

**Sunday**  
**24<sup>th</sup> December 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday of**  
**Advent**



**St Clare of Assisi**  
**Catholic Church**

Downsfield Road, Chester  
CH4 8HH

Priest: Fr Bernard Forshaw

Tel 01244 671015

07885 772887

Website: [stclares.co.uk](http://stclares.co.uk)  
Facebook: StClaresChester

Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered  
Charity 234025

Email: [contact@stclares.co.uk](mailto:contact@stclares.co.uk)

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

**MASSES AND SERVICES**

Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec **9.30am – 11.30am "Come Home for Christmas" Exposition & Confessions**

**Vigil Mass 6.00pm of Fourth Sunday of Advent**

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

**DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS**

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec **4pm- *CRIB SERVICE & CHILDREN'S FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS***

Sun 24<sup>th</sup> Dec **8pm *CHRISTMAS CAROLS & MASS OF CHRISTMAS NIGHT***

Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Dec **Mass 9.30am *CHRISTMAS DAY***

Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Dec **NOTE: Mass 10am *ST STEPHEN***

Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Dec **Exposition 9.15-10 am**

**NOTE: Mass 10am *ST JOHN***

Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> Dec **NOTE: Mass 10am *THE HOLY INNOCENTS***

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> Dec **NOTE: Mass 10 am *ST THOMAS BECKET***

Sat 30<sup>th</sup> Dec **Rosary 5.40pm**

**Vigil Mass 6.00pm**

Sun 31<sup>st</sup> Dec **Mass 9.30am *THE HOLY FAMILY***

Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Jan **NOTE: Exposition 9.15-10am**

**NOTE: Mass 10am *MARY MOTHER OF GOD***

**Intentions**

Eileen Wyatt (KC)

St Clare's SVP intentions

For children & young people

Intentions of St Clare's Parish

For those who have died

For the poor & needy

Cecilia Davies (KC)

Belinda Da Atouguia

For Bishop Mark & our Priests

Laura Hands and family (KC)

In Thanksgiving

For God's Blessing on 2024

**PLEASE NOTE DIFFERENT TIMES OF WEEKDAY MASSES AND EXPOSITION**

**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. ***If anyone is in need of a visit / Holy Communion this week, please let Fr Bernard know 01244 671015***

**SARAH RUSSELL RIP** Please remember to pray for the soul of Sarah Russell who died last Monday. May she rest in peace, and this Christmastide also remember Mike and all members of the Russell Family in your thoughts and prayers. **The funeral Mass will be at St Clare's on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 1.30pm**

**ANNIVERSARIES OCCURING ABOUT THIS TIME:** Rose Bailey, Constance Davies, Fr. Frank Hickman OFM Cap, Honoria Lewis, Elizabeth Tettweiler, Susan McCabe, John Walsh, Joan Acworth, Armando Fioretti and Sr. Patricia Quigley OSU **May they rest in peace.**

**COLLECTION ON FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT:** For St Clare's Parish

**COLLECTION AT CHRISTMAS MASSES:** For the Support of Our Parish Priest

**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.

**TEA & COFFEE AFTER 9.30am MASS ON SUNDAY:** There will be no Tea & Coffee on either Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve. Tea and Coffee on Sunday Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 will be given by Mary & Pat for Parkinsons UK.

**We hope you will join us, especially if you are new to the parish or just visiting.**

**SVP CONFERENCE:** Our table at the Chester CHS Christmas Fair was very well received. The banners gave us a wide audience and the Tombola was able to give away all the gifts. Great fun by all with £95 donated to the Holiday Home accounts. Elsewhere a donation of Christmas chocolates was given to a deserving family, and another family was given an electricity grant. This season is hard for some families so please keep them in your prayers. Your food donations were taken to the warehouse, but more is needed so do continue to donate.

Best wishes for the festive season from St Clare's conference and thank you all for your support of our work. Keep safe and as well as possible at this time. 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 or Christmas Gifts 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 14<sup>th</sup> January. Please contact Catherine for details: - 01244678825 or [catherine117hg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:catherine117hg@hotmail.co.uk)

**HIGHLIGHT FROM THE HIGH:** Thank you to everyone who supported our school in every initiative taking place during this year. The Catholic High School would like to wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous new year 2024. Thanks

**ST CLARE'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL:** The teachers, all the staff and children wish you all a happy holy Christmas.

School reopens on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**FATHER BERNARD WRITES:** Thank you to those who have cleaned and prepared our Church for the Christmas celebrations and to those who have prepared and been involved in the Christmas Masses Thank you for your prayers, support and welcome to St Clare's in recent months. Best wishes for Christmas and 2024

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