must not leave St Mary's church through the front door of the house due to the steps but through the main door of the church.** John Storey and his helpers will assist you with advice if needed.
- **The toilets will not be open.**

Stewards are needed to assist at the 11-00am Mass with ensuring the safety of those who will be participating. If you can help, please contact John Storey or Fr Oliver.

SVP SUDAN BABY FEEDING APPEAL: While we are very aware of the situation in this country and elsewhere, we should not forget the dire conditions in Sudan and South Sudan. Extreme poverty continues and our babies feeding centres are the only source of food for thousands of Children. Unfortunately the centres have to close from time to time due to lack of funds and the children just sit there until they re-open as they have nowhere else to go.

The president of our SVP Peter Chorlton is asking for the usual generosity to help to keep the centres open. Due to the present situation he can not do the appeal in the usual way. If you wish to support this appeal please e-mail Peter for a sponsor form and he will arrange with you when he can collect it. If you do not have an email you can text him on his mobile 07789214592 giving him your name and address. If you wish to sponsor on behalf of someone as a Christmas present, please put their name on the form and he will issue a certificate. E-mail peterchorlton@btinternet.com

ST MARY'S SCHOOL: If your child will be 4 before 1st September 2021, you need to apply for a Reception Place on line at www.Tameside.gov.uk The closing date is January 15th 2021. St Mary's is a happy, caring and welcoming community where we help every child to reach their full potential and make the most of the gifts and talents given to them by God. We warmly welcome all applications.

ST PAUL'S NURSERY: Applications for places in Nursery for September 2021 are open. Please contact the school for an application form. Further information can be found on the school website <http://www.st-pauls-hyde.tameside.sch.uk/page/admissions18690>

APPLICATION FOR A PLACE IN RECEPTION at St Mary's and St Paul's 2021: The online application for a place in Reception for September 2021 is now open and can be found at: <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/schools/admissions> Closing date January 15th 2021.
School contacts: **St Mary's** 368-4824. **St Paul's** 368-2934.

TREE SURVEY: Matthew Lally, Arboricultural Consultant, carried out a health and safety inspection of the trees in St Mary's and St Paul's church property as recommended by the diocesan health and safety consultants in the earlier part of the year. Following an in depth inspection Mathew has reported that there is no issues to be reported. Matthew is a Tree Risk validator and is a professional Member of the Association.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH ROOF: A number of slates have slipped on the roof. Ashton Roofing will carry out the repairs. Scaffolding will have to be erected.

ST PAUL'S CHURCH: The Asbestos survey of the church and house has been completed. There are no concerns.

THE CHURCH BOILER: W&G services who are installing the new boiler are hoping to start work this week. The work has been delayed due to the asbestos survey and covid-19 restrictions.

ST MARY'S CHURCH: The diocesan painters have informed Fr Oliver that they will be painting St Mary's church from Monday January 11th to Friday 5th February. The church will be closed during this period due to scaffolding throughout the church and for safety reasons. The Sunday morning masses will be transferred to St Pauls during this period.

THE MINISTRY OF KINDNESS: Kindness is one of God's best gifts to the world. It drives gloom and darkness from souls. It puts hope into fainting hearts. It sweetens sorrow, it lessens pain. It discovers unsuspected beauties of human character. It calls forth a response from all that is best in souls. It purifies, glorifies, ennobles all that it touches. It opens the flood gates of children's laughter. It gathers the tears of repentant love. It tightens the burden of weariness. It stops the torrent of angry passion. It takes the sting from failure. It kindles ambition. It lifts the unfortunate. It leads back the wayward. It walks in the step of our saviour.

Become an apostle of kindness. To partake of its sweetness. To aspire to its holiness.

The ministry of kindness is exalted, It is sublime. It is Christ like.

BIDDING PRAYERS for First Sunday of Advent

Priest:

Let us turn to God our Father and put our needs before him.

We pray for the church: that she may bear witness to God's presence in Advent so that we may be ready to greet Jesus at Christmas.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for our families and communities: that we may find space in our lives to watch and pray for Christ's coming.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for those who are suffering through poverty and injustice: that the Lord may give them hope and strength in this Advent season.

Lord, hear us

We pray for the sick members of our families and parish community, may they be soon well again.

Lord, hear us

We pray for those who have died and for those whose anniversaries we keep at this time: that they may enter into the kingdom God has prepared for them.

Lord, hear us.

We pray for our own special needs.

We ask Mary the Mother of God to join us in our prayers as we pray Hail Mary.

Priest: Loving Father, hear all these prayers and what we ask in faith may you grant through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

The readings for Sunday 29th November

Entrance Antiphon To you I lift up my soul, O my God. In you I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope be put to shame.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1,3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, 'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down! – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Psalm 79

Response: **God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **Response**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **Response**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Response

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 1:3-9

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Alleluia!

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Communion Antiphon The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

The Gloria is not prayed during Advent

Credo:

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
Of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the
Father; through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic
Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.