



St Clare of Assisi Catholic Church

DOWNSFIELD ROAD, CHESTER CH4 8HH



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Parish Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/StClaresChester/

CHRISTMASTIDE 31st DECEMBER 2017

Psalter Week I

Diocesan Year of The Eucharist 2018

DEDICATION:

January is dedicated to The Holy Name of Jesus



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

We can affirm that in a certain sense Christ, Himself, was the first devotee of His family. He showed His devotion to His mother and foster father by submitting Himself, with infinite humility, to the duty of filial obedience towards them.

This is what St Bernard of Clairvaux said in this regard, **'God, to whom angels submit themselves and who principalities and powers obey, was subject to Mary; and not only to Mary but Joseph also for Mary's sake [...]. God obeyed a human creature; this is humility without precedent. A human creature commands God; it is sublime beyond measure.'** (First Homily on the 'Missus Est').

We can learn from Mary and Joseph! What would they ever have overlooked in the care of Jesus' physical body? Is there something, therefore, that we can withhold for the right and adoring care of His Eucharistic Body? No amount of attention, no sane act of love and adoring respect will ever be too much! On the contrary, **our adoration and respect will always be inferior to the great gift that comes to us in the Holy Eucharist.**

Looking at the Holy Family, we see the love, the protection, and the diligent care that they gave to the Redeemer. We can not fail to feel uneasiness, perhaps a shameful thought, **for the times in which we have not rendered the appropriate care and attention to the Blessed Eucharist.** We can only ask for forgiveness and do penance for all the sacrilegious acts and the lack of respect that are committed in front of the Blessed Eucharist. We can only ask the Lord, through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, for a greater love for their Son Incarnate, who has decided to remain here on earth with us every day until the end of time.

Catholic Culture' extract

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

Sat 30/12	Rosary 5.40pm Vigil MASS 6 pm	<i>The Holy</i>	Si 3: 2-6.12-14; Ps 127;	Isabella & Geoff Craggs (SB)
Sun 31/12	Exposition 8.30 am Rosary 9.00am, Benediction 9.15am MASS 9.30am Sung Latin MASS 11.15 am	<i>Family White</i>	Heb 11: 8.11-12.17-19 Lk 2: 22-40	John Murphy People of The Parish
Mon 1/1	Rosary 9.40 am MASS 10 am	<i>Mary Mother of God White</i>	Num 6:22-27 ; Ps 66 Gal 4:4-7; Lk2:16-21	Restoring our sister Monica Masia to good health.
Tues 2/1	Rosary 6.40 pm MASS 7pm	<i>SS Basil the Great Gregory Nazianzen White</i>	1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 97 Jn 1:19-28	David Robert (RIP)
Wed 3/1	Exposition 8.30 am Rosary 9.00am, Benediction 9.15am MASS 9.30am	<i>Most Holy Name of Jesus White</i>	1 Jn 2:29- 3 :6 Ps 97 Jn 1: 29-34	Gleen Chaloner
Thurs 4/1	Rosary 7.10 pm MASS 7.30pm	<i>White</i>	1 Jn 3:7-10: Ps 97 Jn 1:35-42	Joseph Russell
Fri 5/1	Rosary 9.10 am MASS 9.30 am	<i>White</i>		
Sat 6/1	Rosary 5.40pm Vigil MASS 6 pm	<i>Epiphany</i>	Is 60:1-6; Ps 71	Acworth Family in- tentions
Sun 7/1	Exposition 8.30 am Rosary 9.00am, Benediction 9.15am MASS 9.30am Sung Latin MASS 11.15 am	<i>of the Lord white</i>	Eph3:2-3,5-6 Mt 2:1-12	William Prendergast

THE BROWN SCAPULAR

The Brown Scapular continues to hold a privileged place in Marian devotion. This has been re-affirmed since Vatican II

'Among the practices recommended by the second Vatican Council, we would mention by name the Marian Rosary and the devoutly use of the Scapular of Carmel. For this Scapular is a form of piety which is adapted to all minds by reason of its simplicity, and has become universally widespread among the faithful producing many and happy fruits'-Pope Paul VI

Pope St John Paul II said ' I always wear the Scapular and this devotion has done me much good''

Our Lady united herself with this devotion herself when at Fatima, at the moment of the great miracle, she appeared clothed in the habit of Carmel, reaching down towards the crowd with the centuries-old sign of affiliation, the Brown Scapular

See Fr Emeka if you would like to be enrolled



St Clare's Catholic Primary School

School is currently on the Christmas break

PARISH EVENTS

PARISH COUNCIL. 13th February 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

CHESTER SPUC GROUP alternate 3rd Wednesdays next meeting January contact Kevin 01244 681816

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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



MONDAY 1st—SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD

Fundamentalists are sometimes horrified when the Virgin Mary is referred to as the Mother of God.

