

# NEWSLETTER

## Gospel Reflection

In John's Gospel, John is not the Baptist - he is the Witness; the first witness. As great a light as John is - in every cell of his being - he knows he is not the Light.

The authorities may well have rallied around him; his followers were clearly devoted to him - the recorded criticism and exclusion of Jesus and his friends. He may have had his idiosyncrasies but there was something familiar in his ministry - 'are you Elijah?' He fits the profile; there had been many, many years of God's silence before John but there is little difference between him and the prophets that had come before.

A true prophet; John knew that Jesus would be so much more than he could imagine - couldn't image - remember his message from prison - 'are you the One?'. John (and John) warns us - don't be distracted; look beyond; don't settle for 'enough'.

To paraphrase St Paul we may follow spiritual guides such as Rhor or Merton or Fr so-and-so; but they are just human beings on the same journey as us; we are meant for Jesus. For that personal calling, holding, healing relationship that John wants us to believe truly ours.

### **OUR ADVENT CHARITY:**

As you know, Fr Simon spends his annual holiday in a parish in Arizona. In the White Mountains there is an Apache Indian Reservation whose people live in great poverty. So for our Advent Charity we will be having the second of two collections this weekend. The money raised will be sent to help these Apache people.

### **BAPTISM PREPARATION**

If you wish to make preparations for your child to be Baptised you should telephone Fr Simon to arrange to see him after an 11am Mass on Sunday morning.

Following this there are Meetings on the first Friday of each month at 7:30pm.that you will need to attend, where you will meet Mrs Gerri Doherty and Deacon Tony Ford.

## St Joseph's RC Church Woodford Lane Winsford CW7 2JS

Parish Priest- Fr Simon O'Connor  
Tel: 01606 543877  
Website; [www.stjosephs-winsford.org.uk](http://www.stjosephs-winsford.org.uk)  
email: [stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stjosephwinsford2012@hotmail.co.uk)  
General Queries – contact Derek Pearce  
Tel: 01606 889048  
email: [pearcederek36@talktalk.net](mailto:pearcederek36@talktalk.net)  
Diocese of Shrewsbury Registered Charity No 234025



"United in conviction and united in love, with a common purpose and a common mind"  
Philippians 2:2

17TH DECEMBER 2017 3RD ADVENT (CYCLE B) MASS & SERVICE TIMES		
Saturday 16th December	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation James Cuffe RIP
Sunday 17th December	9:30am 11:00am 12:00pm	People of the Parish John Dunne sick <b>CHILDREN'S PARTY</b>
Monday 18th December	9:30am 7:00pm 7:30pm	James Graham RIP Service of Reconciliation Scripture Group
Tuesday 19th December	9:30am	Gordon Noad RIP
Wednesday 20th December	Noon	Requiem Mass - Joyce Thomas RIP
Thursday 21st December	9:30am	Brian Kennerley RIP anniversary
Friday 22nd December		No service
Saturday 23rd December	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Kathleen O'Callaghan RIP
Sunday 24th December	9:30am 11:00am 5:00pm 8:00pm	People of the Parish Maureen Sturrock Childrens Mass - Maureen Newsham RIP Noel Stewart RIP
Monday 25th December Christmas Day	10:00am	Alice Hyland RIP

If Fr Simon is unobtainable and you urgently need a Priest please phone the parish mobile: **07548 222133** Please use this number for emergencies only i.e. where a priest is needed urgently.

**200 CLUB DRAW**

Winner: £40 Prize  
This week – Mr Chris McCormack

**WHY NOT JOIN THE 200 CLUB  
AND HELP THE PARISH?**

**FLOWERS FOR THE CHURCH**

If you would like to make a donation for the flowers please add your name to the list in the porch and place your donation into the wall box.

**SPECTACLES FOR MISSIONS**

Please bring in your unwanted spectacles

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:**

Let's make the church really beautiful for Christmas. If you wish to make a donation you can put your donation for flowers into the Wall Box to the right of the Hymn Books.

**A SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION:**

A Service of Reconciliation will take place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. An opportunity for us all to prepare for the celebration of Christmas.

**PARISH CENTRE BOOKING ENQUIRIES**

If you are interested in hiring the Parish Centre for a function, please contact Phil Martin on 07720 807162

**Prayer for our Parish:**

Father, pour out your Spirit upon the people of this parish  
and grant us a new vision of your glory,  
a new experience of your power, a new faithfulness to your word  
and a new consecration to your service,  
that your love may grow among us and your kingdom come,  
through Christ our Lord.

.....  
St Joseph pray for us

**Gospel Reading John 1 6 – 8 19 - 28**

There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light.

When Jews from Jerusalem sent a group of priests and officials to ask John who he was, he was completely honest. He didn't evade the question. He told the plain truth: "I am not the Messiah."

They pressed him, "Who, then? Elijah?" "I am not."  
"The Prophet?" "No."

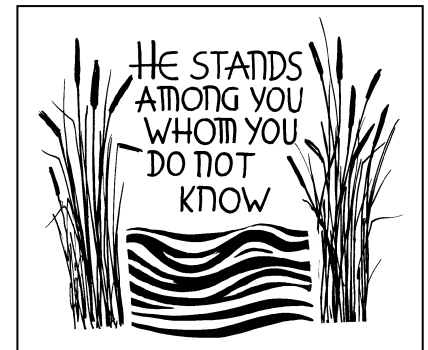
Exasperated, they said, "Who, then? We need an answer for those who sent us. Tell us something- anything! - about yourself."

"I'm thunder in the desert: 'Make the road straight for God!' I'm doing what the prophet Isaiah preached."

Those sent to question him were from the Pharisee party. Now they had a question of their own: "If you're neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet, why do you baptize?"

John answered, "I only baptize using water. A person you don't recognize has taken his stand in your midst. He comes after me, but he is not in second place to me. I'm not even worthy to hold his coat for him."

These conversations took place in Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing at the time.



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"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"  
.....  
St Francis of Assisi