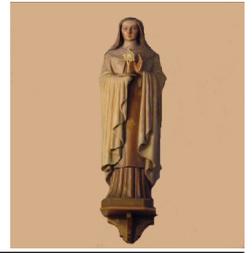




# St Clare of Assisi Catholic Church

DOWNSFIELD ROAD, CHESTER CH4 8HH



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Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025.

Parish Website: [www.stclareschester.org](http://www.stclareschester.org)

Parish Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/groups/StClaresChester/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/StClaresChester/)

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10th DECEMBER 2017**

**Psalter Week II**

**Diocesan Year of The Eucharist 2018**

**DEDICATION:**

**December is dedicated to The Immaculate Conception**

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



“As the journey of Advent continues, as we prepare to celebrate the nativity of Christ, John the Baptist's call to conversion sounds out in our communities. **It is a pressing invitation to open our hearts** and to welcome the Son of God Who comes among us to make divine judgement manifest. The Father, writes St. John the Evangelist, does not judge anyone, but has entrusted the power of judgement to the Son, because He is the Son of man.”

And it is today, in the present, that we decide our future destiny. It is with our concrete everyday behaviour in this life that we determine our eternal fate. At the end of our days on earth, at the moment of death, we will be evaluated on the basis of our likeness or otherwise to the Baby Who is about to be born in the poor grotto of Bethlehem, because He is the measure God has given humanity.

*“Through the Gospel John the Baptist continues to speak down the centuries to each generation. His hard clear words bring health to us, the men and women of this day in which even the experience and perception of Christmas often, unfortunately, reflects materialist attitudes. The 'voice' of the great prophet asks us to prepare the way for the coming Lord in the deserts of today, internal and external deserts, thirsting for the water of life which is Christ.” — Benedict XVI*

**What better aid to our Advent preparation than to take time out from the secular bustle during Advent and spend some time in adoration –extra exposition times available Wednesday and Friday evenings 6-8 pm-see inside**

## LOST TOUCH?

If you have lost touch with your Faith, you might be surprised at how joyful it can be once you have made that difficult first step, **Our Lord is waiting for you with open arms**, just speak to Fr Emeka.



## ARE YOU NEW TO ST CLARE'S

**Everyone is welcome here.** We would like you to feel very much at home with us whether you are Catholic or not. God loves us deeply, and enters our lives in various ways, and invites us to know and love him more. This is His house and His arms are always open to welcome. **Forgive us if we fail to notice a new face in our midst.. PLEASE join us for coffee after Mass**

### Weekend Masses:

Saturday 6pm  
Sunday 9.30am  
11.15am(Latin)

### Confessions

see back page

### Children's Liturgy

Sundays 9.30  
In Sacristy

### For Baptisms, Confirmation,- Weddings and Funerals

Please call or email Fr Emeka above

Weekday Masses: Please see back page

<b>Date/ Time</b>	<b>Feast/ Colour</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Offered For</b>
Sat 09/12 Confessions 5.30 -5.45 pm Rosary 5.40 pm Vigil MASS 6 pm	<i>Second Sunday of</i>	<b>John &amp; Kathleen members of the</b>	<b>Brennan &amp; dec'd Brennan &amp; Murphy</b>
Sun 10/12 <i>Exposition 8.30am</i> Rosary 9.00am, Benediction 9.15am MASS 9.30am LATIN MASS 11.15pm	<i>Advent</i> <i>Purple</i>	Is 40:1-5.9-11; Ps 84; 2 P:3: 8-14;	<b>The Szczyglowski relations</b>  <b>Samuel Maher</b>
Tue 12/12 Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet 3-4pm MASS 7.00pm	<i>Ferial</i> <i>Purple</i>	Is 40: 1-11; Ps 95	<b>Singleton relations</b>
Weds 13/12 <i>Exposition and Rosary 8,30 am.</i> MASS 9.30am . <i>Exposition 6-8 pm</i>	<i>St Lucy, V.M</i> <i>Red</i>	Is 40: 25-31; Ps 102; Mt 11: 28-30	<b>Judy &amp; Henry Kearney (SB)</b>
Thurs 14/12 <i>Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet 3-4pm</i> Rosary 7.10pm MASS 7.30pm	<i>St John of The Cross,P.D</i>	Is 41: 13-20; Ps 133; Mt 11:11-15	<b>Michael Pryal RIP</b>
Fri 15/12 Rosary 9.10am MASS 9.30am <i>Exposition 6-8 pm</i>	<i>Ferial</i> <i>Purple</i>	Is 48: 17-19; Ps 1; Mt 11: 16-19	<b>Sheila Lasok (RIP)</b>
Sat 16/12 Rosary 5.40pm Vigil MASS 6 pm	<i>Third Sunday Of</i>	Is 61: 1-2.10-11; Ps Lk 1;	<b>Pat Cleaver (SB)</b>
Sun 17/12 <i>Exposition 8.30 am</i> Rosary 9.00am, Benediction 9.15am MASS 9.30am Tridentine Latin MASS 12.30pm	<i>Advent</i> <i>Purple</i>	1 Th 5: 16-24; Jn 1: 6-8.19-28	<b>Rosemary Prendergast</b> <b>Judy &amp; Henry Kearney</b>

