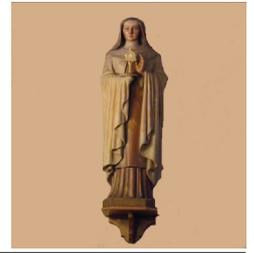




St Clare of Assisi Catholic Church

DOWNSFIELD ROAD, CHESTER CH4 8HH



Priest: Fr Emeka Nwachukwu, mobile: 07404178816

Tel 01244 671015,

Diocese of Shrewsbury, Registered Charity 234025.

Parish Website: www.stclareschester.org

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

CHRISTMASTIDE 7th JANUARY 2018

Psalter Week I

Diocesan Year of The Eucharist 2018

DEDICATION:

January is dedicated to The Holy Name of Jesus



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

For many years in the English speaking world the feast of Epiphany has been overshadowed by that of Christmas. But unless we realize the significance of this great day, we see only one side of the mystery of the Incarnation.

Now after contemplating the staggering fact that God has become a human child, we turn to look at this mystery from the opposite angle and realize that this seemingly helpless Child is, in fact, the omnipotent God, the King and Ruler of the universe. The feast of Christ's divinity completes the feast of His humanity. It fulfils all our Advent longing for the King "who is come with great power and majesty." We see that whereas Christmas is the family feast of Christianity, Epiphany is the great "world feast of the Catholic Church."

Moreover, Epiphany demands that like these kings we should return to our own countries a different way, **carrying to all those we meet the light of Christ.** "For behold, darkness shall cover the earth," says the Epistle of the Epiphany Mass, "and a mist the people: but the Lord shall arise upon Thee, and His glory shall be seen upon Thee. And the Gentiles shall walk in Thy light. . ." **These words may be applied to us, upon whom the light of Christ has indeed risen, and who have the responsibility to radiate that light in the darkness of our own world.** It is clear how much the feast of Epiphany must mean to all who are engaged in the apostolate and are striving to extend the kingdom of Christ. There is still another great theme threaded through the Epiphany feast—the theme of the royal nuptials, the wedding of Christ with humanity —*Catholic Culture*

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

Date/Time		Feast/Colour	Readings	Offered For
Sat 06/01	Rosary 5.40pm Vigil MASS 6 pm	<i>Epiphany</i>	Is 60:1-6; Ps 71	Acworth Family intentions
Sun 07/01	Exposition 8.30 am Rosary 9.00am, Benediction 9.15am MASS 9.30am Sung Latin MASS 11.15 am	<i>of the Lord</i> <i>White</i>	Eph3:2-3,5-6 Mt 2:1-12	William Prendergast (RIP) People of The Parish
Tues 09/01	Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet 3-4 pm Rosary 6.40 pm MASS 7pm	<i>Ferial Green</i>	1 S:1: 9-20. 1 S 2. Mk 1: 21-28	Julia Mary Walsh
Wed 10/01	Exposition 8.30 am Rosary 9.00am, Benediction 9.15am MASS 9.30am	<i>Ferial Green</i>	1 S 3:1-10.19-20. Ps 39, Mk 1: 29-39	Rose Boyle
Thurs 11/01	Exposition and Divine Mercy Chaplet 3-4 pm Rosary 7.10 pm MASS 7.30pm	<i>Ferial Green</i>	1 S 4: 1-11. Ps 43. Mk 1: 40-43	
Fri 12/01	Rosary 9.10 am MASS 9.30 am	<i>Ferial Green</i>	1 S 8: 4-7.10-22; Ps 88; Mk 2: 1-12	
Sat 13/01	Rosary 5.40pm Vigil MASS 6 pm	<i>Second Sunday in</i>	1 S 3: 3-10.19; Ps 39;	Pat & Tessa Creighton
Sun 14/01	Exposition 8.30 am Rosary 9.00am, Benediction 9.15am MASS 9.30am Sung Latin MASS 11.15 am	<i>Ordinary Time</i> <i>Green</i> <i>Collection for</i>	1 Co 6: 13-15.17-20 Jn 1: 35-42 Priests Retirement Fund	Eileen Chaloner RIP People of the Parish

