



St Clare of Assisi Catholic Church

DOWNSFIELD ROAD, CHESTER CH4 8HH



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Psalter Week IV

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
22 DECEMBER 2019

Year of The Word

DEDICATION: December is dedicated to The Immaculate Conception



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

As we ponder the Gospel readings for the 4th Sunday of Advent consider that God will not force salvation upon us. Christ did not come to bring heaven to earth, but to lead those who would accept him from earth to heaven

You are so gentle with me, Lord. You always forgive; you always nudge; you always wait with infinite patience. Thank you. Make me more like you. I want to be your light and your goodness to everyone around me. I want to attract them to you, however far away

they may be, as the star of Bethlehem attracted the wise men.

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart more like yours... It is a terrible thought: you came to give us the fullness of life that every heart longs for, but not every heart is willing to accept it. Lord Jesus, I too resist the inklings of your grace too often. Help me to be strong in doing what is right and resisting temptation. Help me to follow you, to be your – messenger to everyone in my life—extracts Fr. John Bartunek, *Catholic Exchange*

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE: 4pm Children's Mass (FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS)

Children are encouraged to come dressed as Nativity characters: Marys, Josephs, shepherds Kings stars crib animals. It is expected Father Christmas will make an appearance after Mass!

11.30pm	Christmas Carols	12 midnight	Midnight Mass	Mass 9.30am
CHRISTMAS DAY:				Sung Latin Mass 11.15am
Thurs 26 Dec	(St Stephen's day)	Rosary 9.10 am	Mass 9.30am	
Fri 27 Dec		Rosary 9.10 am	Mass 9.30am	
Sat 28 Dec		Rosary 5.40 pm	Vigil Mass 6pm	
Sun 29 Dec		8.30 am Rosary and	Benediction 9 am	Mass 9.30am
Wed 1 Jan		Rosary 9.10 am	Mass 9.30am	
Sat 4 Jan		Rosary 5.40 pm	Vigil Mass 6pm	
Sun 5 Jan		8.30 am Rosary and	Benediction 9 am	Mass 9.30 am

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 9.30am

Sunday 11.15 am (Latin)

Weekday Masses Please see back page

Confessions

Saturday 5.30 -5.45pm

or on request

Children's Liturgy

Takes place Sundays 9.30am

In Sacristy

For Baptisms, Confirmation,

Weddings & Funerals

Please call or email Fr Emeka above



OUR SICK LIST

Our sick, elderly, housebound and those in care homes are important members of our parish community. **New names are in Bold Type.** Please remember to pray for them each day as they carry their cross ,

Dot Bell, Veronica Creaney, W. Downes, Mike Edwards, Mary Frain, David Gardiner, Michelle Gentile, Katie Gray, Gwyn Harris, Lorna Jarvis, Judy Kearney, Ann Leach, Peter Lloyd, Rosemary McCabe, Kevin McCarthy, Bob McConnell, Alex Shone, Gwen Spurr, Krysia Wesalak, Eileen Wyatt.

I wish all parishioners, friends , families and visitors a very happy Christmas filled with every peace and Joy.

Fr Emeka

ANNIVERSARIES ABOUT THIS TIME

Ann Miller, Elizabeth McGovern, Evelyn Stanton, Gerald Jones, Rose Bailey, Constance Davies, Father Frank Hickman OFM Cap, Honoria Lewis and Elizabeth Tettweiler .

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Preparation lessons for Children who are not in St. Clare's school will begin after the Mass of enrolment, on Sunday 2nd February 2020. Please register the children by calling Parish office or Fr. Emeka.

USED POSTAGE STAMPS

Please put your used postage stamps from all of your Christmas cards in the box on the table, at the back of Church. We collect them for the Hospice of the

CRUSADER MAGAZINE

Please take your **free copy** of the Christmas edition of 'Crusader ' (the Magazine of the Crusade of Mary Immaculate) which is available on table in porch

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA

This week the duty falls on **Team 2**

**The new rotas are now available
Collect yours from the porch**

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

Sunday 5th Jan 2020. Time and venue TBA. Contact Catherine on 01244 678825 or e-mail catherine117hg@hotmail.co.uk

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

The Christmas tree, of which the first-known mention was made in 1605 at Strasbourg, was introduced into France and England in 1840. It symbolizes the great family tree of Christ which through David and Jesse has its roots in Abraham, the father of the chosen race.

It is often laden with gifts to remind us that Christmas brought us the priceless gifts of grace and of eternal life.

It is frequently adorned with lights that recall to us that Christ is the Light of the world enlightening those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

That every country determine to take the necessary measures to make the future of the very young, especially those who suffer, a priority.

ST CLARE'S SVP CONFERENCE



Christmas is a time of goodness and cheer and the work of the SVP continues with this in mind. Those in need are all around us. We meet them in the street, stand alongside them in shops and offices and our children and grandchildren sit alongside them in schools. Please keep those less well off than ourselves in mind this Christmas season. The SVP here at St Clare's, in the wider Chester and Ellesmere Port District and in the Shrewsbury Central Council works constantly to make the lives of the poor just that little bit better. We do this knowing we have your support and thank you for that support. A very happy Christmas to you all and a loving and peaceful 2020. God bless you all. Steve

REGULAR PARISH EVENTS

PRAYER GROUP. Meets after Wednesday 9.30 am Mass, in the Parish Room . All welcome.

CHOIR Thursdays after the 7.30 pm Mass, in the Parish Room . New members needed.

CAFOD. Meets in the Parish Room on the first Tuesday of the month, after the evening Mass.

