

Matters of Importance

Safety Warning: I wish to let you know the front passage between the presbytery and the school has been sealed off due to some stones that were falling off from the spire. For the safety of everyone please do not pass that way because it is not safe and do not interfere with the barriers.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, wrote this reflection *The Journey of the Magi to Bethlehem was not easy* which I found interesting.

As TS Eliot wrote: *'A cold coming we had of it, just the worst time of the year for a journey, and such a long journey: the way's deep and the weather sharp, the very dead of winter.'* The shepherds, too, in their journey to the crib had a mountain to climb, the mountain of social exclusion, for they were the lowest of the low, not welcomed. Yet both shepherds and scholars found their way to the manger and to the person of Jesus whose coming remains the hinge of human history.

Many aspects of our society today are distanced from this saving truth of Jesus of Nazareth. We live in a culture that wants to push religious belief out of sight, into the margins. Now we have a long journey to make, finding our way through these barriers, through this thickening forest, to the true source of our joy and stability, Jesus, the One alone who is the truth of God fully expressed in our flesh.

It is His coming, which we celebrate in the holy season. We can do so with a profound and lasting confidence that He who conquered death itself can also penetrate our darkness. His coming tells us that such is his deepest desire: to be Emmanuel, God-with-us, no matter how far we may have wandered. He summoned the shepherds, in their place of work, with music and brightness; He called the wise men through their scholarship and desire to know. He calls each one of us, if we have the sensitivity to recognise that summons!

We read that the wise men returned to their countries, no longer feeling at home there. In the presence of this Christ-child they discovered something that remained in their hearts, an enduring peace and joy which they could no longer push to one side. We believe that they went home as men more wise, as men more peaceful in themselves, as men more poised in their lives. The shepherds, too, we know, went home full of song and gladness for what their eyes had seen. This is the invitation offered to us this Christmas. It is a time of conversion, a time to discover the presence of God who is always in us and with us. Its fruits can be the same for us too!

A day workshop has been organised to take place at Christ the King here in Coventry. The Theme is "Eucharist and the Family". The workshop will take place on 3rd February starting at 10:00am– 3:30pm. Please take a packed Lunch with you.

Masses over Christmas time:

St. Marys December 24th. 10:30am . Vigil Mass 6:00pm & 8:00pm
Christmas Day 9:30am and 11:30am

St. Osburg December 24th 11:30am, 5.30pm and 12:00am Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day 11:30am.



Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year 2018!
This Newsletter serves Next week as well.



AJ Missions



St. Osburgs



St. Marys



St. Elizabeth

Parish Newsletter - 4th Sunday of Advent 24th Dec 2017 to 7th Jan 2018

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS

We the Apostles of Jesus Missionaries serving you at St. Osburgs, St. Marys and at St. Elizabeth send our greetings and we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year 2018. Thanks to God that most of us have done our duty to one another. God has given us the privilege to serve him in our brothers and sisters something which we should never fail to do because when we do this to others, we do it to Jesus himself (Mt. 25:40).

As a Religious Order working among you, we are thankful to God for sending to us good co-workers namely the Presentation Sisters at St. Osburg, the Sisters of St. Anne of Providence at St. Mary's and the Evangelizing Sisters of Mary at St. Elizabeth. These co-workers have consecrated their entire life to the service of the Church such that they deserve our greatest respect. We cannot do without them!

The other day I was reflecting on the origins where the priests and religious serving us in the three parishes come from. I noticed that all of them are immigrants from other countries! What would we have done if these Religious had refused to immigrate to our direction? Like the Magi they followed a Star in search of God and to him they dedicated their life to serve his people. It is the second Christmas for the nuns at St. Elizabeth while it is the first for our two priests at St. Osburgs; for the rest of us it is another Christmas that God has given to us in addition to those we have already celebrated with you in the past.

Let us continue to persevere in the faith together. Please remember to take your faith in God seriously, work for the salvation of your soul. When we fly on an aircraft we are normally given safety instructions. We are told that in case of loss of air pressure in the cabin masks would automatically drop to enable us to breath. But the most important point in this is this that if you have children with you, you must put the oxygen mask on your face **first** and then put on your **child**. In other words you must think of your own safety first, then the safety of others. People on the aircraft who think of other people's safety first die without either saving themselves or those whom they love. As Christmas and the New Year are already here with us, let us be concerned first and foremost with the salvation of **my Soul**. Some people have become so weak in faith others have given up religion and the church all together simply because something happened somewhere or because someone committed a blunder! I'm sure God is not interested in what others do but in what I'm doing. Let us do our best to remain loyal and faithful to Jesus Christ – God among us. We wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year 2018.



The Most Holy Sacrament and St. Osburgs

Barras Lane, Coventry, CV1 4AQ. Tel 024 76220402

Fr. Jimmy Mobile. 07906124756 Home 02476258901

Fr. Pontius 07424553529 and Fr. Sunday 07448029184

Parish Sisters: Sr. Philomena and Sr. Theresa (PBVM)

(St. Osburgs Primary School, Upper Hill Street Coventry CV1 4AP. Tel 02476227165

Headteacher Mrs Nicola Rynott.

