

Gospel Reflection

In the days after a birth - a new reality begins to emerge. The realisation that even if you have planned with military precision how this child will fit into your life - you have already been thwarted. Life changes life - Love changes it more. Love has no desire to live in isolation. Love holds your hand if you invite Her or stands watchful in the shadows if you don't. Love is Love.



The Octave of Christmas teaches us so much about Love - the humility of God's Love; the courage of Mary and Joseph; the persistence of the Shepherds and the conviction of the Magi.

On his day Stephen taught us that Love is for others; on his, John told us that there is nothing else. Today we learn that Love is feared by Power and that, in fear, Power will try to defeat it.

Many years from now Jesus will stand in chains in front of Pontius Pilate and tell him that he has no Power over him. And for that Jesus will die. But Love will live.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers The new Rotas will be published after Christmas. If you need your details to be amended can you please contact Beryl preferably by text (0789094250) or leave a note in the music cupboard.

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

29th DECEMBER 2019 **THE HOLY FAMILY (CYCLE A)** **MASS & SERVICE TIMES**

Saturday 28th December	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Tracy Simpson RIP
Sunday 29th December	9:30am 11:00am	People of the Parish Christine Davey
Monday 30th December	10:00am	Hugh Duffy RIP 2nd anniversary
Tuesday 31st December New Year's Eve	10:00am	Kenneth Jones RIP
Wednesday 1st January 2020 New Year's Day	10:00am	Catherine Savage Mark Savage RIP
Thursday 2nd January		No service
Friday 3rd January		No service
Saturday 4th January	4:45pm 5:15pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Brenda & Gordon Lyle RIP
Sunday 5th January	9:30am 11:00am	Liam O'Hare RIP People of the Parish
Monday 6th January	9:30am	Service of Word and Communion

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 Alex Zoka

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.

Diocese Yearbook: The Diocese Yearbooks are now available in the porch, they are £5 each.

Raffle: The raffle for the doll made £143 so thank you to everyone who organised the raffle and to everyone who bought tickets. The doll was won by A Bradbury.

Coffee morning: If you would like to come to our coffee mornings for a chat, laugh, cuppa or even a bargain in our bring and buy sale or for a game of bingo you will be made very welcome. Our next coffee morning is on Tuesday January 21st 2020, we look forward to seeing you there.

Christmas Cards: When you have finished with your Christmas Cards (and any Birthday Cards) can you please bring them in and put them in the Box in the porch. One of our parishioners can put them to good use.

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 Matthew 2 13-15 19 - 23

After the scholars were gone, God's angel showed up again in Joseph's dream and commanded, "Get up. Take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt. Stay until further notice. Herod is on the hunt for this child, and wants to kill him."

Joseph obeyed. He got up, took the child and his mother under cover of darkness. They were out of town and well on their way by daylight. They lived in Egypt until Herod's death. This Egyptian exile fulfilled what Hosea had preached: "I called my son out of Egypt."

Later, when Herod died, God's angel appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt: "Up, take the child and his mother and return to Israel. All those out to murder the child are dead."

Joseph obeyed. He got up, took the child and his mother, and re-entered Israel. When he heard, though, that Archelaus had succeeded his father, Herod, as king in Judea, he was afraid to go there. But then Joseph was directed in a dream to go to the hills of Galilee. On arrival, he settled in the village of Nazareth. This move was a fulfilment of the prophetic words, "He shall be called a Nazarene."



"Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words"

St Francis of Assisi

On a lighter note: How did Mary & Joseph know Jesus was 7lb 5oz when he was born? They had 'A Weigh in a Manger'!
What does the Queen call her Christmas broadcast? The One Show.