## St Clare's Catholic Primary School



This week a group of children participated in a Multi skills event in Ellesmere Port. They were very excited about representing school and had the opportunity to do Boccia, Sitting Volleyball, Wheelchair Basketball and Golf. The organiser of the event commented on how fantastic the pupils from St Clare's were. The children had the "best day ever!"



Congratulations to the children who were presented to the parish last week as they start their



preparation to receive the Sacraments of First Forgiveness and Holy Communion- please remember them in your prayers.

The school has been ringing the beautiful sound of pupils voices singing as they Children have started to rehearse their Christmas music and lines.....Parishioners are welcome to come to our school

Carol Service in Church on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 6:00pm.

The children love all the new books bought with the funds raised from the book fayre in October. They have been very excited about reading more books by their favourite authors.

This week I met with the School Parliament which is made up from representatives from each class. The



children discussed what they love about school and shared ideas for further developments. I was impressed with how they interacted confidently and listened to each other's suggestions.

Our families had the opportunity to buy cards which have been designed by pupils- I am very excited with the thought that their designs are being posted to places far and

wide!

If you know any families who have school aged children



due to start in September 2018, please encourage them to come to visit us or phone school: 01244

981110

## PARISH EVENTS

**PARISH COUNCIL.** 12th December after evening Mass

### REGULAR PARISH EVENTS

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

**CHOIR.** Weekly practice on Thursdays after the evening Mass, in the Parish Room (sometimes in the choir loft. 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 every two weeks on Saturdays. New members welcome; for information contact Steve on 01244671817 and e-mail [stevebonsall@outlook.com](mailto:stevebonsall@outlook.com)

**CHESTER SPUC GROUP** alternate 3rd Wednesdays next meeting November

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**CATECHISTS MEETING.** Sat 13 Jan 9.30am at Our Lady's Ellesmere Port CH65 8BY

## PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS

In his pastoral letter last week Bishop Mark designated this coming year as the diocesan 'Year of the Eucharist' and asked us to "focus anew on the Eucharistic Heart of our parishes" and to become more fully aware of the reality of the Eucharist and grow in what St John Paul II called "Eucharistic amazement"

He also reminded us of Pope Francis' invitation when he wrote:

***"I want to encourage everyone-if possible every day amid life's difficulties-to visit the Blessed Sacrament of the infinite love of Christ and his mercy preserved in our churches and often abandoned, to speak filially with him, to listen to him in silence, and to peacefully entrust yourself to him"***

Exposition is now available 6 times a week in St Clare's (including 6-8pm on Wednesday and Friday evenings) for the next two weeks so that our Advent preparation for Christmas may be truly meaningful

***"Go and find Him when your patience and strength run out and you feel alone and helpless. Jesus is waiting for you in the chapel. Say to Him, 'Jesus, you know exactly what is going on. You are all I have, and you know all things. Come to my help.' And then go, and don't worry about how you are going to manage. That you have told God about it is enough. He has a good memory."*** St. Jeanne Jugan

## YOUTH GROUP:

The next Youth Group meeting will be on **Monday 11th December** from 7.15 pm to 9pm, beginning in the Iona Chapel and moving over to St. Columba's Hall for games and Christmas activities. **If you are 10 to 14 years old** please come along and have fun with other young people from our Chester parishes.

## Youth Zone

### POINTING TO CHRIST

In the Gospel today we hear about John the Baptist. I love John the Baptist! He was an important person to the people of Judea so much so that "all the people" flocked to him to be baptised.

