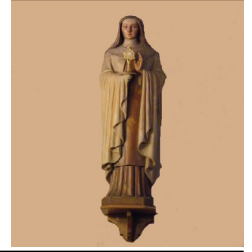




# St Clare of Assisi Catholic Church

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/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/StClaresChester/)

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 3 DECEMBER 2017**

**Psalter Week I**

**Diocesan Year of The Eucharist 2018**

**DEDICATION:**

**December is dedicated to The Immaculate Conception**



## ADVENT BEGINS

For us Catholics, the new Liturgical Year commences with the first Sunday of Advent. In this new liturgical year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the **beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord**. This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich and intense, endeavours to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent Season, will spur us to an awakening in our

Christian life and will put us in a 'vigilant' disposition, to wait for Our Lord Jesus who is coming  
*'Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob", is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes*

*—Pope Benedict Celebration of First Vespers of Advent, 2006*

As Blessed John Henry Newman reminded us in a homily for the Advent Season: "Advent is a time of waiting, it is **a time of joy** because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also **a time of commitment** because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance.

We must start our journey to ascend to the mountain of the Lord, to be illuminated by His Words of peace and to allow Him to indicate the path to tread. (cf. Is 2:1-5). Moreover, **we must change our conduct abandoning the works of darkness** and put on the 'armor of light' and so seek only to do God's work and to abandon the deeds of the flesh. (cf. Rm 13:12-14)

## 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 02/12 <b>Confessions 5.30 -5.45 pm</b> <b>Rosary 5.40 pm Vigil MASS 6 pm</b>	<i>First Sunday of</i>	Is 63: 16-17;64:1:3-8; Ps 79;	<b>Nino Mansutti</b>
Sun 03/12 <b>Exposition 8.30am</b> <b>Rosary 9.00am, Benediction 9.15am</b> MASS 9.30am LATIN MASS 11.15pm	<i>Advent</i> <i>Purple</i>	1 Co 1: 3-9; Mk 13: 33-37	<b>Will Prendergast</b>  <b>Rita Hill</b>
Tue 05/12 <b>Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet 3-4pm</b> MASS 7.00pm	<i>Ferial</i> <i>Purple</i>	Is 11: 1-10; Ps 71; Lk 10: 21-24	<b>Judy &amp; Henry Kearney (SB)</b>
Weds 06/12 <b>Exposition and Rosary 8,30 am.</b> MASS 9.30am .	<i>Ferial</i> <i>Purple</i>	Is 25: 6-10; Ps 22; Mt 25: 15.29-37	<b>Theresa Hart</b>
Thurs 07/12 <b>Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet 3-4pm</b> <b>Rosary 7.10pm</b> MASS 7.30pm	<i>St Ambrose B,D</i> <i>White</i>	Is 26: 1-6; Ps 117; Mt 7: 21.24-27.	<b>Lilla Bradburn</b>
Fri 08/12 <b>Rosary 9.10am</b> <b>MASS 9.30am</b>	<i>The Immaculate Conception of BVM</i> <i>White</i>	Gn 3: 9-15;20 Ps 97; Ep 1:3-6.11-12; Lk 1: 26-38	<b>John Kirrane (RIP)</b>
Sat 09/12 <b>Rosary 5.40pm</b> <b>Vigil MASS 6 pm</b>	<i>Second Sunday Of Advent</i>	<b>John &amp; Kathleen members of the</b>	<b>Brennan &amp; decd Brennan &amp; Murphy families</b>
Sun 10/12 <b>Exposition 8.30 am</b> <b>Rosary 9.00am, Benediction 9.15am</b> MASS 9.30am Latin MASS 11.15am	<i>Purple</i>	Is 40:1*5.9-11; Ps 84; 2 P:3: 8-14; Mk 1: 1-8	<b>The Szczyglowski relations</b>  <b>Samuel Maher</b>

## **St Clare's Catholic Primary School**



Pupils in Classes Four and Five performed at the Angel Voices concert in St Mary's, Chester on Tuesday evening. The children were absolutely wonderful, singing with great passion and enthusiasm.