Next Sunday 14th January is Day of Special prayer for World Peace

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 and will reopen on 8th January

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

Please note that there is a box in the porch for used computer ink cartridges and also used phones, the sale of which raises funds for SVP. Already about £100 has been raised for SVP by this means.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SHAKESPEARE REFORMATION TALK Friday 12th January St Werburgh's church

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

CHRISTIAN UNITY SERVICE Sun 21st January Chester cathedral 3.30 pm

SVP MUSIC NIGHT Friday 9th February St. Columba's church Hall



THE CHURCH DRAWS HER LIFE FROM THE EUCHARIST

This was the opening sentence of St John Paul II's encyclical '*Ecclesia de Eucharistica*' In it he warned Catholics against obscuring the beauty of the Church's Eucharistic heritage, and he uses the phrase "Eucharistic amazement" to describe what our feelings should be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. The Pope lamented that "In some places the practice of Eucharistic adoration has been almost completely abandoned..."

In a recent article in the 'Catholic Herald' Fr Alexander Lucie-Smith points out that our own Bishop Mark clearly feels the need to proclaim this "Eucharistic amazement" in his very basic recommendations as we heard in his recent pastoral letter: by genuflecting properly before the Tabernacle, visit the Blessed Sacrament more often and crossing ourselves when passing a church.

Fr Alexander points out that Bishop Mark is not alone, the Bishops of Nottingham and Portsmouth are promoting adoration in their schools, signifying a desire for greater reverence and a return to a more soundly based theology, which sees the Eucharistic presence as central to the Church and the summit of the Church's life.

A Eucharistic congress will be held in Liverpool from September 7-9th which perhaps will be an important step the Church will return to its true vocation

Extracted from 'Why Adoration is Coming Back' Catholic Herald

We too can play our part by our increased reverence and more frequent adoration which is available four times a week in St Clare's (See back page for details) or by more frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle

Youth Zone

FOLLOW THE STAR

Again we hear the familiar Gospel account of the three wise men who follow a star that leads them to the birth place of Jesus Christ.

These wise men are so intriguing to me. I love that they had seen something unusual in this star they had plotted, something that led them to pack up their things and literally travel across the world in order to find out what it meant. I'm not sure I have ever been entranced with something in the same way as the wise men.

We have a lot to learn from these men. They could see that the star was a great sign, pointing to something that would change their lives forever, indeed we hear that after they met Jesus they returned to their land a different way. In the same way, when we meet Jesus we cannot go back the way we came. We are forever changed. Today, on the Feast of the Epiphany - let us commit to forever moving forward with Jesus at the helm. Let us commit everything we have in our journey with Christ, even if it takes us to the other side of the world like the Wise Men. -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, Maureen Brady, 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.

LATELY DEAD

Please pray for the souls of Rose Boyle and Eileen Morgan who both died recently

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

SVP MUSIC NIGHT

S.V. P. Fund Raising Event, Friday 9th February 2018 'Music Night' with the Catholic High Swing Band at St. Columba's Church Hall. Tickets £10 each. All proceeds for S.V.P. Holiday Home. Tickets available from Mike Leach or Ste3ve Bonsall

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

The next collection for the Food Bank is the weekend 26/27 January.

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS JANUARY

Evangelisation:

Religious minorities in Asia:
That 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.

RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND - SPECIAL COLLECTION

Next weekend the annual Collection for the Retired Priests' Fund will be held. With your help, we can build up the Fund to help meet the future needs of our sick and retired priests. Special Envelopes are available for you to use. A Leaflet about the Fund is also available which explains how to make a regular donation to the Fund by Standing Order, or how you can make your donation by cheque. It also explains how to take advantage of Gift Aid for your donations to the Fund. I ask that you give as generously as you can to this very worthy cause and would also like to express my sincere gratitude for your continued support.

With every blessing,

+ Mark

Bishop of Shrewsbury