

HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, MARPLE

Holyspiritmarple.com

Fr.Bill Fitzgerald 427 4922

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10th December 2023

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 2023



Online Donations

Pope Francis's prayer intention for December:

The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception, which is celebrated on December 8th

Sunday Vigil 4 pm 9 am	10 th December Ints: Ismay, Bill, Stephen Daniel, Walton family and Mandy Rees. MORNING MASS Ints: Parishioners, Renata Broda	Monday	11 th December NO MASS
Tuesday	12 th December NO MASS	Wednesday	13 th December NO MASS
Thursday 11:15 am	14 th December REQUIEM MASS Evelyn McSwity.	Friday 10:00 am	15 th December DAILY MASS Ints: Anne & John Conboy
Saturday 10:30-11:30 am 4 pm	16 th December EXPOSITION & CONFESSIONS. VIGIL MASS Ints: Herring & Donellon Families	Sunday 9 am 4 pm	17 th December MORNING MASS Ints: Parishioners ANNUAL ADVENT CAROL SERVICE and Refreshments

Baptism/Marriage	By appointment
Sacrament of Reconciliation	As above

THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Please pray for Christopher Brown, Christopher Clifford, Jonathan Davison, Isaac Iqba, Kathleen Jones, Stuart Madden, Cyril Nield, Nina Noworyta, Pat Owen, Steven Platts, Emily Small, Kathryn Smith, James Tanner, Jarek Tomaszewski, Kathleen Williams.

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: Name Holy Spirit Development Account, Account No. 58710368, Sort Code 30 15 52

Fr Bill Writes:

Last weekend we entered the Season of Advent 2023 and the 2023/2024 Liturgical Year. Advent is the shortest of the Liturgical Seasons, and the Universal Church invites us to prepare ourselves to celebrate in remembrance the Birth of Jesus Christ, his first coming into our world. We also prepare ourselves for his second coming at some time in the future, when he will reward all who have remained faithful to his covenant. We lit the first candle on the Advent Wreath to remind us that we have begun the journey of Advent, so let us prepare ourselves spiritually, mentally and physically.

On Monday evening we celebrated the Sacrament of First Forgiveness with eleven of the Candidates, who had prepared over the past five weeks. It was great to be joined by the families of the Candidates. All of the Candidates played an active part, by leading the readings and prayers in preparation for the celebration. Candidates will assemble again after Easter 2024 and prepare for the celebration of First Holy Communion in mid May 2024.

Last weekend the annual Charity Tombolas got underway, and what a response ?? Terrific support was given, this weekend will be the final weekend for the Tombolas.

Thank you to all who attended and helped with Jim Mottram's Requiem on Thursday last, it was greatly appreciated by his family.

This coming Thursday, December 14th at 11:15 am we celebrate the Requiem Mass for Evelyn McSwity. Evelyn, was a long standing parishioner here at Holy Spirit, and made a rich contribution to Holy Spirit Parish across the years. It would be great to have a good turnout for Evelyn's Requiem. May she rest in peace.

Next Sunday, December 17th is our Annual Advent Carol Service at 4:00 pm followed by refreshments for children and adults, so please let's have a full church for what is always a terrific event.

Bottles of Wine will be on sale after the Saturday 4pm Vigil and 9:00 am Sunday Morning Mass, all bottles £5 each.

Crib Offerings this year along with the monies raised from the Charity Tombolas will be donated to Caritas at Diocese of Shrewsbury.

Over 60 gifts of Toys were delivered to the Wood Street Mission, during the week from Holy Spirit Parish, a big thank you to all who helped with the appeal again this year.

SCRIPTURE READINGS — SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 2023

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11

2 Peter 3: 8-14

Mark 1: 1-8

The first reading for this 2nd Sunday in Advent is again from the Prophet Isaiah, where we have the familiar but very radical call of Isaiah to prepare a way for the Lord. We are to spare no effort in our preparations, we must give fully of ourselves. So often we hear of Jesus described as the Good Shepherd, tending his sometimes wounded flock.

The second reading for this Sunday is from the 2nd Letter of St. Peter, where he puts our lives in its proper perspective in relationship to God's time scale of operating. We so often set our expectations and hopes very much in accordance with our plans and timescale, God operates in a totally different way, and he may call us at a time that we do not expect.

The Gospel for this 2nd Sunday of Advent is again from St. Mark, we are introduced to John The Baptist, a voice crying in the wilderness, matching up to the call in today's first reading from Isaiah, for repentance. St. Mark, unlike St. Luke or St. Matthew does not give us an account of Jesus' birth, rather he begins his Gospel reminding us of the Ministry of John the Baptist wanting us to become a disciple, so that we can call others to Jesus.