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Ann Collins 02476670304

St. Mary & St. Benedict R.C Church

52a, Raglan Street Coventry, CV1 5QF. Tel 02476258901

www.ssmaryandbenedict.org.uk

Parish Priest. Fr. Jimmy Lutwama AJ

Mobile: 07906124756.

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St. Elizabeth's R.C. Church

St. Elizabeth's Road, CV6 5BX Tel.:024 76688536

Website: www.stelizabethcoventry.co.uk

Parish priest: Fr. Moses Pitya David AJ

E-mail: mospitya@yahoo.co.uk

The Parishes are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Reg. Charity No. 234216

Parish development

Gift Aid.... £123.00. Loose.....£ 320.88 Total.....£ 443.88

Sat. lunches....£ 94.00 Restoration.£ 214.20 Heating.....£ 31.98

Second collection : Poor Parishes Fund £160.45.

Thank you for your generosity.

Christmas and Easter Collections: are your personal gift to your priests. Envelopes are available at the back if you need one. Thank you for your generosity.

The collection for Christmas flowers taken last weekend raised £199.58, which is marvellous for making sure that our church looks festive for the birth of our Saviour - thanks to all who contributed.

MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES 2018: 7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle service from €279 per person. Book any flight - any time and we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call us for further info and book the dates that suit you. Tel. 01 4434510 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com.

CHURCH WEBCAM has been giving trouble these last few days. Thanks to our service Provider MCN Media services who have been working hard to have it restored. Thanks to all our viewers who have called in to let us know that the system was down. Please thank you for your being alert.

The St Osburg's '300 Club' winners for December (which is a double draw) are:

1st prize 179 B Byrne and 373 B Turbitt

2nd prize 503 N Woya and 683 J Hussey

3rd prize 715 N Kelly and 269 T O'Brien

4th prize 751 B Davies and 91 D McNamara

Congratulations to all the winners, and a blessed Christmas to everyone.



Hearing Aid Users—Please switch your hearing aid to 'T'

MASS TIMES DURING THE WEEKS from 24th Dec 2017 to 7th Jan 2018

Sat	23	11.45am	The Whitney Family (Christmas int)
		5.30pm	People of the Parish, Pat Fallon (get well)
Sun	24	1 1.30am	Teresa, Eamon & Family (Christmas int)
		5.30pm	Ann, Sean & Family (Christmas int)
Mon	25	Midnight	Sr. Mary Deane (Sp Int), Alan Goodwin (RIP)
		11.30am	Maggie Green (Sp Int) Bridie Mullally (RIP)
Tues	26	12.10pm	Margaret Ruddy & Srs Philomena & Teresa (X'mas Int)
Wed	27	12.10pm	Mr & Mrs John Lyons (Christmas Int)
			Catherine Mangan (Sp Int)
Thurs	28	12.10pm	John Lappin (Anni) Bernadine Warren (Lately dead)
Fri	29	12.10pm	FUNERAL – Bernadine Warren
Sat	30	11.45am	Mary & Ray Whitehouse (Christmas int)
		5.30pm	Grainne, Seog & Family & Mary, Jim & Family (X'mas Int)
Sun	31	1 1.30am	Frank Green (Anni) Jocelyn Caffrey (RIP)
Mon	01	12.10pm	Margaret Magee Martin Walsh (RIP)
Tues	02	12.10pm	Jim Bonner (RIP)Eamon Mullally (Christmas Int)
Wed	03	12.10pm	James Ward (RIP) Martin Moran & family (Sp Int)
Thurs	04	12.10pm	FUNERAL
Fri	05	12.10pm	Bridie & Marie Whelan & Byrne family (X'mas Int)
Sat	06	11.45am	Shirley Hartnett & Family (Sp int)
			Francie O'Grady (X'mas Int)
		5.30pm	Bernadette Lappin & Lesley Burke (RIP)
Sun	07	11.30am	People of the parish

Please pray for the sick of the parish: Eileen McHugh, Laurence Gallen, Garry Hobbs, Teresa Ryne, Cameron Reilly, Carla Lawrence, Terence Harris, Patrick Connolly, Mark Correvisgandis Anne, Bacia, Colin Hipperson, Kathleen Tierney, Diane Cunningham, Kieran Connell, Ahmed Musa, Carol Sparks, Ruth Clithero, Jan Carusso, Nadia Faruk Hannah, Tom McDermott, Winnie McDermott, Gerald Douglas, Shirley Hartnett, Stephen Bayliss, Jackie Buckley, Dave Riliott, Alan Davis, David Horley, Margaret Ghen, Bridie & Benny McAndrew. Christine Strong, Hilda Gibson, Sheila Biggs.

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur about this time : John Lappin, Morgan Patricia Mary, Campling Seamus Kevin, Gibson Joseph, O'Brien Joseph Patrick, Kerrigan Michael Joseph, Atkinson William, McGlynn James Joseph, Lynch Thomas, McCarthy Bernard, Johnson Anne, Sullivan Michael, Green Frank, Smyth Elizabeth, McGuire Frank, Duffy Margaret Christina, Fowler James Robert, Mimnaugh W. Michael, McCarron Elizabeth, Kennedy Elizabeth, Lappin Bernadette, Meagher Denis, Mckee Martin, Farrelly John, Duffy Thomas Peter,.

