

## Sunday

17<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Third Sunday of Advent  
(Gaudete Sunday)

Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-end; Psalm  
126 or the Magnificat; 1  
Thessalonians 5.16-24;  
John 1.6-8, 19-28



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Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered  
Charity 234025

## St Clare of Assisi Catholic Church

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*If you wish to make a donation to St Clare's church Sort Code: 30-15-52 Acct number: 54579560*

**AN ADVENT PRAYER** Lord, help us to repair the way for your coming, to repair broken relationships, to repair hurts, to forgive others. Help us to prepare the way for your coming, to prepare our minds by reading your Word in Scripture, to prepare our hearts by opening them in prayer. Help us to share the way for your coming, to share with the poor and needy for your sake. Amen

### MASSES AND SERVICES

Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Dec **Exposition & Holy Hour for Peace 10.30am – 11.30am**

**Rosary 5.40pm**

**Vigil Mass 6.00pm**

Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Dec **Mass 9.30am THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Dec **Mass 9.30am**

Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Dec **St Anthony's Devotions & Mass 7pm**

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec **Mass 9.30am**

Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Dec **Mass 9.30am**

Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec **Mass 9.30am**

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec **Exposition & Confessions 9.30am – 11.30am**

**Vigil Mass 6.00pm**

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec **Mass 9.30am FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec **Mass 4pm**

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec **Mass 8pm**

Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Dec **Mass 9.30am Christmas Day**

### Intentions

David Brown (SB)

Chris & Vangi Murphy & family

Catherine O'Connor

Nigel Clayton RIP (KC)

Stella Brown (KC)

Isobel Prendergast

Samuel Maher

Eileen Wyatt

St Clare's SVP intentions

Mass for the Children

St Clare's Parish

For those who have died since last Christmas

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Saturday 10.30 - 11.30am and on request.

### ADVENT AT ST. CLARE'S

**THIRD SUNDAY 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> DEC:** Retiring Collection for Caritas, supporting the Poor & Needy of our Diocese

**FOURTH WEEKEND OF ADVENT** Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec ..... "Come Home for Christmas"

Exposition and Confessions from 9.30am -11.30am

6pm vigil Mass of 4th Sunday of Advent

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec - 9.30am Mass of the 4th Sunday of Advent

### CHRISTMAS MASSES:

**CHRISTMAS EVE** 4.00pm - CRIB SERVICE & FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS (Especially for children)

8.00pm - CHRISTMAS CAROLS & MASS OF CHRISTMAS NIGHT

**CHRISTMAS DAY** 9.30am - MASS OF CHRISTMAS DAY

**THE SICK, ELDERLY AND HOUSE BOUND** and those in care homes are important members of our parish community: Trisha Cannon, Edward Craggs, Veronica Creaney, Mike Darby. W. Downes, Jenny Guest, Lorna Jarvis, Mary, Judy Kearney, Peter Lloyd, Catherine Maher, Rosemary McCabe, Rosemary Roberts, Eileen Wyatt, Sarah Russell. *If anyone is in need of a visit / Holy Communion before Christmas, please let Fr Bernard know 01244 671015*

**ANNIVERSARIES OCCURRING ABOUT THIS TIME:** Joanne Burgess, Nora Crawford, Mary Foxall, Winifred Smith, Ann Miller, Elizabeth McGovern, Evelyn Stanton and Gerald Jones. **May they rest in peace.**

**MAY HE REST IN PEACE** – Father Gerry French, who was residing at the Columban Fathers HQ at Dolgan Park in County Meath, Ireland, died on Tuesday. Fr Gerry was Parish Priest of St Clare's for a relatively short time in 1979/1980 but will be fondly remembered by those who were Parishioners here at that time.

**TEA & COFFEE AFTER 9.30am MASS ON SUNDAY** This week it is provided by Catherine and Elaine for St Clare's SVP. There will be no Tea & Coffee after Mass on either Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve. Tea and Coffee on Sunday Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 will be provided by Mary & Pat for Parkinsons UK.

**Please join us especially if you are new to the parish or just visiting.**

**THANK YOU:** In May 2022, after Covid, our parish resumed having coffee after Sunday Mass. Once a month it has been for Parkinson's UK and in that time the very generous Parishioners of St Clare's have donated the magnificent sum of £814.94 – THANK YOU. Good news too that **CAFOD** will also be providing coffee again once a month, welcome back to the CAFOD team.

**RETIRING COLLECTION:** This weekend, for Caritas...supporting the Poor & Needy of our Diocese.

**SING A NEW SONG TO THE LORD:** Singing Practices are underway again and we are in great need of new singers to join the Music Group. If you can sing in tune, then you will be very welcome. We shall be holding a practice on **THURSDAY at 7.30pm and will finish by 8.15pm**. If you have any queries, please contact Kate Hughes on 01244 683538 or e-mail [kate.hughes@me.com](mailto:kate.hughes@me.com)

**SVP CONFERENCE:** We will take part in the Chester CHS Christmas Fair this coming Tuesday 4pm onwards. Our table will have a Christmas themed tombola as well as details about the SVP work and our Holiday Home. All welcome. We helped another family with a small energy grant and our St Clare's meeting last Monday discussed our continuing visiting. If anyone has used Ink Cartridges they can be left in the box by the lobby outside door. The SVP can recover a small cash sum on these. Donations to the sponsored walk continue to arrive and we may top £2,000. Thanks to all. We wish you all a very happy festive season and many thanks for all your help to our work during the year. Keep safe and as well as possible. God bless. Steve.

**FOODBANK:** Please keep bringing foodbank donations. These will be taken to the warehouse in the early January. The donations taken this last week totaled 37kg.

**CAFOD WORLD GIFTS** Booklets available in the church porch

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** It is intended to start in the New Year at 9.30am Mass on Sundays. Please consider volunteering to help, several people are needed to work in teams of a minimum of 2. Training and resources will be available. See Fr Bernard or any Parish Council member.

**SUNDAY LUNCH GATHERING:** The next Sunday Lunch will be at the Upton Golf Club on 14th January. Please contact Catherine for details: - 01244678825 or [catherine117hg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:catherine117hg@hotmail.co.uk)

**CHRISTMAS CARDS** and calendars are on sale in the repository, please take a look after Mass.

**HIGHLIGHT FROM THE HIGH:** Thank you very much for all the books donated to the Catholic High School for the Christmas Fair. Please join us on Tuesday 19th December from 4pm in the CHS Hall; there are over 20 stalls for you to visit plus Santa's Grotto. Carol Service at 6:30pm in the Lyceum (6th Form building). Limited free tickets on ParentPay.

**ST CLARE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:** We are in full swing of Christmas preparation in school. Our Key Stage One children performed a wonderful Nativity on Tuesday and Wednesday, singing and sharing the Christmas story to a delighted audience. We enjoyed our Christmas dinner day in our Christmas jumpers! Key Stage Two are very excited to perform their carol concert in Church next week.

**Pope Francis:**

"Dear young people, if we are close to Jesus, we will have joy in our hearts and a smile on our face."

This weekend we celebrate the third Sunday of Advent which is known as 'Gaudete Sunday', and we light the pink candle on our advent wreath. The word 'Gaudete' in Latin means 'Rejoice!'.  
We joyfully celebrate that Christmas is near – we rejoice that Christ is coming.

***When you have read this newsletter, please pass it on to someone in your neighbourhood /local area***