A woman is a man's mother either if she carried him in her womb or if she was the woman contributing half of his genetic matter or both. Mary was the mother of Jesus in both of these senses; because she not only carried Jesus in her womb but also supplied all of the genetic matter for his human body, since it was through her—not Joseph—that Jesus "was descended from David according to the flesh" (Rom. 1:3).

: If Mary is the mother of Jesus, and if Jesus is God, then Mary is the Mother of God. There is no way out of this logical syllogism, the valid form of which has been recognized by classical logicians since before the time of Christ.

Although Mary is the Mother of God, she is not his mother in the sense that she is older than God or the source of her Son's divinity, for she is neither. Rather, we say that she is the Mother of God in the sense that she carried in her womb a divine person—Jesus Christ, God "in the flesh" (2 John 7, cf. John 1:14)—and in the sense that she contributed the genetic matter to the human form God took in Jesus Christ.

Ireneus one of the Church Fathers agreed "The Virgin Mary, being obedient to his word, received from an angel the glad tidings that she would bear God" (*Against Heresies*, 5:19:1 [A.D. 189]).

Extract from Catholic Answers



Youth Zone

FAMILY TIME

As 2017 draws to a close we look back on the last year, what we have achieved, what we've failed, the good, the bad and all the experiences we have had. It's a time to reflect on the things that are most important to us. For me, this is my family and the things I love. This isn't just the people in my life but also my faith. For me, Church means family. Church means home.

Just in the same way as thinking about my mum, dad, siblings, nieces and nephew. I love to imagine what the daily life was like for Joseph, Mary and Jesus. Just thinking about the love in that family makes my heart beat just that little bit faster. What a great example for us to have! My resolution, and challenge, therefore is this; Do I listen for the will of God in my life, like Joseph? Do I say 'yes' to what God wants of me like Mary? Do I love with all the passion that Jesus loves us? And do I really believe what we are told in the Second reading... "You are God's chosen race, his saints; and he loves you". **Lets be Saints together!**

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, Kirsty Bonsall, Gerard Boyle, 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, Leslie McGough, Belinda Riddell, Bob Sheppard, Phyllis Smith, Jo Stobbs, Gwen Spurn, Eileen Wyatt. Residents of Curzon Park Nursing Home.

During Christmastide we are asked to pray for these intentions:

*Openness to the word of God
Migrants and refugees
Expectant mothers*

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

CRUSADER

The **Free** Christmas edition of the 'Crusader' the magazine of the Crusade of Mary Immaculate is now available on the back of the church

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS JANUARY

Evangelisation:

Religious minorities in Asia. The Christians and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their Faith in full freedom

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Churches Together in Cheshire mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January each year by alternating a service in a large local church - last year it was St Laurence's Frodsham - with a Cathedral Service and national speaker. 2012 it was Cardinal Cormac, 2014 Archbishop George Carey, 2016 Lord Griffiths from the Methodists, and this January Archbishop John Sentamu of York. Sunday 21st January, Cathedral, 3.30 pm.

SHAKESPEARE REFORMATION TALK

St Werburgh's The third and final Reformation Talk had to be curtailed on Friday 27th October, because of all the Rail Disruption getting back from Ampleforth. As promised, it will be delivered in full on Friday January 12th: Talk at 7.30 pm, Discussion and Questions at 8.15 pm, Tea and Tab Nabs at 9.00 pm. All welcome!

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.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

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

MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is looking for suitably qualified practising Catholics to sit as voluntary Foundation Directors on the seven Multi Academy Trusts within the Diocese.

The existing Trusts are:

- Holy Family Catholic Academy Trust (Wirral)
- Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic Academy Trust (Macclesfield)
- The Chester Catholic Academies Partnership
- The Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust
- St Anselm's Catholic Multi Academy Trust (Tameside)
- The South Cheshire Catholic Multi Academy Trust (Crewe)
- Salopia Catholic Schools Trust (Runcorn)

Potential Directors should be practising Catholics with a commitment to Catholic education and a background in a relevant discipline including education, business, law, finance and human resources. See notice board for details.