Let's rewind a little. Do you remember when Mary had just been visited by the Angel Gabriel, and then went to see her cousin Elizabeth? Well Elizabeth was pregnant with John the Baptist at the time. And do you remember when Mary entered the baby jumped in her womb? Before he was born John was filled with the Holy Spirit. So I can't imagine John doing anything else in his adult life than talking about Jesus. He knew that his life had a special purpose, to point people towards Jesus. He said "someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am". He was preparing the way for Jesus.

Now here's the challenge. We are also called to be John the Baptist. We are supposed to prepare the way for Jesus. This Advent, how can your life point other people towards Jesus. It may be by inviting a friend to Church with you, or saying that you will pray for someone, it may be sharing your story with them...but give it a try...be like John the Baptist and point someone to Christ.— Catherine SYMT





## 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, Anna Brennan, Christopher Browne, Gerard Boyle, Joan Bullough, Mary Duffy, Mark Evans, Mary Frain, Michelle Gentile,, Kath Heffernan, Katie Gray, Ewyn Jenkins, V. Jones, Ann Leach, Bob McConnell, Mary McDonough, Belinda Riddell, Bob Sheppard, Phyllis Smith, Jo Stobbs, Gwen Spurn, Eileen Wyatt. Residents of Curzon Park Nursing Home.

### ANNIVERSARY

Please pray for the soul of Catherine Kearney whose anniversary falls about now

### MEDITATIONS FOR ADVENT-EPIPHANY

36 Days & 36 Ways, Daily meditations from Advent to the Epiphany - Year B by Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB is available as an eBook for £2.15 on the CTS website. This booklet gives a few verses of the readings for each of the days of Advent and Christmas, to the Epiphany

Each day ends with a suggestion on how the reader might put the spirit of Christmas into action.

### NEW FACES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL

A call — for three new people to join the Parish Council. Names for this latest need to Fr Emeka please. One name has been put forward but more are needed. Failing sufficient volunteers it will be necessary to ask you, the parishioners of St Clare's, to produce suggestions and then for an election to take place.

### LATIN MASSES CORRECTION

Pleased note earlier we have given incorrect times and caused confusion. Re times of Latin Mass. For the record:.

Normal sung Latin Mass is at **11.15 am** every Sunday except ;

**Third Sunday of the month** when a **Tridentine Mass** is said at **12.30 pm**

**The next Tridentine Mass is therefore on 17th this month**

### FOOD BANK DONATIONS

The next collection for the Food Bank is the **weekend** 30/31 December.

### HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS DECEMBER

**Universal:** That the elderly, sustained by familiar and Christian Communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations

### First Forgiveness and Holy communion

**Congratulations to all the children who were presented to the Parish last Sunday . Many thanks to parents who have allowed them to be presented.**

**We are calling on all to help us reach out to other children who are not in St.Clare's school, to advise that we shall begin preparation for them beginning on the 3rd week of January.**

### UNIVERSALIS

Some of you may be users of the online/mobile app "Universalis", which is a digital edition of the Divine Office and Mass readings and texts. As of the beginning of Advent 2017, the Shrewsbury Diocesan Calendar is now also available through Universalis. You will need to select Shrewsbury from the settings of the particular version of Universalis that you use. Please be aware that this is still a work in progress. If you aren't already using Universalis you can access it at [www.universalis.com](http://www.universalis.com) or download the app through the app store on your phone or tablet.

### CATECHISTS

The next meeting for Catechists will be an opportunity for *Sharing Best Practice*. Miss Caroline Farey (Maryvale Institute & The School of the Annunciation) will listen to your exchanges, and offer practical advice for the situations you are facing. Venue: Our Lady's, Ellesmere Port; Sat 13 Jan 2018, (9:30) 10:00-11:50.

Enquiries: Barbara Davies (07730 526821); Registration: Helen Jones ([helen.jones@dioceseofshrewsbury.org](mailto:helen.jones@dioceseofshrewsbury.org))  
See poster in the porch

### VISTATION OF THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

**Fr. Emeka would be pleased to visit the sick and housebound during Advent to celebrate Masses in homes for people who are unable to make it to Mass because of sickness. Please inform Fr. Emeka of any housebound who would like a Mass celebrated in their home.**