

# HOLY SPIRIT CHURCH, MARPLE

Holyspiritmarple.com  
Fr.Bill Fitzgerald 427 4922  
1st January 2023  
Feast of Mary Mother of God



Online Donations

## First Reading: (Numbers 6:22-27)

They are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.

## Second Reading: (Galations 4:4-7)

God sent his son born of a woman.

## Gospel: (Luke 2:16-21)

They found Mary & Joseph & the baby... when the eighth day came, they gave him the name Jesus.

**Pope Francis's prayer intention for January: That educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.**

Sunday 4pm Vigil 9.30am	1st January <b>MARY MOTHER OF GOD</b> Herring/Domellon/Leete family Parishioners	Thursday 10am	5th January Cornelius & Margaret Lane
Monday	2nd January NO MASS	Friday 10am	6th January <b>EPIPHANY</b> : Holy Day of Obligation
Tuesday	3rd January NO MASS	Saturday	7th January NO MASS until 4pm Vigil
Wednesday	4th January NO MASS	Sunday 4pm Vigil 9am	8th January Mandi Rees Peter McDonald Parishioners

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions	Last Saturday of the month 10.30am-11.30am or by arrangement
Baptism/Marriage	By appointment
Sacrament of Reconciliation	As above

## THOSE WHO ARE SICK

Please pray for Bill Davies, Christopher Brown, Stuart Madden, Christopher Clifford, James Tanner, Annie Shufflebotham, Marie Sidebottom, Nina Noworyta, Kathleen Williams, Ruth Grace Crosby, Jarek Tomaszewski, Emily Small, Ann Crossley, Kathryn Smith, Steven Platts, Fr. Kevin Gradwell, Kathleen Jones, Father Pat Munroe, Renata Broda, Cyril Nield, Neil Timperley, Isaac Iqba, David Froggatt, Pat Owen, Jonathan Davison.

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

## SOCIAL

“Joy To The World” is one of the great Christmas Carols, and Fr. Bill’s hope is that this joy has found a place in all our Family Homes this Christmas and will continue to do so this coming New Year 2023. We enjoyed a great celebration of Christmas here at Holy Spirit, a wonderfully sung “Vigil Mass” and a terrific “Nativity Play” which was part of our “Christmas Morning Mass” and brought the “Liturgy of The Word” to a new level of understanding for the large congregation. A big thank for all involved with preparations for the the Vigil Mass and the Mass of Christmas Morning, you did our Parish proud by enhancing the quality of the Liturgy, on this very special occasion. The involvement of all our Parish Families made it a special community celebration. In the lead up to Christmas Fr. Bill visited all those who are housebound or in Rest or Nursing Homes, members of the “Parish SVP Conference have also made a considerable number of visits to those who are housebound or in Rest / Nursing Homes, in the lead up to Christmas, we are so thankful for the great work of our Parish SVP Conference. Fr. Bill is also aware that quite a number of our Parishioners and Friends of the Parish, were unwell for Christmas with the “Flu Bug” he hopes that they are improving, and will be well enough to celebrate entrance to the “New Year 2023.”

This weekend we celebrate the beginning of the New Year 2023, those attending our Saturday Vigil, will be getting ready for the celebration, while those attending the New Year Morning Mass at 9:30am will already have crossed over the threshold of the New Year 2023. Fr. Bill would like to wish everyone, blessings, prosperity, success for 2023. The New Year is also a time for setting new goals and making resolutions, but we don’t need to be hard on ourselves, let us all set realistic goals that are achievable. Thank you also for your Offertory Gift, by way of the Offertory Collection over Christmas, Offerings will be used for the maintenance of your Parish Priest throughout the coming year. This “festive period” is also a good time for families to have some recreative time together, to get out in the open air, and do some walking and other outdoor activities. Masses were celebrated on Thursday and Friday of last week, it will be similar this coming week Daily Mass on Thursday and Friday January the 6th “Feast of the Epiphany” ( A Holy Day of Obligation) Note that “Sunday Morning Mass” will return to the usual time of 9am. from Sunday the 8th of January as the festive season come to an end. During this festive season we invite people to visit the “Crib” to pray there and if possible to make a donation, all donations will be forwarded to “Caritas, Diocese of Shrewsbury” who will be supporting families who are in need across our diocese through this coming year.

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS — JAN 1st. — FEAST OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD**

The first reading for today’s feast day comes from the “Book of Numbers” God teaches Moses how to ask him for his Blessing. Moses is head of the Israelite family, and so he has to intercede on their behalf for God’s favour. There is nothing complicated about the process of interceding, it is done with humility, acknowledging that God will grant his blessings.

In today’s second reading, St. Paul is writing to the “Galatians” confirming that what God had promised from the beginning of time, has now become a reality, an ordinary woman called Mary has enabled all of us to become sons and daughters of God by giving birth to Jesus, who has come like one of us, so that we would recognise and experience what it is like to be children of God.

Today’s Gospel from St. Luke is a continuation of the Gospel we read on Christmas Eve, in the context of today’s solemnity, the reading helps us to focus on Mary as the Mother of God. The reading tells us three things about Mary, firstly Mary is described as a most reflective person, secondly we are reminded of her obedience to God, as she names the baby as directed by the “Angel Gabriel,” and thirdly the reading shows that Mary and Joseph faithfully observed their Jewish tradition by having Jesus circumcised.