

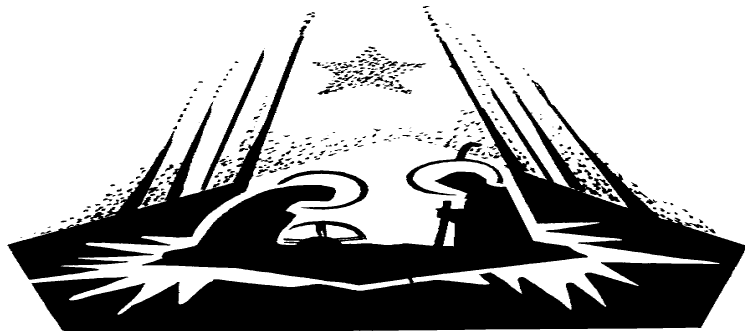
NEWSLETTER

Gospel Reflection

Christmas. The birth of Jesus. The Word became flesh and lived among us. Heaven and earth met. The light shone in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it. This is like a new creation story of light and darkness (Gen 1). Jesus the light of the world is introduced to us.

This magnificent passage provides a powerful opening to this gospel. It lays out the main themes of John's gospel – life, light, truth, the world, testimony and the pre-existence of Jesus Christ. He is the Incarnate Logos or Word, who reveals God the Father to us.

Then comes the dramatic statement: “the Word became flesh”. The Word took on our human nature in all its fullness. He did not have, as some people believed, just the external appearance of a human but was “like us in all things”. And he lived right among us. The Greek term literally means he “pitched his tent or tabernacle” among us. Let us welcome him today.



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 10am 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
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Parish Priest- Fr Simon O'Connor

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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

25th DECEMBER 2022 CHRISTMAS (CYCLE A) MASS & SERVICE TIMES

Saturday 24th December Christmas Eve	6:30pm	Mass
Sunday 25th December Christmas Day	10:00am	Mass
Monday 26th December	Noon	Mass
Tuesday 27th December	Noon	Mass
Wednesday 28th December	10:00am	Mass
Thursday 29th December		No Mass
Friday 30th December		No Mass
Saturday 31st December	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 1st January	10:00am	Mass

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 David Vayro

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

A VERY HAPPY AND
HOLY CHRISTMAS
TO ALL
PARISHIONERS AND
VISITORS

Coffee morning

The next Coffee Morning is on Tuesday 17th January at 10:30am, everyone is welcome.

Christmas cake

Thank you to Maureen Finnigan for making the Christmas cake, which made £65.

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 John 1 1-18



The Word was first, the Word present to God, God present to the Word. The Word was God, in readiness for God from day one. Everything was created through him; nothing - not one thing came into being without him.

What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out.

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.

The Life-Light was the real thing: Every person entering Life he brings into Light.

He was in the world, the world was there through him, and yet the world didn't even notice. He came to his own people, but they didn't want him.

But whoever did want him, who believed he was who he claimed and would do what he said, He made to be their true selves, their child-of-God selves. These are the God-begotten, not blood-begotten, not flesh-begotten, not sex-begotten.

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish.

John pointed him out and called, *"This is the One! The One I told you was coming after me but in fact was ahead of me. He has always been ahead of me, has always had the first word."*

We all live off his generous bounty, gift after gift after gift. We got the basics from Moses, and then this exuberant giving and receiving, This endless knowing and understanding - all this came through Jesus, the Messiah.

No one has ever seen God, not so much as a glimpse. This one-of-a-kind God-Expression, who exists at the very heart of the Father, has made him plain as day.

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