

Gospel Reflection

Mary and Joseph wanted the protection of the Lord that every other mother and father asked for their child. Their visit to the Temple was something overlooked as ordinary to all the others.

Even the witness of Simeon and Anna, now preserved throughout history, would not have been all that important. After all, if the scriptures were taken seriously it wouldn't have been just Simeon waiting in the Temple. But what value are the prophetic yearnings of an old man and woman? How often do you hear the elders wishing gifts and talents on the futures of the young, and raise a smile? Does a woman really need to hear that her new born child will, one day, break her heart?

The Presentation that seems so unique and wonderful is a confirmation that Jesus is one of us. A child presented to his community, as we all are, to receive God's blessing; the hopes and dreams of those who have waited for the next generation to rise in faith, and the tentative, ever care-ful love of a mother and father for a child who is truly God's gift.

Our Advent Charity: The Apache Indian Reservation whose people live in great poverty. The money raised will be sent to help these Apache people.

The children there are very short of writing materials.

If you would like to donate some Notebooks, Pens, Pencils, Colouring books, Crayons etc. please bring them in and we will send them over to them. There is a crate in the porch.

COFFEE MORNING: Our next Coffee Morning will be held on Tuesday 23rd January. There will be tea and coffee, cakes and biscuits, Bingo and a Bring and Buy Sale.

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.

NEWSLETTER

St Joseph's RC Church
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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

31ST DECEMBER 2017 THE HOLY FAMILY (CYCLE B) MASS & SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 30th December	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Eamon Nolan RIP
Sunday 31st December	9:30am 11:00am	People of the Parish Bridget Walsh
Monday 1st January	10:00am	Joyce Thomas RIP
Tuesday 2nd January	9:30am	Brian Kennerley RIP Anniversary
Wednesday 3rd January	12:00pm	Aileen family Thanksgiving
Thursday 4th January	9:30am	Mavis Ball RIP
Friday 5th January		No service
Saturday 6th January	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation People of the Parish
Sunday 7th January	9:30am 11:00am	Dr Fallon family Bridget Walsh

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

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 – Mrs Lorraine Penketh

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.

Craft Group:

The Craft group will meet on Tuesday 9th January at Beryl Harwood's house. Beryl can be contacted on 01606 552664 for more information.

'Maintenance to Mission Local: Exploring Divine Renovation in your parish'

Hosted by Hannah Vaughan-Spruce (Divine Renovation UK) & Mike Roche (Alpha UK). Saturday 27th January 9.30 am – 4.15 pm at St Peter's Parish Centre, Green Lane, Hazel Grove, SK7 4EA.

Bring a group from your parish to explore the principles of Divine Renovation; hear from delegates who attended M2M conference and explore the next steps for your parish.

To reserve a place email: mckay7897@hotmail.com or ring 01625 876 752. Please see the poster in the porch.

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 Luke 2 22 – 40

Then when the days stipulated by Moses for purification were complete, they took him up to Jerusalem to offer him to God as commanded in God's Law: "Every male who opens the womb shall be a holy offering to God," and also to sacrifice the "pair of doves or two young pigeons" prescribed in God's Law.

In Jerusalem at the time, there was a man, Simeon by name, a good man, a man who lived in the prayerful expectancy of help for Israel. And the Holy Spirit was on him. The Holy Spirit had shown him that he would see the Messiah of God before he died. Led by the Spirit, he entered the Temple. As the parents of the child Jesus brought him in to carry out the rituals of the Law, Simeon took him into his arms and blessed God:

God, you can now release your servant; release me in peace as you promised. With my own eyes I've seen your salvation; it's now out in the open for everyone to see:

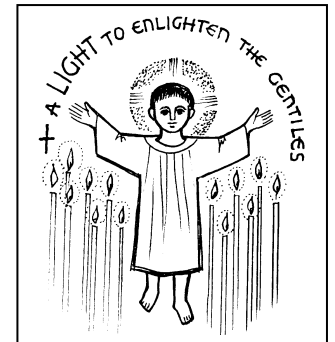
A God-revealing light to the non-Jewish nations, and of glory for your people Israel.

Jesus' father and mother were speechless with surprise at these words. Simeon went on to bless them, and said to Mary his mother, This child marks both the failure and the recovery of many in Israel,

A figure misunderstood and contradicted - the pain of a sword-thrust through you -

But the rejection will force honesty, as God reveals who they really are.

Anna the prophetess was also there, a daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher. She was by now a very old woman. She had been married seven years and a widow for eighty-four. She never left the Temple area, worshipping night and day with her fastings and prayers. At the very time Simeon was praying, she showed up, broke into an anthem of praise to God, and talked about the child to all who were waiting expectantly for the freeing of Jerusalem.



"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"

St Francis of Assisi