SVP (Society of St Vincent de Paul) Meets fortnightly in the Parish Room on Monday evenings. New members welcome. Contact Steve on 01244 671817 or e-mail PresidentF180413@svp.org.uk

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB (St Clare's SVP Conference) Meets on the first Sunday of month. The time and venue are advertised near date. Contact Catherine 01244 678825 e-mail catherine117hg@hotmail.co.uk

CHESTER SPUC GROUP 3rd Wednesday every other month next meeting contact Kevin 01244 681816 or e mail: kevprend@gmail.com for details

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB . See over for details

SVP HOLIDAY HOME MUSIC NIGHT Friday 31st January 2020 7 for 7.30pm start. St Columba's Church Hall. Music by CHS City Jazz Orchestra and Singers. Tickets £10. See Posters for details.

YOUTH ZONE

NOT-SO JOYFUL MYSTERIES

At first glance, the Joyful Mysteries might not appear that joyful. Consider these moments from the Gospel: a teenage virgin is pregnant but not with her husband's child. The girl then leaves home for three months and later travels 90 miles by donkey in her third trimester of pregnancy. She then gives birth in a cave surrounded by animals, hears from a prophet that both she and her child will suffer greatly and then, to top it all off, she and her husband have their pre-teen son ... the son of God ... go missing for three day



Most would not consider these moments very joyful. Upon further reflection on these mysterious events, however, you begin to see that they are actually a cause for intense joy.

God was on a rescue mission to save you, and that mission included some courageous souls fighting through some incredibly challenging and painful situations. Not only do the Joyful Mysteries walk us more deeply into the conception, birth, and childhood of our Lord Jesus, they reveal to us a God who is madly in love with us... a God who will stop at nothing to save all of us from death. Bethlehem and Calvary were less than seven miles apart geographically; they are even closer in the heart of God.

Contemplate these things in your heart as we enter into the Christmas season. In Jesus' birth we celebrate His life, which resulted in His death, which offered us all new life . . . in Him.

How's *that* for a Christmas gift?

-LIFE TEEN BLOG

ROSARY CORNER

"If you say the Rosary faithfully until death, I assure you that in spite of the gravity of your sins, you shall receive a never-fading crown of glory. Even if you are on the brink of damnation, even if you have one foot in Hell, even if you have sold your soul to the devil as sorcerers do who practice black magic, and even if you are a heretic as obstinate as a devil, sooner or later you will be converted and will amend your life and save your soul, if and mark well what I say — if you say the Holy Rosary devoutly every day until death for the purpose of knowing the truth and obtaining contrition and pardon of your sins."



Date/Time		Feast/Colour	Readings	Offered For
Sat 21/12	Rosary 5.40pm Vigil MASS 6pm	Fourth Sunday Of	Is 7: 10-14; Ps 23; Rm 1:1-7;	Vicente Artil RIP (KC)
Sun 22/12	Exposition 8.30 am Rosary and Benediction 9 am MASS 9.30am <i>Day of Special Prayer for Expectant Mother</i> <i>Collection for Christmas Flowers</i>	Advent <i>Purple</i>	Mt 1: 18-24	John & Trudy Axon Sydney & Margaret Bell
Tue 24/12	4pm Children's Mass Carols 11.30pm followed by Midnight Mass of Christmas	Christmas Eve <i>White</i>	Is 9: 1-7; Ps 95; Tt 2;11-14; Lk 2-14	The Children Frank & Rita Whelan
Wed 25/12	MASS 9.30 am MASS 1115 am	The Nativity <i>White</i>	Is 52: 7-10; Ps 97;Heb 1: 1-6; Jn 1:1-18	Pat Clever (SB)
Thu 26/12	MASS 9.30 am	St Stephen, M <i>White</i>	Ac 6:8-10,7:54-59; Ps 30; Mt 10:17-22	Maurice Berry (KC)
Fri 27/12	Rosary 9.10am MASS 9.30am	St John, Ap,Ev <i>Red</i>	1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 96; Jn 20: 2-8	Drage family (KC)
Sat 28/12	Rosary 5.40pm Vigil MASS 6pm	The Holy Family	Si 3: 3-7,14-17; Ps 127;	Imy & Paddy O'Connor (SB)
Sun 29/12	EXPOSITION 8.30 am Rosary and Benediction 9 am MASS 9.30am Sung Latin MASS 11.15am	<i>White</i>	Col 3: 12-21; Mt 2: 13-15,19-23	Joan Acworth

St Clare's Catholic Primary School



The week was packed with lovely events: thank you to everyone who joined us for our Christmas Carol Service on Wednesday. The children sang superbly and retold the Christmas Nativity clearly. Parents also joined classes for an afternoon of Christmas crafts, where they could join in the fun of glitter, glue and paint!

Pupils in Asia (Year Five and Six) sang at the Nuffield Gym, to provide entertainment for their Christmas tea party. Everyone enjoyed their singing and I received excellent feedback.

On Wednesday we had our Christmas lunch- everyone had the best time. It was a great festive celebration. Pupils enjoyed discos organised by the PTA. We were delighted that Santa made a special visit leaving presents for all! Pupils in St Oscar Romero won the most house points this term and therefore enjoyed a Christmas treasure hunt. On Friday pupils completed prayer trails around the church reflecting on different aspects of Christmas.

If you are in Chester during the holiday, please pop into Chester Cathedral to see our school Christmas tree in the festival of trees.

*Staff and pupil wish all parishioners a very
Happy Christmas and a peaceful and new year.
Thank you for all your help and support
throughout the year. School reopens for pupils on
Tuesday 7th January 2020.*

