HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, MARPLE
www.holyspiritmarple.com
Fr.Bill Fitzgerald 427:4922
6th December 2020
2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
BIBLE SUNDAY

First Reading: (Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11)
Prepare a way for the Lord.
Second Reading : (2 Peter 3:8-14)
We are waiting for the new heavens and new earth.
Gospel: (Mark 1:1-8)
Make his paths straight.

Pope Francis's prayer intention for December: That our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Sunday **4pm** **6pm** **9am** **2.45pm-3.45pm Private Prayer and Taize Reflections**	**6th December** **Ann Walker** **Celia Walker** **Parishioners**	**Thursday** **Church closed**	**10th December**
Monday **Church Open for Private Prayer**	**7th December** **1.30pm-2.45pm.** **EXPOSITION**	**Friday** **10am**	**11th December** **Brian Abbott**
Tuesday **10am**	**8th December** **Immaculate Conception** **Sr.Sandra Harrington** **Golden Jubilee**	**Saturday** **Church closed until Vigil at 4pm**	**12th December**
Wednesday **Church Closed**	**9th December**	**Sunday** **Vigil 4pm** **Vigil 6pm** **Morning Mass 9am**	**13th December** **James Casey** **Hollingworth/Kan Hai** **Parishioners**

One decade of the Rosary	**Suspended**
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Adoration and Rosary	**Suspended**
Baptism/Marriage	By appointment
Sacrament of Reconciliation	After Private Prayer or by appointment.
Collection	

Those who are sick:

Please pray for Bill Davies, Christopher Brown, Stuart Madden, Christopher Clifford, James Tanner, Annie Shufflebotham, Marie Sidebottom, Malcolm Garrett, Libby Webb, Nina Noworyta, Marie Hayes, George Williams, Ruth Grace Crosby, Jarek Tomaszewski, Emily Small, Ann Crossley, Kathryn Smith, Steven Platts, Fr.Kevin Gradwell, Pauline Magrath, Kathleen Jones, Father Pat Munroe, Renata Broda, Cyril Nield, John Kirrane.

.A warm welcome to everyone. If you are new to the parish, please fill in a card and give it to Fr Bill. We shall be glad to visit you and make you as welcome as possible.

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SOCIAL

A warm welcome back to Holy Spirit to all who can safely attend our Masses, on our second re-opening of this calendar year 2020. Fr. Bill would gently remind all who are able to attend our "Public Masses" that full compliance to the "directives as outlined in Tier 3" is required. We are very fortunate that all the negotiations that went on behind the scenes, have resulted in this happy situation where we can now celebrate Public Masses for the remainder of "The Advent and Christmas Seasons" and look forward to the future with renewed hope that our Churches won't be involved in future closures. I am mindful of many "Parishioners and Friends" of the parish who due to health and for other reasons are unable to be physically with us. Eucharistic Ministers along with Fr. Bill will be visiting the "Housebound" now that the national Lockdown has ended: if you know of anybody needing a "Pastoral Visit" please let Fr. Bill know, he is delighted and happy to make such visits, or arrange for a Eucharistic Minister to do so. Fr. Bill would also like to draw your attention to the "Wood Street Mission Appeal" this happens annually at this time of year, so your support would be especially welcomed, as would your support for "The Cafod Advent/ Christmas Appeal" The various donations offered via "The Crib" will be forwarded to "Caritas / Diocese of Shrewsbury." A list of Masses and Services for the remainder of " Advent and Christmas" are now available on the table in the Church Foyer. The "Annual Carol Service" which will be held at 4:00pm on Sunday next the 13th of December will have a limited attendance, so it is a case of first come first served, there is a " Track & Trace Sheet" on the table in the Foyer, so if you wish to attend you are required to put your name and details on this Track & Trace Sheet. Christmas Mass times will also be by via a "Track & Trace" Sheet which is now available on the "Table in the Church Foyer" or if you choose via the special "Online Booking System" which is now available." Christmas "Vigil Mass Times" are as follows 4pm. - 6pm. - 8pm. please remember that accommodation in the Church for each of these Masses is limited to 70 People. Christmas Day Mass will be at 9:30pm. we would ask that this Mass be reserved for families only, as the Children will as usual be leading the Liturgy. As we journey further through Advent and nearer to Christmas, Fr. Bill will keep "Parishioners and Friends of Holy Spirit" more accurately updated on upcoming "Advent and Christmas Services" for we live in a period when everything is changing at a fast pace. "Choir Practices" will commence on "Thursdays December 10th. & 17th at 7:30pm. "Risk Assessments" have taken place for the "Children's Choir" for the Carol Service on Sunday 13th. December at 4pm. as well as for the Choir Practices on the 10 / 17th. December the 8pm Vigil Mass of Christmas and the Children's Mass 9:30am.on Christmas Morning. Dominic Bowler, our Covid 19 lead has coordinated the "Risk Assessment" with the Diocesan Health & Safety Officer. With sadness we record the death of Kevin Smith of upper Hibbert Lane, Fr. Bill officiated at his funeral on Friday last at Stockport Crematorium, May he rest in peace.

SCRIPTURE READINGS - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

It makes such a difference that we gather again as the "Christian Community" under one roof to celebrate the joy of waiting and preparing in this holy season of Advent. It is different to other Advents, but the message portrayed in the readings remains very much the same, God has come, he is coming again in the here and now, all his comings are a preparation for his "Final Coming." Isaiah's first reading this weekend speaks of the imminent return of the "Jewish People" from exile, as well as the commissioning of a prophet to speak the "Word of God to them." This weekend we are feeling a sense of their exile as we return after "Lockdown." This second "Letter of Peter" stands on his authority as an Apostle, along with his testimony to the truth of the Christian Position. Many were questioning the return of Jesus, Peter's advice was to spend the time as wisely as is possible in preparation and they would be rewarded. Mark wastes no time in this weekend's Gospel; immediately John the Baptist enters the scene as a baptiser. John's arrival is predicted by the prophet Malachi, Isaiah refers to the return of Elijah, all are indirect references to "John The Baptist" the precursor of Jesus, who will make a "Way ready for the Lord." The Scriptures are alive with personal invites to us to prepare for the "Lords Coming" in this sacred time of "Advent"

WOOD STREET MISSION: We are not able to donate toys etc., this year, but you can still donate through their website: **https://www.woodstreetmission.org.uk/our** projects christmas.

AN ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS: Due to Covid restrictions, rather than send Christmas Cards within the parish, we invite you to make a donation to CAFOD, then send an email with a Christmas Message to **holyspiritxmas20@gmail.com** and we will post them on the website.

ADVENT BOOKLETS are on sale in the Church Foyer, priced £1 each. An excellent little booklet to help you prepare for Christmas, please consider purchasing one. Please leave money in envelope. Thanks