HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, MARPLE
www.holyspiritmarple.com
Fr.Bill Fitzgerald 427:4922
13th December 2020
3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: (Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11)
I exult for joy in the Lord
Second Reading : (1Thessalonians 5:16-24)
May you all be kept safe, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of the Lord.
Gospel: (John 1:6-8, 19-28)
There stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me.

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** **4pm**	**13th December** **James Casey** **Hollingworth/Kan Hai family** **Parishioners** **ADVENT CAROL SERVIC**	**Thursday** **Church closed**	**17th December**
Monday **Church closed**	**14th December**	**Friday** **10am**	**18th December** **Margaret Maxwell**
Tuesday **10am**	**15th December** **Stan Ollieuz**	**Saturday** **10.30 -11.30**	**19th December** **Exposition/** **Confessions**
Wednesday **Church Closed**	**16th December**	**Sunday** **Vigil 4pm** **Vigil 6pm** **Morning Mass 9am**	**20th December** **Broda Family int.,** **Cornelius&Margaret Lane** **Parishioners**

One decade of the Rosary	**Suspended**
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Adoration and Rosary	**Suspended**
Baptism/Marriage	By appointment
Sacrament of Reconciliation	As announced or by appointment.
Collection	£498.98p. Development Fund Donations £160

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.
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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.

The Diocese of Shrewsbury is a Registered Charity No. 234025

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A/C details:Account Name: "The Holy Spirit Development Account" Account No. 58710368
Sort Code 30 15 52

SOCIAL

It was terrific to see so many Parishioners and Friends of the Holy Spirit back at Church last weekend after four weeks of closure. During this past week sizeable numbers have also gathered for the weekday Masses on Tuesday and Friday, helping us to remember that "Advent" is a time of creative waiting for the wonderful feast of "Christ's Birth." We can expect this year's "Feast of the Birth of Christ" to take on an even greater meaning than in past years, as families and friends have not in some cases been able to meet up since last Christmas. The emphasis will therefore be on family relationships rather than on the gifts that are shared, giving us a feel rather, for the real meaning of Christmas. This weekend is the "Third Sunday of Lent" also known as "Gaudete" or "Rejoicing -Sunday" the Lord's coming in real time is very near. This Sunday afternoon at 4pm.the Annual Parish Advent Carol Service will be held, at the time of putting together this Newsletter there were some places left on the "Invitation Track & Trace Sheet." This Advent Carol Service is a further reminder to us that the "Birth of Christ" always bears significance in daily happenings of all of our lives. Attached to last weeks Newsletter was an "Advent / Christmas" itinerary of all the Services and Masses over the "Festive Season" there are still some available from the "Table in the Entrance Hall." The "Vigil Masses" of Christmas Eve will be celebrated at - 4pm. - 6pm. - 8pm. and there are "Track & Trace Sheets" on the Table in the Church Foyer, for each of the Masses, so you can choose which Mass you would like to attend, by putting your name on one of the sheets. " Christmas Morning Mass" is at 9:30am. and this Mass is exclusively for Families only, so if there are families not as yet booked in, and wish to attend this Mass they should speak with Fr. Bill or Robert Moss. Mass will also be "Live Screamed" from a number of local Churches, as well as from Churches across the globe. Schools at this time are doing their best to endeavour to celebrate Advent by putting most of their Services on Zoom and other Platforms and inviting Parents and Governors to join the Services. Fr. Bill would like to send "Advent Greetings" to all of our Parishioners and Friends who are unable to attend Church, to say you are not forgotten, we include you in our "Seasonal Prayers and Masses." I wish all our Parishioners and Friends the very best as they prepare for Christmas, May the Lord keep us in the palm of his hand.

SCRIPTURE READINGS – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

The very first word pronounced in our "Liturgy, on this Gaudete Sunday" is Rejoice and it is repeated again Rejoice. The "Book of Isaiah" from which the first Reading is taken, is to be seen as the coming of Christ in history, and also the coming of Christ at the end of time. "A Year of Favour" has arrived with the coming of Jesus. This passage has been fulfilled in their hearing, but it will be fully realised when Jesus comes at the end of the World, the time by which we live, that marks our goings and comings as phrased in the Psalms. The real recipients of "God's Word" are those who are poor of spirit, those lives not clustered by worldly desires. St. Paul in addressing the Thessalonians, continues the "Theme of Rejoicing" he calls for a genuine "Time of Rejoicing" that is a fruit of the "Holy Spirit." Christian joy is rooted in the hope that is founded upon "Christ's rising in Glory." Even though "Ultimate Sanctification" is Gods gift, never the less we are invited to cooperate in bringing this "Work of Sanctification" to completion in our own lives, by the manner in which we live "Gospel Values" in our life. Today's opening verses from St. John's Gospel serve to contrast the role of John the Baptist, with the "Messianic Role" of Jesus. St. John in this passage sets out clearly their roles, "John the Baptist" was the Baptiser, Jesus was "Messiah and Saviour." John the Baptist was the "Witness" the one the prophet Malachi referred to as "The Messenger." St. John uses "John the Baptist" as the main character, who would become the main witness to "Christ the light of the World".

MINISTERS OF THE WORD: Please pick up new Rotas for January/February from the table in the Church Foyer and please refer to the directives given. Thank you.

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.