

NEWSLETTER

Gospel Reflection

Today we begin a new year according to the secular calendar. And even though much of the rest of the world has begun “de-decking” the Christmas decorations, the Church continues to celebrate the Christmas season. The Gospel for this Feast of Mary, Mother of God is the account of the shepherds traveling to Bethlehem to give homage to the Child Jesus.

How did the shepherds know where to find the child Jesus? In those days, there was no GPS system to guide them on their trip. However the shepherds did have a brilliant star to lead them to Jesus. After worshipping the Child Jesus, the shepherds departed and spread “the good news that a child had been born.” Interestingly enough, no one questioned the shepherds’ announcement; rather, everyone who heard the announcement were filled with joy and amazement.

One of the most profound statements in this Gospel is: “Mary kept all these things in her heart and pondered them.” What is in your heart that you ponder? It may be an event, occasion, or encounter that brought you great joy. Or perhaps you may reflect on a difficulty or challenge in your life. In today’s fast-paced world, we need to choose to deliberately ponder and reflect on our lives. Pondering is not always easy. When we are hurting or feeling alone, the last thing we may want to do is to reflect on our pain or loss. It may be more comfortable to simply numb the pain. Yet God invites us to ponder our gifts, our joys, and our sorrows.

At various times Mary experienced the gamut of emotions in her life: from great joy to confusion as well as great sorrow or loss. Mary deeply experienced the joys and sorrows that life holds. Pray to Mary; her presence and strength may gift us with a peace that will calm our hearts and our minds.

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.

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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

1st JANUARY 2023 MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (CYCLE A) MASS & SERVICE TIMES		
Saturday 31st December	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 1st January 2023	10:00am	Mass
Monday 2nd January		No Mass
Tuesday 3rd January		No Mass
Wednesday 4th January	10:00am	Mass
Thursday 5th January	10:00am	Mass
Friday 6th January Epiphany	10:00am	Mass
Saturday 7th January	5:15pm	Mass
Sunday 8th 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 Haines

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

SPECTACLES FOR MISSIONS

Please continue to bring in your unwanted spectacles and cases

Christmas Cards

Please bring in your Christmas Cards as they can be recycled and put to good use.

Prisoner Outreach

Do you – like me – find carrying round small coins a waste of time? The Prisoner Outreach Organisation is a Christian network of volunteers who have been voluntarily working in HM Prisons and supplies copies of the BIBLE ALIVE booklets to prisoners. Drop your loose change into the bottle on the table in the porch and help to support this good cause.

Coffee morning

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

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 Luke 2 16-21

As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over.

“Let’s get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us.” They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child.

All who heard the shepherds were impressed.

Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they’d been told!



When the eighth day arrived, the day of circumcision, the child was named Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived.

“Preach the Gospel always, if necessary use words”

St Francis of Assisi

A VERY HAPPY AND HOLY NEW YEAR
TO ALL PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS