



St. David's Parish  
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,  
Holywell. CH8 8PE



## PARISH NEWSLETTER 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2022

“Only if people change will the world change; and in order to change, people need the light that comes from God, the light which so unexpectedly [on the night of Christmas] entered into our night”. (*Pope Benedict XVI, December 25, 2008*)

### Readings

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Mathew 1:18-24

### Scripture Reflections

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah gives a sign from God to King Ahaz of Judah: “*Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel*” (*Is 7:14*). Matthew considers this prophecy as one of the most descriptive and definite prophecies foretelling the future Messianic King, the Christ, who is to be born as a descendant of David. The Refrain for today’s Responsorial Psalm (Ps 24), “Let the Lord enter; He is King of Glory” reminds us that we must choose to let Jesus enter our hearts to rule our lives, for God never forces us to receive His gifts. In the second reading, Paul asserts that Jesus was a descendant of David and thus the Messiah: “*from David according to the flesh,*” become Incarnate as Jesus, but

was revealed and established by the Father as Son of God in power by his Resurrection from the dead. Then Paul provides a sweeping summary of God's mighty acts in history through Jesus Christ. Today's Gospel, from Matthew, focuses on the person and role of Joseph. Unlike Ahaz the king of Judea Joseph wholeheartedly surrendered his will and plan to that of God. He was ready to do what God asked him to do without questioning. This is a sublime expression of faith in God. For an ordinary man like him it was not easy to understand that Mary had conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit as it was announced by the Angel. Faith demands such total surrender of personal plan and conceding to the plan of God. As we are approaching Christmas let us pray that we also be able to grow in such faith. Christmas is a celebration of God emptying himself to be with man in all trivialities of life. He condescended to the status of weak human beings to assure of His presence in our midst which is a source of strength and consolation for us.

## **SUNDAY COLLECTIONS**

**December 11, 2022**

Gift Aid collection	35.00
Loose cash	31.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>66.85</b>

## **CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMES**

**December 24, Saturday**

Carol songs by Parish Choir	5.30 pm
Christmas Vigil Mass	6.00 pm

Refreshments in the Retreat Centre Refectory

**December 25, Sunday**

Christmas Holy Mass

10.00 am

## **CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

In previous years, the Christmas offerings were for the benefit of the Franciscan Friars. This year, your Christmas offerings will be for the general benefit of the parish. Our parish community is dwindling. The amount collected from the Sunday offering is drastically down. As it is clear from the income and expense shown in the November 20 Newsletter we are having a deficit budget. Due to the economic recession and unprecedented hike in commodity prices everybody is feeling the pinch. But like the offering of the poor widow in the Gospel let us be generous during the Christmas Offering. You can use the envelope enclosed with the Christmas card for this purpose. If anybody like to make offering through Online Bank transfer the details are given below.

Account Name: WREXHAM DIOCESAN TRUST REG CHARITY  
NO.700426 PANT ASAPH (Space in between)

AC/ NO. 08190771

SORT CODE: 55-81-42

## **MASS CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE AND MARRIED LIFE**

All couples celebrating 1<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> or any special anniversary of their marriage are invited for a special Holy Mass in the Cathedral Church, Wrexham on February 18<sup>th</sup> Saturday at 12.00 midday. If you would like to participate please contact Jeanie Larkin

Phone: 07542 268728, Email: [mfl@rcdwrexham.org.uk](mailto:mfl@rcdwrexham.org.uk)

### **SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION**

**Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday**

## MASS INTENTIONS

Date	By	Intentions
17	Kevin and Family	Terry Mcginlen (For healing)
18	Kevin Maughan	Terence Christopher McgGinley+ Mom, Dad and sister
19	Kevin Maughan	Michael Joseph Maughan, Bridget Theresa, Lawrence and Fmily
20	Nell McMahan	For the healing of the husband
21	Sheila Ward	Diana Ward

### **Please Pray for our Sick**

Eliza Brizzi, Mary Toumaine, Patrick Nagle,  
Phillip Mc Greavy, Walter Rigby, Anthony Pary

**“Oh restore me to health and make me live!” (Isaiah 38:16)**

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Honora Neville, Fr. Richard Payne, Sr Dolores, Br. Andrew  
McDonald, Sr. Philomena Walker, Mary Bury, Carol  
Ravenscroft, Sr Josephine Wareing, Ellen Casson,  
Charles Henry Boulton, Fr. Simon Denton OFM Cap,  
Joseph Pawson, Fr. Alphonsus May, Frank Tighe, Kathleen  
Lewis, Daphne Duncan, John Doyle, Colin Roberts,  
Fr. Frank Hickman,

***“Let His face shine up on them and may they rest in Peace”***

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Registered Charity No. 70042