

Sunday 10th December 2023
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B)



Make straight the paths of the Lord

Sat 9th Dec	Vigil	5.30-5.50pm 6.00pm	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i> People of the Parish
Sun 10th Dec	Second Sunday of Advent Year B	9.00am 11.00am	Josie Jepson Anniversary Paul & Joyce Webster
Mon 11 th Dec - no Mass			
Tues 12 th Dec - no Mass			
Wed 13 th Dec		9.30am 10.00am	<i>Adoration</i> Elaine Birthday
Thurs 14 th Dec - no Mass			
Fri 15 th Dec		10.00am Until 11am	<i>Vocations to the Priesthood</i> <i>Adoration</i>



There stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming

Sat 16th Dec	Vigil	5.30-5.50pm 6.00pm	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i> Kath & Patrick Hartyon
Sun 17th Dec	Third Sunday of Advent Year B	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Parish Dan Dignan Private offering
Mon 18 th Dec - no Mass			
Tues 19 th Dec		6pm 6.30pm	<i>Adoration</i> Claire Poole R.I.P.
Wed 20 th Dec		9.30am 10.00am	<i>Adoration</i> Mike Hansford R.I.P.
Thurs 21 st Dec - no Mass			
Fri 22 nd Dec		10.00am Until 11am	<i>Vocations to the Priesthood</i> <i>Adoration</i>
Sat 23rd Dec	Vigil	5.30-5.50pm 6.00pm	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i> Graham Murray R.I.P.
Sun 24th Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent Year B	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Parish George Potts R.I.P.

Christmas Masses

Sun 24th Dec	Christmas Eve		
	The 1st Mass of Christmas	5.30pm	John Loader
	Mass of Christmas Night	8.30pm	Shelagh Ryan
Mon 25th Dec	Christmas Day	9am	Bridie & John Maloney
		11am	Bernard Howell

Streamed Masses and Devotions are available on the internet via our website:
<http://christchurchhg.co.uk/>

Christ Church News

Retiring Collection on **9th-10th December** for **Caritas** which deals with some of the most vulnerable families and situations in the Shrewsbury Diocese. With gratitude for whatever you can offer.

Advent Sycamore Course - You may have already heard of this excellent video-based resource for exploring the Christian mysteries. All parishioners are welcome to join us in the parish hall for this time of faith formation and fellowship. During Advent we are showing three films on **5th, 12th and 19th December** starting at 7.15pm after the 6.30pm Mass. The session will last approximately an hour with the Format being a short film with discussion questions. Doors open at 7pm. Film starts at 7.15 pm - refreshments will be served - all are welcome. There are 3 films:

- 1, A God who Speaks - hiddenness of God. When God broke the silence and discovering the face of God.
- 2 The Bible - what is it? Can we trust it and how it can change your life.
- 3 The Power of Prayer - What is it? How to pray and does it make a difference?

Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation for Advent – on Thursday 14th December at St Benedict’s in Handforth from 7pm to 8pm. This is not a service. All are welcome to spend up to an hour before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. During this time, Fr Tony will be available for Confessions in the Confessional and Fr O’Riordan will be available for face-to-face Confession.

Parish Pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal, 11th-17th September 2024 – to book please hand your form and deposit into the parish office or through the presbytery door by **Sunday 10th December**. Please email the parish at christchurchhg@yahoo.co.uk if you would like a booking form and itinerary.

Parish Draw: We are halfway to the numbers we had last year so please remind/encourage others to join.

Children’s Liturgy 11am - Children of Infant school age or younger should go straight to the hall, accompanied by an adult. Juniors should go straight to the Quiet Room before the start of Mass.

The Divine Mercy Prayer Group – we meet in Church (via the side door near the hall) each Monday from 2-3pm. All are welcome to join the group for this time of prayer. Last one for 2023 is 11th Dec. Resume 8th Jan.

The total offering of our **Christmas collection** for 2023 will go to **Mary’s Meals**. Mary’s Meals is an amazing Catholic charity. From their website: “Mary’s Meals serves nutritious school meals to children living in some of the world’s poorest countries. The promise of a good meal attracts these hungry children into the classroom, giving them the energy to learn and hope for a better future. We are already feeding more than 2.4 million children every school day – and, together, we can reach the next hungry child waiting for Mary’s Meals.” For more information see www.marysmeals.org.uk

We have a monthly collection of non-perishable foods on Saturday mornings from **11am until 12noon** outside the front main doors of the Church. The date for the next collection is Saturday 23rd December.

Christmas Mass times at Christ Church:

The First Mass of Christmas on Sunday 24th December at 5.30pm

Carols around the tree at 7pm by the Heald Green library on Finney Lane

Mass of Christmas Night on Sunday 24th December at 8.30pm

Christmas Day on Monday 25th December at 9am

Christmas Day on Monday 25th December at 11am



After discussion at our last parish meeting, the Mass of Christmas Night is being moved to an earlier time this year, from midnight to 8.30pm. It is hoped that the earlier time will bring a larger congregation, and those who may attend the very full 5.30pm Vigil Mass but find midnight too late, might find the 8.30pm Mass a welcome addition.

