

Sunday 3rd December 2023
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B)



Stay awake! You never know when the lord will come.

Streamed Masses and Devotions are available on the internet via our website:

<http://christchurchhg.co.uk/>

Sat 2nd Dec		5.30-5.50pm 6.00pm	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i> Elizabeth Evans & Brian O'Neill R.I.P
Sun 3rd Dec	First Sunday of Advent Year B	9.00am 11.00am	Maureen & John Redshaw Angela Dennehy own intentions
Mon 4 th Dec - no Mass			
Tue 5 th Dec		6pm 6.30pm	<i>Adoration</i> Nora Dennehy
Wed 6 th Dec		9.30am 10.00am	<i>Adoration</i> Fr Tony Dearman 60 years a priest
Thurs 7 th Dec - no Mass			
Fri 8 th Dec	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception	10.00am <i>Until 11am</i>	Patricia Byrne Birthday Memory <i>Adoration</i>
Sat 9th Dec		5.30-5.50pm 6.00pm	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i> Josephine & William Turner
Sun 10th Dec	Second Sunday of Advent Year B	9.00am 11.00am	Josie Jepson Anniversary Paul & Joyce Webster

Christ Church News



Cake Sunday this Sunday after the 9am Mass.

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.

Friday 8th December is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and 61 years since the first Mass in our Church. It would be fitting to have the Litany of Our Lady and the Marian Anthem at the end of Mass.

Advent Sycamore Course in the hall at Christ Church

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 **Tuesday 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?

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.

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.

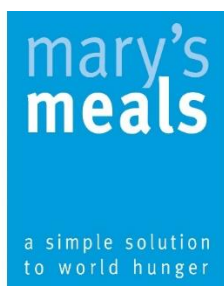
Children's Liturgy 11am - Children of Infant school age or younger should go straight to the hall, accompanied by an adult. Juniors should go straight to the Quiet Room before the start of Mass.

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.



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.

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



Advance notice of the 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.

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

Clergy Education & Training fund – We have sent £710 to the Diocese for this fund. Thank you for your offerings.

Other Events and News

Sacred Heart in Baguley are holding an **Advent mission led by Mr John Pridmore** starting at 6pm 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.

Loreto Advent Service (Seven Lessons & Carols) on 7th December at St Vincent's Church Altrincham at 7pm.

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal - Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030.

CAFOD World Gift catalogues for Christmas are available in Church.

Cheadle Catholic Infant School Open Evenings for parents - Tues 5th December 6-7pm. Please email admin@theadle-inf.stockport.sch.uk in order to book a place.

Stockport Loaves & Fishes, a church group in Stockport - are asking people to donate any of the following items which will be given to the homeless and rough sleepers in Stockport this Christmas. Some churches organize a '2 coats Sunday' as warm winter coats are always needed but we want to encourage people to donate hats, scarves, socks, gloves, hand warmers as well as coats. Note: we will only accept new or as good as new clothing. See the flyer at the back of church. The idea of "2 coat Sunday" was originally from Our Lady's SVP last autumn. But as the flyer says - it is far more than about coats.

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/>


Wordsearch based on Sunday's Gospel reading

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

FLOOD
WIVES
FIELDS
AWAKE

EATING
HUSBANDS
WOMEN
BURGLAR

DRINKING
ARK
MILLSTONE
READY



Gospel - Mark 13:33-37

If he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep

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!'

An Advent Reflection

Advent opens with a great cry, and a great promise: "Oh that you would tear the heavens open and come down!" is the cry, of a people who need God. "...The master is coming" is the promise, not to breed fear, but to answer our cry. Advent begins, not with thoughts of the past, with the coming of the Lord we celebrate at Christmas, but with the future, and the promise that He is coming back. We are encouraged to treat every day as the day the Lord will come; we do not do this out of fear for a Master who beats his servants, but out of love of a Master who always treats us with love and mercy. Nevertheless, we must always be watchful, because we can grow sleepy and complacent, saying that we can leave this prayer or that confession or the other change in the way we live to tomorrow. Even as we look forward to the tomorrow of the Lord's coming, we must remember that it might be today!



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