Matt Baker, who hosted the evening, commented on how fantastic he thought pupils from St Clare's sang.



Pupils from Doddleston came to play a football match, all children played well. St Clare's enjoyed a 4-0 win. Our Year Two pupils participated in a multi skills festival in Ellesmere Port. Children participated in a wide range of activities and enjoyed the experience.



Each class has started their 'Travelling Nativity'. Each pupil has the opportunity to take a small, wooden Nativity scene home to share with their families. They are encouraged to record a reflection in a class book which is shared throughout Advent.

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.

If you know any families who have school aged children due to start in September 2018, please encourage them to come to visit us. Last year we had some families who were disappointed as they were not able to secure places for their children in St Clare's.

## 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

**PRESENTAION OF CANDIDATES FOR FIRST SACRAMENTS TO PATRISHIONERS, This Sunday,**

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



### IMPORTANT

#### BISHOP MARK'S GRAVE CONCERNS FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

##### THIS TAKES 1 MINUTE!

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? **Then we need you to make your voice heard.**

The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap **which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all**

**Catholic pupils to attend.** They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools. With thanks for your help and cooperation in this matter and with every good wish,  
Yours Sincerely in Christ + Mark Bishop of Shrewsbury

It is also not in the public interest because Catholic schools educate 21 % more pupils from ethnic minority backgrounds compared to other schools and 16.5 % of pupils in Catholic schools live in the most deprived areas, compared to 11.3 % nationally. It is important to note that our understanding is that the Government does not require legislation (so there is no issue as to parliamentary majorities or legislative time), it only requires the ministerial decision of Ms. Justine Greening the Secretary of State .

**It takes just one minute** on the web site above to support the Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Education Service in this initiative. Alternatively write direct to the minister

### 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

### ALWAYS READY?

Today's Gospel reminds us that we are not only meant to be preparing for celebrating the birth of Jesus, but also that as Christians we should continually be preparing for when Jesus 'comes again in glory' (just as we say in the Creed each week at mass). For as the Gospel says: 'You do not know when that time will come.'

What if Jesus were to return in glory tomorrow, would I be able to stand before Him and say 'Jesus, I did just what you asked me, I lived my life for you.'? Today's gospel challenges me again to be 'watchful', that is, to be living my life worthy of who I am: a beloved daughter of God.

For me this Advent, that maybe means not worrying so much about whether we're going to have all our gifts ready, or trying to get a new outfit for all those Christmas parties but focusing on the time I devote to God.

Today, perhaps think about how you will prepare not only for Christmas, but also how you will be 'always ready' for Jesus?





## 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.

### RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the soul of Doris Davies who died recently and for the comfort and consolation of all who knew her. May she rest in peace.

### 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.

### HOSPITAL MASS

The regular "First Thursday" Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, 7 December at 12.15pm in the Countess hospital chapel. This is for patients, outpatients,, staff, families and friends, and the wellbeing of our hospitals, including The Bowmere. All are welcome

### RESULT MISSION APPEAL

Many thanks to all for the excellent response to the Missionary sisters appeal, which raised £502.12

### 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

### Candidates for first Holy Communion.

**Children for first Holy Communion in June 2018 will be presented to the parish this Sunday . Our prayers for them during this spiritual journey leading to their First Forgiveness and Communion.**

### 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)  
See poster in the porch

### PASTORAL LETTER

Please take a copy of Bishop Mark's Pastoral Letter for the First Sunday in Advent home with you after Mass.

### LATIN MASSES CORRECTION

Apologies to Latin Mass lovers, that we have given incorrect times and caused confusion. 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**  
**Please note different time**

### URGENT HELP NEEDED!!!

Caritas Shrewsbury is looking for a volunteer ESOL Teacher to help the refugee project at the St. Aidan's Centre, Wythen-shawe, from January 2018. The programme operates from 12pm until 2pm every Tuesday, parking is available and expenses will be reimbursed. If anyone can help, please contact Mary Kilcoyne on 0151 652 1281.

### FOOD BANK DONATIONS

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