A Christmas tree blessing for you to use at home:

Lord God,

let your blessing come upon us
as we illumine this tree.

May the light and cheer it gives
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.

May all who delight in this tree
come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Other Events and News

Sacred Heart in Baguley are holding an **Advent mission led by Mr John Pridmore** starting at **7.30pm** on:

11th December – God’s love: John will tell us the story of his life.

12th December – God’s forgiveness: a chance for reconciliation.

13th December – God’s healing: know the healing power of Jesus.

All are welcome.

Vocations to the Priesthood: Bishop Mark writes that it is encouraging to see men continuing coming forward for the Priesthood in the service of the Diocese. He is grateful for all your prayer and encouragement, and Masses offered for vocations. We are blessed with candidates who will be seeking to make application for the Diocese next year and an active Diocesan Vocations Group. Bishop Mark hopes we will soon see the ‘Discernment House’ project, that has proved so fruitful for the Diocese, back into action in the year ahead and linked to the prayer of the Eucharistic Shrine at Saint Joseph’s. Bishop Mark was recently able to visit our 6 seminarians at Saint Mary’s College, Oscott; and 1 seminarian in the English College in Valladolid. Please keep all our seminarians and discerners in your prayers.

The Synod in Rome in October 2023 – For a summary and the thoughts of Bishop Robert Barron who attended the Synod see <https://www.wordonfire.org/articles/barron/my-experience-of-the-synod/>

Lourdes Hospitality Update - A face-to-face meeting for all members will be held on Saturday 20th January 2024 (venue and time to be confirmed). In the meantime, if you have any questions for us, please send an email to : secretary@teamshrewsbury.co.uk

Baptism Course at St Ann’s - there will not be a baptism course in January. It will resume in February.


The Bollington **CAFOD Fun Run** is on Wednesday 27th December 2023 start 11.00 a.m. The Fun Run will start from the Middlewood Way next to St Gregory's Parish Hall. Check the website for information.

<https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/sponsored-challenge-events/run-for-cafod/christmas-fun-run>

The website also gives you the option to sign up for a virtual 5K if for some reason you are unable to join us this year. If you cannot register online there will be registration available on the day in the Parish Hall.

Wordsearch based on the Gospel Reading for the 2nd Sunday of Advent

S	M	E	S	S	E	N	G	E	R
T	S	L	A	D	N	A	S	E	E
S	T	E	M	S	I	T	P	A	B
U	R	W	N	S	P	E	S	R	O
C	A	F	A	R	N	I	E	E	O
O	P	I	S	T	E	T	R	V	K
L	A	T	A	N	E	D	E	I	A
H	O	N	E	Y	I	R	L	R	T
K	C	A	M	E	L	S	K	I	N
E	R	T	N	E	T	T	I	R	W

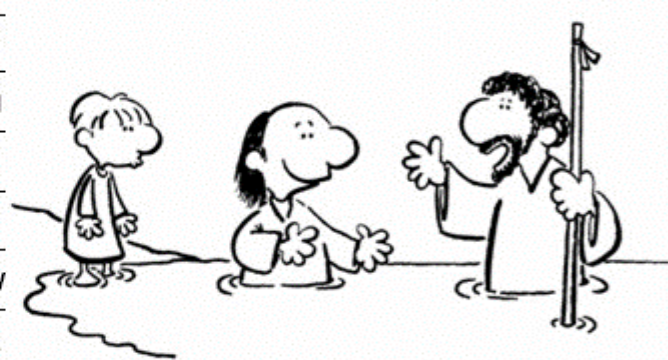


- RIVER
- ISAIAH
- MESSENGER
- WILDERNESS
- BAPTISM
- REPENTANCE
- CAMELSKIN
- LOCUSTS
- HONEY
- STRAP
- SANDALS
- SPIRIT

Wordsearch based on the Gospel Reading for the 3rd Sunday of Advent

S	E	Y	H	A	J	I	L	E	A
E	L	W	N	O	H	I	L	S	T
S	E	N	H	A	G	R	E	I	S
S	V	N	A	H	H	E	W	T	S
T	I	O	T	R	S	T	O	P	E
S	T	J	C	I	E	A	E	A	N
E	E	T	R	E	S	W	E	B	T
I	S	A	I	A	H	A	S	E	I
R	H	T	J	O	R	D	A	N	W
P	R	O	P	H	E	T	I	H	A

- JOHN
- LEVITES
- ISAIAH
- WATER
- WITNESS
- ELIJAH
- PHARISEES
- BETHANY
- LIGHT
- PROPHET
- BAPTISE
- JORDAN



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Office hours: **Tues-Fri 10.30am-12noon**

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